



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

May 2023



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:



- Board May 8
- ACC May 1
- Recreation May 10
- SA May 3

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:

- May 1 Virginia Tax Day 
- May 5 Cinco de Mayo
- May 6 Kentucky Derby
- May 14 Mother's Day
- May 18 Ascension
- May 19 Bike to Work Day
- May 20 Armed Forces Day
- May 20 Creek Cleanup**
- May 25 Shavuot
- May 27 Pool Opening!**
- May 28 Pentecost
- May 29 Memorial Day  (fcps holiday)

RHA Board

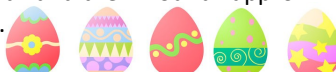
- President:** Charles Marts
 - Vice President:** Nicholas Viau
 - Treasurer:** John Hanchulak
 - Secretary:** Don Nuss
 - At Large:** Mike Olson
- *****

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

Board of Directors:

by Charlie Marts, Board President

From the April 10 RHA Board Meeting:

- Two residents connected via Zoom.
- The **annual Easter Egg Hunt** was held Saturday, April 8. The weather cooperated, and a huge crowd of young residents, parents, friends & volunteers first "hid" and then "found" approximately 4,000 eggs.  (see below)

-- The "Resident's Handbook, A Guide to your Community" (from April 2001), needs to be updated. *Note:* most of the information in the handbook is also on the RHA website.

-- Sidewalks: the Board President has done a community walkthrough and noted discrepancies. RHA will begin repairs on those it is responsible for, and will notify homeowners of discrepancies noted on their property.

-- Board Treasurer discussed some 2023 budget items, and that Reserve items are being reviewed.

-- Annual Creek Cleanup will be Saturday, May 20th from 8am - noon. More info to come.

Easter Egg Hunt 2023



-- The Fairfax County "Certificate of Take" associated with the planned Metro Walk/Bike Path (from Apgar Pl and Farougi Pl to Innovation Station) is being discussed with the county.

Additionally:

Representatives of RHA and RCI met on-site with county Soil and Water Conservation personnel to view the stream flow and drainage situation in our park area. Several suggestions were offered.

Architectural Control Committee:

by Leron Culbreath, Acting ACC Chair

The ACC did not meet in April.

DID YOU KNOW ... Turfgrass is only one of many acceptable groundcover options allowed by the neighborhood guidelines? See some native examples here: <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/groundcovers>.

DID YOU KNOW ... Solar power applications for change need to include the layout of the array as well as where any other related equipment will be located on the exterior of the home. Solar arrays on townhome roofs should not come within 12" of the property line between roofs.

(continued on page 2)

ACC (continued from page 1)

DID YOU KNOW ... applications for change must be submitted by the homeowner, not a contractor, and must include the change application form at: <https://rha-homes.org/acc-committee>

The next ACC meeting will be Monday, May 1 at 7pm via Zoom.

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

The committee met online on April 12 with five members present. Sequoia Senior Community Manager Dale Edwards took part also.

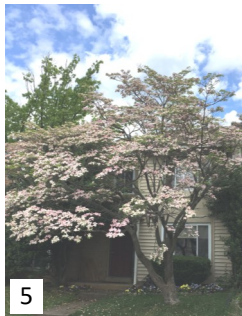
The committee voted to purchase a smart key system to use once the revised pool house rental agreement goes into effect. In addition to the rental agreement discussion ensued on potential changes to the longstanding RCI Easement Agreement and upgrades to RCI's security cameras.

Get that Swimming Pool Application in now to ensure you have pool passes for **Opening Day May 27**. If you can't find your paper copy mailed in February, go to <https://swimmingpoolpasses.net/reflection-recreation>



The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting date is set for May 10 at 7pm.

... More Spring Blooms in RHA



1. Flowering Cherry 2. Tulips 3. White Dogwood 4. Creeping Phlox and Azaleas
5. Pink Dogwood 6. Azaleas

Swim Team 2023: Are your kids between the ages 5 to 18?

