



# The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

April 2023



## RHA Board & Committee News:

### Upcoming Meetings:

Board	Apr 10
ACC	Apr 3
Recreation	Apr 12
SA	Apr 5

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](http://www.rha-homes.org)

### Important Dates:

Mar 23	Ramadan begins (30 days)
Apr 1	April Fools' Day
Apr 2	Palm Sunday
Apr 3-7	fcps Spring Break
Apr 5	Passover (8 days)
<b>Apr 8</b>	<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>
Apr 9	Easter Sunday
Apr 14	fcps holiday (Orthodox Good Friday)
Apr 18	<b>Tax Day</b> 
Apr 21	fcps holiday (Eid al Fitr)
Apr 22	Earth Day
<b>Apr 22</b>	<b>SA Coffee &amp; Donuts</b>

### Board of Directors:

by Charlie Marts, Board President

From the March 13 RHA Board Meeting:

- Five residents connected via Zoom.
- Both the "Electric Vehicle Charging Stations" and "TH Trash and Garbage Collection" policy resolutions have been adopted and are posted at [RHA-homes.org/governing-documents](http://RHA-homes.org/governing-documents).

- The DH trash resolution also needs updating.
- The board is considering the effect the TH trash collection cost increases will have on the budget.
- TH Drainage and Erosion -- the board is looking into contacting several of the companies on the list from the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District for assistance.

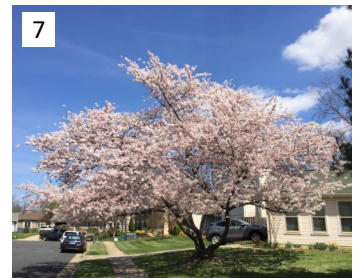
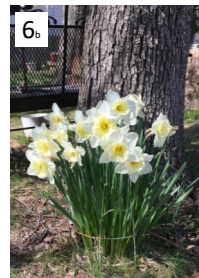
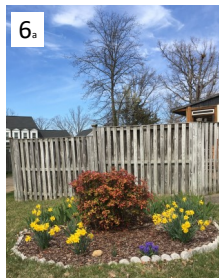
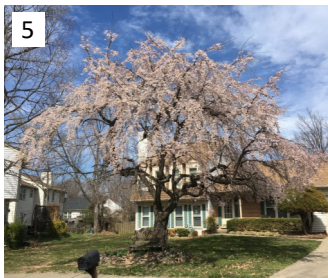
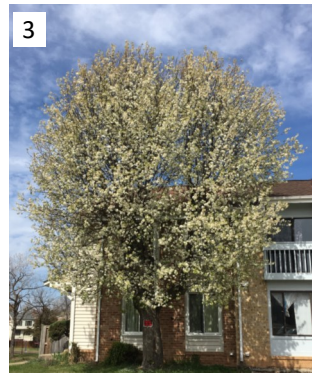
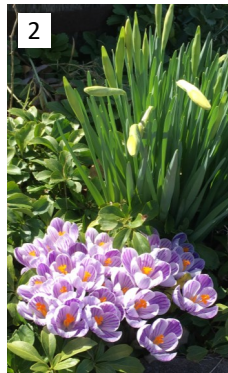
-- The board is working with Battlefield Towing to provide a proposal and schedule for painting "No Parking" lanes.

-- Sidewalks -- the board is planning on doing a community walkthrough to identify issues with RHA sidewalks.


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## Spring Blooms in RHA

1. Forsythia
2. Crocus
3. Bradford Pear
4. Flowering Quince
5. Weeping Cherry
6. Daffodils
7. Flowering Cherry



- The board will begin work in updating the resident Rules and Policies handbook.
- RHA website -- the board is considering establishing a committee to maintain and update it.
- The board agreed to get a quote for the annual DH large item pickup.

Additionally:   
**The RHA-LHA Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 8, from 10-11 am, Rain or Shine (no rain date!) at the pool house.**

Fairfax County is working on establishing construction easements and acquiring land rights for the Metro Walk/Bike Path through RHA.

TH bulk trash pickup has been contracted for Monday each week. Bulk trash CANNOT be placed out before Sunday night on Common Ground. Items placed out before Sunday night are subject to a Violation Charge of \$50 for each occurrence.

