

The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

August 2023



RHA Board & Committee News:


Upcoming Meetings:

Board Aug 14
 ACC Aug 7
 Recreation Aug 9
 SA Aug 2

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:

Aug 1 **National Night Out Party**
 Poolhouse parking lot, 6-8pm.
 Games, bounce house, water slide, snow cones, popcorn & more!
rhaboard@rha-homes.org
 Aug 21 FCPS 1st day of school
 Aug 26 Women's Equality Day
 Sept 1-4 FCPS Labor Day holiday
 Sept 4 Labor Day 

Board of Directors:

by Don Nuss RHA Secretary
 From the July 10 RHA Board Meeting:
 -- The Board is tracking the impact of the new (more expensive) Townhome trash contract on the budget.
 -- Townhome drainage: the Board is considering its next steps based on the report provided by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.

--Resident Rules and Policies handbook update: The Board has located a digitized version of the most recent handbook to use as a basis for an update.

-- Fire Lane/Parking Space/Reserved Parking Space marking: Battlefield has agreed to provide labor if RHA provides paint, but would charge for updating numbers. Property Manager (PM) suggested waiting until after sealcoating is done (as part of the reserve study).

-- Compliance Inspections: PM agrees compliance inspections should begin as soon as possible.

Architectural Control Committee:

by Leron Culbreath, Acting ACC Chair
 The July ACC meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

There was one application, for a fence, approved by email prior to the meeting.

“Good Neighbor” Notes: -- If a tree or bush in your yard hangs over a public sidewalk: Trim it.

-- After you mow your lawn, clean lawn cuttings from the sidewalk.

-- Teach children to return bikes and toys to their own yard,

DID YOU KNOW: Updating an old porch light may increase your home value by as much as \$200.

DID YOU KNOW: No horse, pony, cow, chicken, pig, hog, sheep, goat or other farm or wild animal as defined by Fairfax County ordinances shall be kept or maintained on any Lot. Common household pets may be kept and maintained provided that they are not kept, bred or maintained for commercial purposes, as provided in RHA’s Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions (CC&Rs).

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Don't Mess With Mother Nature!!!

RHA Board

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



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

The above pictures were taken of our usually placid creek following the July 14 heavy downpour in our area. (Thank you, Mike Olson and Brenda Brown)

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

For the first time since the pandemic started in 2020, the committee met both in-person and online on July 12 with seven members present, along with Sequoia Senior Community Manager Dale Edwards. Five attended via Zoom. Two, along with a community resident, were in-person in the poolhouse community room.

Committee member Colleen Ward, who has previously served as secretary for both RCI and Reflection Homes Association, has volunteered to fill the vacant RCI secretary position for the rest of the year.

The committee decided to have pool guards start using a hand tally people counter, also known as a clicker, to gauge how many community residents are entering pool facilities daily.

During a June inspection of pool operations, a Fairfax County stormwater investigator observed chlorine pool water backwashing directly into the creek beside the pool. The official wrote corrective action had to take place in part to "ensure all pool water that is discharged is dechlorinated and tested before draining." The pool company contract staff took needed, quick steps to rectify the situation. A follow-up inspection in early July found the RCI pool to be in compliance, with no chlorinated water being discharged into the creek. Government agencies take water contamination very seriously. The small tributary that wends its way through our community empties into Horsepen Creek, which flows into Broad Run, which empties into the Potomac River, the main water source for drinking water for the whole DMV metro area.

RCI members also agreed to move closer to meaningful actions that will slow erosion of the lands around our creek through measures such as replacing trees and other vegetation. For example, the committee has begun alignment with the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District and is seeking grant funding from the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program.

The committee began its final assessment process to deliver a revised poolhouse rental agreement. One committee member likened this end-process to using a fine-tooth comb.

Ongoing discussions continue toward improvements to increase camera security throughout the RCI area.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The next meeting date is set for August 9 at 7 p.m.

On July 17, Sequoia Management issued a notice of contract termination to RCI, effective Sept. 30, 2023. No reason was given for the action. The committee has set into motion plans for a seamless transition to a new contractor. Look for updates in upcoming newsletters.



Street Ambassadors (SA): by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

Watch for announcements about the next "free coffee and donuts" neighborhood event, once the weather cools off a bit.

The SAs are recruiting for new members. Send an email to rhaboard@rha-homes.org if interested.

Property Manager's Corner: by Jonathan Stamps, FirstService Res.

The community continues to experience issues with trash and debris in common areas, including, but not limited to – residents placing their containers/items out for collection prior to the scheduled pick-up date, large/bulk items being placed out in common areas, contractors/vendors dumping in common areas, etc.

Accumulation of trash and debris in the community's common areas is a health and safety hazard, impacts property values, and attracts rodents & insects. TH trash is collected on Tuesdays and Fridays. Recycling is collected on Wednesdays. Please ensure you do not place your items out for collection before the scheduled collection dates.

Please be vigilant!

-- If you observe any of your neighbors not adhering to the rules and regulations for trash collection, please contact the community manager at 703-995-7038.

-- If you observe outside residents or vendors dumping in the community's common areas, please take down as much information as possible and call the Fairfax County non-emergency Police telephone line at 703-691-2131. Then contact the community manager.

Congratulations to our 2023 Record-Breaking Riptides!