\$85 per child gets your child a full summer season of:

- Swim lessons; Comradery
- Chances to challenge themselves
- Social engagement
- Exercise; Vitamin D
- Investment in their mental and physical health



The Reflection Riptides would love to have you! Registration is open now! Register by May 25. The season starts right after Memorial Day and lasts until July 24. Questions? Contact Reflection.Riptides@gmail.com

Street Ambassadors:

by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

The RHA Ambassadors along with Board members gave out **FREE donuts and coffee** early Saturday morning April 22. Big hit especially with the young ones - they loved the donut holes, and many showed up in their pj's!! It was so nice to visit with neighbors. Join us in early summer for the next free event.



Property Manager's Corner

by Swati Krishnamoorthy, FSR Prop. Mgr

First Service Residential is on track for mailing 2023-24 townhome parking stickers starting June 1, which go into effect July 1. We are working on getting a quote for the annual detached

home **bulk item pickup day** (TBD). As a cost saving to the association, we are on track for eliminating the annual assessment single coupon booklet for DHs, and are looking at a simple annual bill.

The Talk of the Town, OR, the 411 on Herndon 20170 (...and RHA)

by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer

It's not uncommon for us in RHA to say we live in Herndon. Technically we don't, but practically we do. RHA is situated in western Fairfax County. And Herndon is an incorporated town in western Fairfax County right at RHA's doorstep.

It's really about our zip code: 20170. It includes all of the mail delivered out of the Herndon post office, which is situated within the town limits. Code 20170 serves roughly 43,000 people; 25,000 of them are the town's residents. The remaining 18,000 include the western Fairfax County communities bordering the town.

The southern 20170 boundary is the Dulles Toll Rd. and takes in all of the Parcher Ave. communities, including RHA, and the Dulles Green apartment complex. Zip code 20170 also covers all of the communities outside of the northern Herndon town border. These include the communities on either side of Dranesville Rd. above Herndon High School, such as Hiddenbrook and Kingstream, and others all the way up to Route 7. Zip 20170's remaining boundaries are roughly this side of the Fairfax Co, Parkway to the east, and the Loudoun Co, line on the west side stretching from Route 7 in the north to the DTR in the south.

OK, so besides sharing the Herndon 20170 zip code, what else impacts our "Herndon" existence? The hard-core answer and fuzzy-headed confusion reside just beyond our four-street traffic light, the gateway into and out of our community. If you cross Elden St./Centreville Rd., you leave the county and enter the town's Worldgate Dr. When you reach its end, turn left and you stay in the town on Van Buren St. And if you turn right, once you cross over the toll road bridge, you're back in Fairfax County and in the other "Herndon" zip code, 20171, and the street name changes to Monroe St. The same goes if you turn right from Parcher onto Centreville Rd.: Once you cross



under the toll road, you're in 20171 land that includes McNair, Woodland Crossing, Floris, Oak Hill and Franklin Farm. So when you hear a news story about one of those communities, you'll still likely hear "Herndon".

Back at the Parcher Ave. traffic light, if you turn left onto Elden St., you're in no man's land, to coin an old phrase. On the right there's Dulles Glen Apartments before you get to Herndon Parkway – in the Town of Herndon. But across the street on the left, the Sunoco gas station and Kohl's department store are in Fairfax County. But the TD Bank, and stores in the HMart shopping center are in the town limits.

More 20170: Herndon town gets to have its own police force, which can pull you over in Fairfax County if you broke the law in the town and they pursue you into our county space. That's why you see Herndon police stopping motorists at the Sunoco station or the 7-11 on Parcher. But if a crime happens at the 7-11, Fairfax responds. The Herndon Fire/Rescue station in the town serves us, but belongs to the county, The Herndon Fortnightly Library and Herndon Elementary School belong to Fairfax County, not the town. The Herndon Community Center and the golf course are town facilities, and town residents pay lower fees.

Herndon town residents are assessed the same Fairfax County real estate tax rate as we are, plus they pay 26.5 cents more per \$100 of assessment to get services like town-run road building and repair, and trash collection. Finally, when you take out or dine in town restaurants such as those in nearby Worldgate Centre, you pay an extra 3.75 cents on the dollar; Fairfax County has no meals tax.