### Architectural Control Committee:

by Brenda Brown, ACC Secretary

At the March ACC meeting, there was one application (homeowner was also attending by Zoom) that had items of concern. He provided the corrections and it was approved by email.

(continued on page 2)

### RHA Board

#### **President:**

Charles Marts

#### **Vice President:**

Nicholas Viau

#### **Treasurer:**

John Hanchulak

#### **Secretary:**

Don Nuss

#### **At Large:**

Mike Olson

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FirstService Residential (FSR):

703-385-1133

800-927-4599 (24 hour)

**ACC (continued from page 1)**

**DID YOU KNOW:** Tick season is forecast to be quite aggressive this year, and is a health concern for both you and your pets. The county has many resources available. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/FightTheBite](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/FightTheBite) for info and videos in both English and Spanish.

**DID YOU KNOW:** Blocking one of the US Postal Service mail boxes in the THs can incur a parking violation and a minimum \$75 fine.

**DID YOU KNOW:** The Old Farmer’s Almanac lists April 20 as the normal last frost date for our area?

**DID YOU KNOW:** Holiday decorations, including, but not limited to, lights, flags and banners, should have been removed by the end of January. If you still have them up, please remove them ASAP.

The next ACC meeting will be Tuesday, April 6 at 7pm via Zoom.

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

The March 8 meeting was canceled to allow committee members and residents to attend a virtual meeting about a nearby planned office and residential construction project and its impact on our community.

The committee will resume its business at its scheduled **April 12** online meeting at 7 p.m. For sign-in information, click on the Calendar Heading for April at [rha-homes.org](http://rha-homes.org).

Expect to see more activity around the pool to prepare for its **opening on May 27**. Home owners should have received the early March mailing from Sequoia Management containing the pool application information and form.



If you are a renter, please check with your landlord on the status of his or her action on the pool application to make sure you can have access to the pool on opening day.

**Street Ambassadors:** by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

Does your household **recycle**? Does your household **upcycle**?

If yes to either question, thank you for your contribution.

Please recycle, upcycle, reuse, and reduce. Did you know:

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**... More Spring Blooms in RHA**

- 1. Virginia Bluebells & Bleeding Heart
- 2. Grape Hyacinth
- 3. Hyacinth and Daffodils
- 4. Dandelions and Wood Violets



**Plastic bags** – Don’t recycle because these get tangled in recycling equipment and must be removed by manual labor slowing down the recycling process.

**Styrofoam anything and plastic to-go containers** - Don’t recycle. Clean and reuse if you can, especially those packaging peanuts.

**Medicines** - Don’t recycle or throw in regular trash. Our police station and some local pharmacies provide a secure drop box for safe disposal of expired or unused medicine. Call your pharmacy first to see if they are participating.

**Glass** - Can’t recycle curbside with other recyclables. Folks can take glass products to a dumpster located at the intersection of Sterling Road (Rt 606) and Rock Hill Road at the Herndon Public Works facility. Just insert the jars and bottles by hand into the small rubber holes at the side of the dumpster. (See photo)



All glass collected in the purple bins is crushed and used for various county construction projects.

**Animal waste and dirty diapers** –Don’t recycle. Please bag and throw it into regular trash.

Become familiar with the I-66 Transfer Station and the I-95 Landfill Complex. They are currently providing free wood mulch. You must provide your own containers/bags.

*note:* Mulch is also available free at Baron Cameron Park (corner of Baron Cameron Ave and Wiehle Ave).

Best practices for recycling may be confusing and challenging so check out the local website:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/recycle](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/recycle).

Fill in the “type an item at Trash-What Goes Where?” For example, I typed in “shredded paper”. Answer: Don’t Recycle. What?? Why?? Because it flies, floats and makes a mess in the residential recycling equipment. What to do with it? Some ideas: Use for your pet’s bedding or compost pile or arts/crafts.



### Property Manager's Corner

by Swati Krishnamoorthy, FSR Prop. Mgr

#### PARKING STICKERS 2023-24

First Service Residential will be mailing Townhome parking stickers for 2023-24 starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. The new stickers go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. Owners are responsible for making sure their tenants have the new parking stickers in place prior to July 1, 2023!

