



# The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

July 2023



## RHA Board & Committee News:

### Upcoming Meetings:

- Board July 10
- ACC July 3
- Recreation July 12\*  
(\*hybrid meeting)
- SA July 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:

- July 1 Canada Day
- July 4 Independence Day**
- July 11 Herndon Olympics Riptides Swim Team
- July 14 Bastille Day
- July 19 Islamic New Year
- July 23 Parents' Day
- Aug 1 National Night Out Party**  
Poolhouse parking lot, 6-8pm.  
Games, bounce house, water slide, snow cones, ice cream, popcorn & more! Volunteers needed for set-up/teardown, & games monitors:  
[rhaboard@rha-homes.org](mailto:rhaboard@rha-homes.org)

### Board of Directors:

by Mike Olson, Board Member-at-Large  
On February 18, the Virginia Legislature ended its biennial 45 day short legislative session where it considered approximately 3000 bills and sent 819 to the governor for signature. Some that become effective July 1 are:

#### **Vehicle Headlights: Blue Light – SB855**

Prohibits the use of headlights on motor vehicles, motorcycles, autocycles, bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, personal delivery devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, mopeds, and motorized skateboards or scooters with after-market modifications that make such headlights appear as a blue light.

#### **Stationary Vehicles – HB1932**

Requires drivers to make a lane change or reduce speed when passing stationary vehicles that have activated the vehicular hazard warning signal flashers, displayed caution signs, or been marked with properly lit flares or torches on certain highways

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### **Meet RHA's New Property Manager**

Please welcome **Jonathan Stamps**, our new FirstService Residential property manager. ([jonathan.stamps@fsresidential.com](mailto:jonathan.stamps@fsresidential.com))  
(direct line: 703-995-7038)

"I am extremely excited to work with the membership and contribute to the community. I'm an energetic community management professional that enjoys tackling and completing projects."

Jonathan joins the FirstService Residential team with nearly ten years of industry-specific experience serving a diverse list of clients ranging from condominiums and HOAs with limited amenity packages to gated full-service country club communities.

When Jonathan transitioned his career to association management from hospitality and retail work, he began as a clubhouse coordinator at a large, gated golf community of 2,000+ homes in Prince William county. He progressed within the community to become the Covenants Administrator where he led the association's efforts to perform over 6,000 inspections annually. In 2018 Jonathan moved to a new community as the on-site General Manager where he stayed until he was promoted into a Portfolio Manager role working closely with up to ten condominium and HOA clients. In his most recent management role, Jonathan served as the on-site General Manager for a 550+ home HOA in Loudoun county.

Jonathan holds the CMCA (*Certified Manager of Community Associations*) and AMS (*Association Management Specialist*) certifications

During his time away from the office, Jonathan enjoys being outside, hiking, and spending time with his family.



### **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:  
703-385-1133  
800-927-4599 (24 hour)

**Architectural Control Committee, (ACC)**

by Leron Culbreath, Acting ACC Chair

At the June ACC Meeting, there was one application (a fence replacement) that had been approved over email prior to the meeting. One request (a roof replacement) was approved at the meeting. Three more applications were approved after the meeting once homeowners responded to ACC requests for additional information or correct forms: one shed, one roof replacement, and one to repaint shutters.

The committee meets once a month on the first Monday (July 3rd is the next ACC meeting). If you wish to submit an application for change, please do so two to three weeks prior to the meeting so that any questions may be addressed beforehand.

 If you'll be celebrating this 4th of July with your own (LEGAL!!!) fireworks, please promptly clean up any debris after it cools.

**DID YOU KNOW...** "When watering lawns, it is best to water thoroughly once a week (or more frequently in extreme heat) rather than to set your sprinkler for light daily watering. Deep watering helps yield deeper roots and healthier grass. Light, daily watering encourages shallow root growth, leaving grass more vulnerable to heat and drought. It is also best to avoid fertilizing lawns when temperatures are high, which can damage your lawn. Hold off until September when temperatures have cooled." (Source: Farmer's Almanac)

**DID YOU KNOW...** "Temporary holiday decorations, including but not limited to lights, flags and banners that commemorate a specific holiday and are seasonally appropriate, do not need approval but are permitted to remain on the exterior of the home and the Lot for only thirty (30) days prior to and after the specific commemorated holiday" (RHA Architectural Guidelines)

**Recreation Committee, Inc. (RCI):** by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer  
The meeting scheduled for June 14 did not take place due to a

lack of quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for July 12 and will be a "hybrid" meeting. It will take place at the poolhouse and residents are invited to attend. The meeting will also be live-streamed on Zoom.