So if someone asks you where you live, you can say "Herndon" and leave it at that. Or you can go down the same rabbit hole as this article, smile, and pull a story out of the hat, time permitting.

May is National Bike Month **Bike to Work Day will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023.**

Bike to Work Day seeks to encourage people to bike to work. This day aims to highlight the benefits of biking to work as well as biking in general. Biking can reduce carbon emissions, reduce traffic congestion, and help improve lives. The physical activity of bike riding can improve cardiovascular health and help maintain a healthy weight. This day encourages everyone to find some time to



ride a bike whether it be to work or just for fun.

- There are two "pit stops" close to RHA:
- 1. **Innovation Center**, Metro Station South, 13747-A Sunrise Valley Dr; 6:30 am - 9:00am.
- 2. **Herndon at Town Hall Green**, intersection of Lynn & Elden Sts, just off the W&OD Trail; 5:30am - 10am

Pre-register by May 12 for FREE t-shirt & bike raffle at BikeToWorkMetroDC.org. There will be free refreshments and give-aways at the pit stops. Rain or Shine!!

****NOTES****

Herndon Farmer's Market to open May 4: Local produce and other foods are back for the season every Thursday from 8am - 12:30pm between May 4 and Nov 7, by the Red Caboose in Old Town Herndon, in the 700 block of Lynn St.

Virginia Tax Day 2023: Is May 1. Info on forms, payments, extensions, etc., are at <https://www.tax.virginia.gov>

Swim Instructor Mom warns parents not to buy blue swimsuits for kids: It's for visibility! It's very hard to see a child wearing a blue suit in a swimming pool or open water. Bright, even neon colored, suits really make a difference.

(excerpted from Good Morning America Newsletter, Apr 18, 2023)



Memorial Day Observance: The Herndon Memorial Day Observance will be at 10am, Monday, May 29, at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 831 Dranesville Rd.



Residential Car Washing: Residents have been seen washing their cars in RHA parking areas close to storm water runoffs that lead directly to the creek. These runoffs are marked by Fairfax Co., advising residents that the water from the parking area directly affects fish and some animals that live in the streams, and, since it eventually flows into the Potomac River, which is the source of our drinking water -- it affects us! Please read the recommendations at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/car-washing-right-way>

Trash Reminder: Trash placed on the curb, or in TH common areas that is not in a trash can or heavy duty bags becomes a playground for birds, squirrels, cats, and other critters. It also promotes mice and skunks to hang around your home and yard. Please use proper and practical trash disposal methods, particularly in securing papers and plastics so a wind doesn't blow them all over the neighborhood. (...from your Street Ambassadors)

The picture on the upper corner of page 1 is of a White Flowering Dogwood on Frear Pl.



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

May 2023



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| 30 (April) Washington's inauguration 1789 International Jazz Day | 1 7:00-9:00pm ACC online meeting VA Tax Day May Day | 2 National Teacher Day | 3 7:00-9:00pm SA online meeting World Press Freedom Day | 4 since 1787 National Day of Prayer | 5 CINCO DE MAYO | 6 National NURSES DAY Kentucky Derby (1875) |
| 7 WORLD LAUGHTER DAY MTV Movie Awards | 8 7:00-9:00 Board online meeting bag B'Omer | 9 Remembrance of Lives Lost in WWII | 10 7:00-9:00pm RCI online meeting | 11 COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS | 12 MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY | 13 |
| 14 Happy Mother's Day | 15 NATIONAL CHOCOLATE CHIP DAY | 16 | 17 Norwegian Independence Day (Sjyttende Mai) | 18 Ascension | 19 Bike To Work Day | 20 Creek Cleanup ARMED FORCES DAY |
| 21 | 22 | 23 WORLD TURTLE DAY | 24 National Brother Day National Wine Day | 25 Shavuot | 26 | 27 Swimming Pool Opening Day |
| 28 Pentecost | 29 Memorial Day | 30 | 31 World No Tobacco Day | 1 (June) | 2 NATIONAL EGG DAY | 3 World Bicycle 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.