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### Controlling Rainwater Runoff Naturally

by Richard & Liz Baca, RHA Residents

Do you occasionally have a river in your backyard?

Are you sick of mud getting tracked into the house?

Did you know there are native perennial plants that are easy to grow and help control rainwater runoff? Planting a few of these around our yard has made a significant difference. When the rain comes there is no more river and little to no mud.

This is a great alternative to paying thousands of dollars for landscapers or hiring a professional to install a French drain or underground drainpipe. Native plants are also naturally beautiful and good for the earth.

Here is a list of native perennial plants that you should consider planting.

-- The Southern Blue Flag Iris worked best for us. It grows to 2 feet, and requires full sun to bloom, but if in full shade the plant will still capture rainwater runoff but it may not bloom.



-- Dwarf Crested Iris grows from 4-16 inches, and is best in shade. It is a great woodland ground cover for areas you don't want to weed.

-- Bog Rosemary, requires full sun and grows 8-36 inches. This plant really does require full sun so we don't have it in our yard but has grown well in many of our friends' yards.

-- Swamp Milkweed, full sun to part shade, 2-5 feet, host plant for monarch butterfly.

-- Great Blue Lobelia, full sun, 2-3 feet, perennial but divide every two years.

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### Out With the Old? Time to Donate so 2nd Use becomes 2nd Nature!

by Charlie Marts, Board President

A twist on the typical "Spring Cleaning" checklist.

Yes, deep cleaning, purging, and organizing your home is important, but we're also using this season to pass items on for others to use.

Gently used clothing, accessories, kitchen items, etc. can be donated to support charities and help others.

Greendrop has collection drop-off locations in support of the American Red Cross, which works closely with

Owners accounts must be in good standing to receive the stickers. Owners with a balance of \$20 or more, will not receive the stickers. For an updated account balance, please visit:

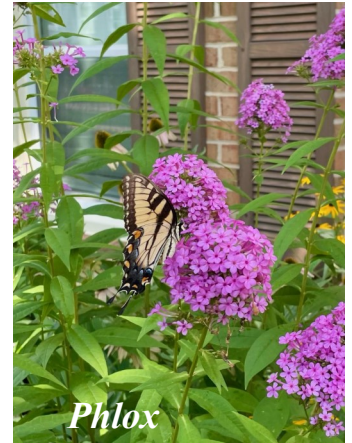
<https://reflectionhomesassociation.connectresident.com/> or call customer service at 703-385-1133.

-- Woodland Phlox (or any native Phlox), 5-18 inches, attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

-- Jack in the Pulpit, shade, 1-3 feet, very unique plant.

-- Common Wild Ginger, shade, 4-8 inches, host plant for swallowtail butterfly.

-- Coral Honeysuckle, full sun to part shade, 3-20 feet (vine), beautiful reliable blooms.



-- American Wisteria, full sun to shade, 25-30 feet (vine), not to be confused with the invasive Chinese and Japanese wisteria varieties!

-- Any native sedge is a good alternative where rainwater runoff kills normal grass, we like Pennsylvania Sedge

Support your new plants by surrounding them with *free leaf mulch* from the dump (aka the I-66 Transfer Station), 4618 West Ox Rd. Fairfax, VA 22030; alternatively, the dump also has *free normal mulch* as well. You may find a piece of trash in the mulch from time to time, but overall, the mulch is great and you cannot beat the price. We have been using it for years and some of our gardening friends have been using it for decades. You do have to haul it yourself, so bring a shovel and, if you don't have a truck, bring some plastic bins.

For more information visit [www.plantnovanatives.org](http://www.plantnovanatives.org) for reliable sources of native plants. Also visit [watermarkwoods.com](http://watermarkwoods.com) and [earthsangha.org](http://earthsangha.org).



local residents in need. Greendrop also does home pickup in support of Purple Heart.

Call either organization to schedule a pickup.

Visit [gogreendrop.com](http://gogreendrop.com) to read the long list of items they accept, find a local drop-off, schedule a home pickup, and find out how to collect your IRS tax receipt for your charitable donation.