The Riptides Swim Team weekday morning practices commenced on **Monday, June 19** at 7:45 a.m. See full details on practices by age groups at <https://reflectionriptides.swimtopia.com/>.

**Swim meets splashed off on Saturday June 17 and will end on Wednesday July 19.** Meets on July 8,11 and 19 will happen at the poolhouse. If they're on Wednesday, the pool will cease normal operations at 4:30 p.m. to accommodate pool lane and deck set-up. The pool parking lot will be closed to neighborhood residents at the same time to accommodate vehicles of visiting team families and friends.

See the full Riptides team competition schedule at [https://reflectionriptides.swimtopia.com/swim\\_meets](https://reflectionriptides.swimtopia.com/swim_meets).

During summer months, residents are asked to show kindness toward swim team families and regular pool customers: Leave parking spots empty close to the poolhouse for their easy access.

**Property Manager's Corner:** by Jonathan Stamps, Property Mgr

-- Summer time and warm weather are here! Now is the perfect time to walk your home and lot to plan out property and landscaping projects. Keeping your property & home clean and maintained is imperative for all property values. Dispose of loose trash/debris, store/organize loose items out of open view, clean up your landscaping (seed your lawn, trim back overgrown vegetation, lay fresh mulch, etc.), clean/power-wash your home, replace damaged building components, put a fresh coat of paint to areas in need, etc." -- The bulk items collection (June 19) was a success! Management and members of the Board observed numerous homes taking advantage of this wonderful service provided to the membership. What a great way to de-clutter your home!"

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**Congratulations to RHA's 2023 Graduates!**



# A Rabbit Tale

by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer



At least three baby bunnies called this "Home":  
6 inch diameter, 4 inch deep camouflaged nest buried beneath the yard's surface.

All kinds of four-legged creatures carve out homesteads throughout RHA – some indoors, some outdoors. Besides dogs and cats, rarely does a day go by without sightings of squirrels, mice, rats, ground hogs, opossums, skunks, foxes and rabbits.

One day recently our curious 7 month-old pup sniffed his usual away around the yard till he came upon a grassy spot that appeared to move. He stopped and began pawing at it curiously. I escorted him indoors and rushed back to the site. What lay beneath the surface? Snake? Bird? Rodent? I got closer, carefully peeling away dirt and grass to reveal a furry ball with tiny ears pinned against its head, well camouflaged. It briefly slightly raised its head, eyeballed me, quickly retreating into a tight-fisted ball of fur. But wait, another ball moved to its right, then a third! No adult rabbit in sight. I hastily re-covered the 'nest,' and headed indoors.

I reached out to Fairfax Animal Control and Fairfax Police to remove and relocate these baby bunnies to safety from our puppy dog and other predators. Both said they could/would do no such thing: State law prevents the removal of wildlife unless it's sick, injured or orphaned. I was referred to a local representative from the Wildlife Rescue League, who would call back a couple of days later, but not before near disaster.



(stock photo)

We put the dog on restricted backyard access: escorted on a leash to do his 'business,' and quick return indoors. However, one time he escaped outdoors unleashed, ran directly to the nest and unearthed a bunny. Luckily, I got to him before he could grasp the fur ball, who screamed and retreated into the nest.

Soon thereafter, the WRL volunteer returned my call. She repeated the non-removal policy, but offered valuable info and tips:

-- Don't mess with or try to feed wildlife babies. The mother was likely nearby, returning only once or twice a day (early morning, late evening) to nurse her young ones. (We did witness mom thereafter near the nest on a couple of occasions.)

-- Place a protective cover over the nest (such as a laundry basket), cutting an opening for mama rabbit to come/go. Reinforce the structure to withstand predators.

-- Soon the babies would disappear from the nest and disperse individually to fend for themselves.