\*\*\*\*NOTES\*\*\*\*

**National Poetry Month:** Celebrate by entering Fairfax Co. Public Library's annual poetry contest, April 1 - May 7. Info on contest, writing workshops and events at: [bit.ly/FCPL\\_Poetic](http://bit.ly/FCPL_Poetic)

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**Tax Day 2023:** Is April 18. Normally it would be April 15. Since that is a Saturday it would normally move to Monday, except that is a holiday (Emancipation Day) in Washington DC. So Tax Day 2023 ended up this year on **Tuesday, April 18.**

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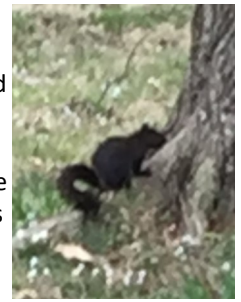
**All-Electric Tolling on Dulles Toll Road:** As of March 1, cash and coins are not accepted. Non-users of an electronic toll system like EZ Pass now go to "Pay-by-Plate". Vehicle owners will be invoiced and charged the toll plus an admin fee. Visit [www.tollroadsinvirginia.com](http://www.tollroadsinvirginia.com)



**A Black Squirrel Colony Again in RHA?:**

There used to be a fairly large one up until the early 2000's, but when the woods behind RHA (on Rock Hill Road), were torn down & several condo/apartment complexes were built, they disappeared. But this Spring there have been several sightings of black squirrels that seem to be staying around. Yay!

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**Free Donuts: Save the Date!!! Saturday morning April 22 from 9:00 to 11:00 am.**

Free donuts, water and coffee on the corner of Maleady and Parcher. We'll set up a table for food, neighborly friendship AND valuable information from the Office of Emergency Preparedness. (such as: Are you ready for the next outage?) Be prepared, but first, come share and enjoy. Hope to see you there! Your RHA Board and Street Ambassadors.

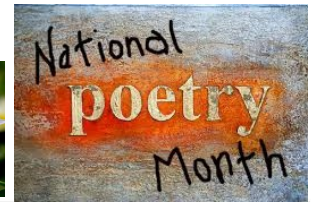


The picture on the upper corner of page 1 is of a Saucer Magnolia tree blooming on Christy Place.

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



# April 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 (March)	27 <b>World Theatre Day</b>	28	29 <b>VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY</b>	30 <b>National Doctors' Day</b>	31 <b>Cesar Chavez Day</b>	1 <b>April Fool's Day</b>
2 <b>Palm Sunday</b>	3 7:00-9:00pm ACC ★ online meeting	4 <b>National HUG A NEWSPERSON Day</b>	5 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA online meeting <b>Passover</b>	6 <b>Holy Thursday</b>	7 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	8 at Pool house <b>Easter Egg Hunt 10-11 am</b>
9 <b>Easter</b>	10 7:00-9:00 ★ Board online meeting <b>Polish (9964D) DYNGLUS DAY</b>	11 <b>NATIONAL PET DAY</b>	12 7:00-9:00pm ★ RCI online meeting <b>NATIONAL GRILLED CHEESE DAY</b>	13	14 <b>Tamil New Year</b> <b>Cambodian New Year</b>	15 <b>Jackie Robinson Day #42</b>
16 <b>Orthodox Easter</b>	17 <b>HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY</b>	18 <b>TAX DAY</b>	19 <b>Lailatul Qadr</b>	20	21 <b>Eid-al-Fitr</b>	22 at Parcher/Maleady SA Coffee & Donuts 9-11 am <b>Earth Day</b>
23	24	25 <b>HAPPY WORLD PENGUIN DAY!!!</b>	26 <b>Administrative Professionals' Day</b>	27	28 <b>Arbor Day</b>	29 <b>Duke Ellington Day</b>
30 Washington inauguration 1789 <b>International Jazz Day</b>	1 (May) <b>May Day</b>	2 <b>National Teacher Day</b>	3 <b>World Press Freedom Day</b>	4 <b>National Day of Prayer</b>	5 <b>CINCO DE MAYO</b>	6 <b>National NURSES DAY (1875)</b>

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.