Well, within a week, that's exactly what happened, but not before a couple of close calls. One day I peered out a window, just in time to witness a huge raven pecking into the nest. I bolted outside, the big, black bird ignored my screams, then squawked and flew away to a nearby tree, nevermore to return. By the next morning, however, the nest was empty.

But then a few days later, two baby bunnies returned to the yard. Our canine had caught one, running around the yard with a mouthful of fur, not sure whether he wanted a playmate or a meal. When he dropped it, the young hare disappeared screaming in a blurry streak. We left his sibling, who in time hopped away on its own. Since then, the mama and other grown rabbits have resumed their infrequent visits to the yard without further incident.



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# Riptides Swim Meets Bring Out the Crowds!

by Lourdes Umana, RCI Chair



...as well they should! With 81 young folks from RHA and LHA registered this summer, that makes for an exciting "day at the races"! And don't forget the refreshments stand, featuring snow cones and Angie's famous "chicken on a stick".

June 28, 2023 Riptides vs Kingston Chase

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

**TH Parking Stickers:** The new (green) 2023-24 stickers must be displayed on your vehicle starting July 1. Contact the Property Manager directly for assistance if not yet received, 703-995-7038.  
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**Postal Rate Increase:** Effective July 9, the cost to mail a first class letter increases to \$0.66 from the current rate of \$.63. The cost of each additional ounce remains \$0.24. Postcard mailing cost increases to \$0.51 from \$0.48. More info at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).  
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**Town of Herndon Celebration:** Games & music at 6:30. Fireworks at 9:30pm, July 4 (rain date July 5). Brandy Park, 814 Ferndale Ave. Info at: [www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events](http://www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events).  
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**National Night Out, Aug 1,** is a nation-wide, annual community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Come join us for free food, fun, and friendship.



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



The Fourth of July would not be the same without those breathtaking fireworks. However, tragedy can strike within seconds when fireworks are not properly and safely used. Thousands of people are injured each year in the United States due to fireworks. Put safety first when using **permissible fireworks**. For an expanded list of fireworks safety tips, as well as information on fireworks safety-related publications, reports, videos, news, and recalls, visit the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) **Fireworks Information Center** online at [www.cpsc.gov/en/safety-education](http://www.cpsc.gov/en/safety-education)

For Fairfax Co. rules on fireworks & safety tips: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-em/fireworks-safety>

The picture on the upper corner of page 1 is of yellow lilies blooming on Rowles Pl.



# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 (June) 1950 Korean War Starts	26 First day of Hajj	27 National Ice Cream Cake Day	28 Eid al-Adha Starts Swim Meet 4:30-8:30pm	29 National Camera Day	30 NATIONAL HANDSHAKE DAY	1 HAPPY CANADA DAY!
2 World UFO Day	3 7:00-9:00pm ACC online meeting	4 Independence Day (1776) AMERICA 4th JULY	5 7:00-9:00pm SA online meeting	6 NATIONAL FRIED CHICKEN DAY	7 WORLD CHOCOLATE DAY	8 Swim Meet 8:30am-noon
9 NATIONAL SUGAR COOKIE DAY	10 7:00-9:00 Board online meeting National Piña Colada Day	11 Herndon Olympics 7am-4:30pm ALL AMERICAN PET PHOTO DAY	12 7:00-9:00pm RCI hybrid meeting 7 Eleven Day	13	14 Bastille Day France 1789	15
16 National Ice-Cream Day	17 NATIONAL TATTOO DAY	18	19 Islamic New Year Swim Meet 4:30-8:30pm	20 1969 NATIONAL MOON DAY	21	22
23 Parents Day	24 COUSINS DAY	25 NATIONAL TEQUILA DAY	26 Tisha B'Av	27 National INTERN DAY (1953) Korean War ended	28 World War I started (1914)	29
30 International Friendship Day	31 NATIONAL AVOCADO DAY	1 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PARTY 6:00-8:00pm National Night Out PARTY Poolhouse Parking Lot	2 Operation Desert Shield, Kuwait (1990)	3 NATIONAL WATERMELON DAY	4 US Coast Guard Birthday (1790)	5

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](mailto:RHAbord@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.