By Lourdes Umana, RCI Chair



Abby J. July 22: 13-14 Freestyle 28.50 July 19: 13-14 Backstroke 34.88 July 19: Breaststroke 37.33	Ansh S. July 22: 15-18 Backstroke 31.53 July: 15-18 Individual Medley 1:11.78
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Nahomy M., Abby J., Chloe A., Naomi H. 13-14 100 Medley Relay 1:15.37	Ansh S., Jack L., Andrew W., Alex A. 15-18 100 Medley Relay 1:03.31
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RHA and LHA Celebrate National Night Out 2023!

by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer



Everybody was talking about how nice the weather was on the Aug. 1 annual National Night Out in the pool parking lot. Temperatures were just right – not too hot or cool. July’s hot, hot sun hid behind that pesky, high-altitude film of Canadian wildfire smoke. And the slight, humidity-free breeze felt more like early fall than mid-summer.



Everybody seemed to agree, including chief organizer Georgette Nuss, who added she felt so good and so happy to be out and about again after recovering from major illnesses earlier in 2023. For her, this community gathering was just what the doctor ordered.

“We figure at least 150 people filled the lot,” she estimated, about half again larger than 2022’s 100 attendees. Adults sat, stood and



watched or followed their children around as they tossed, jumped and bounced their way through the evening. Among thrills to fit these movements were the Bounce House, the Slide N Splash and the bean bag toss. And the long lines and wait for snow

cones and popcorn didn’t discourage anyone. Adults handing out these treats estimated some 400 snow cones and 350 bags of popcorn were devoured during the two-hour evening.

One main reason behind National Night Out played a very minor role in 2023: In previous years there were multiple police members and their cruisers and motorcycled officers showing off their machines and equipment from the Reston District precinct that patrols our community. But this year only two police cruisers and three officers were able to come. Still, mothers insisted that their kids pose for pictures side-by-side with Fairfax’s finest.

One young teen asked Officer J.A. Jones to handcuff him for his friend to photograph. “I can’t do that, guys,” Jones protested, adding, “It wouldn’t look good for community relations.” So instead, he sent them over to Sgt. Michelle Pastora to see if she would let them take a picture sitting behind the wheel of her Ford sedan police cruiser. They seemed less impressed, but still glad for the opportunity.



“It’s always good to see kids and for them to be comfortable seeing us,” Jones said. “People in this area are good to us.”



Another kid walked up to Pastora to ask her to sound off the cruiser’s siren. She said that would be too loud but assured him the sedan’s blue-flashing lights are an equal attention-getter. She followed up by giving the youngster an FCPD-embazoned stringed bag emptied of hats and miniature footballs handed out. Bag in hand, the young, satisfied customer skipped away, smiling to show off his present to his awaiting family.



The resident running the Slide N Splash water attraction admitted she had “so much fun [as] a willing sacrifice for the big kids to splash” her. It was a “fun, fun night,” Patsy Velin noted. That pretty much summed up the community’s feeling about 2023’s Night Out.



****NOTES****

School Vaccination requirements: Visit the Virginia Department of Health School Requirements page at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/> to see all the vaccinations your children require prior to starting the school year.

National Farmers Market Week Aug 6-12: Observed at the weekly Herndon Farmers Market Thursday, Aug 10, 8am-12:30pm. Activities, music, & free canvas bags Celebrate local farmers & producers!

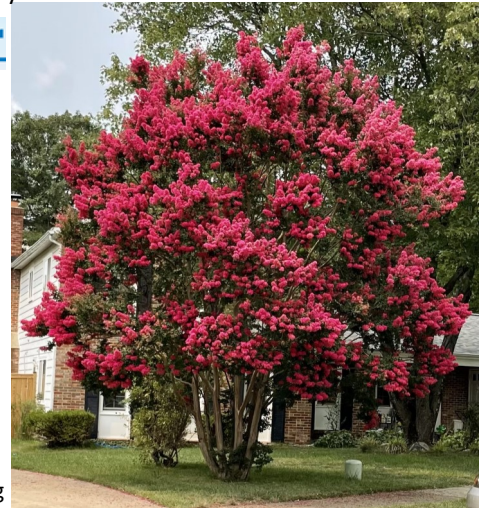
Herndon Village Network: has friendly, vetted, volunteer drivers to help senior citizens living in 20170 with free transportation for doctor appointments, grocery shopping and more! Call 703-375-9439 or apply online at: <https://herndonvillagenetwork.org/join>.

National Night Out, Aug 1, is a nation-wide, annual community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

Fairfax Water 2023 Annual Water Quality Report. Available at www.fairfaxwater.org/waterqualityreport, or call 703-289-6285 for a printed copy.



Crape Myrtle trees in our neighborhood are just spectacular this summer! This specimen is on Seaman Ct.



The picture on the upper corner of page 1 is of orange tiger lilies blooming on Pocono Ct.



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

August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 (July) International Friendship Day	31 NATIONAL AVOCADO DAY	1 6:00-8:00pm National Night Out PARTY Poolhouse Parking Lot	2 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA online meeting Operation Desert Shield, Kuwait (1990)	3 NATIONAL WATERMELON DAY	4 US Coast Guard Birthday (1790)	5
6 National Sister Day	7 7:00-9:00pm ★ ACC online meeting Purple Heart Day Victory over Japan Day, 1945. End of WW2	8 INTERNATIONAL CAT DAY	9 7:00-9:00pm RCI ★ online meeting Book Lovers Day	10 NATIONAL LAZY DAY	11	12 International Youth Day
13 International Left-Handers Day	14 7:00-9:00 ★ Board online meeting	15 Assumption	16 NATIONAL TELL A JOKE DAY	17 NATIONAL NONPROFIT DAY	18 WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY	19 National Aviation Day Orville Wright's birthday 1871
20 National Radio Day	21 FCPS Back to School!	22 Senior Citizens Day	23	24 1991 UKRAINE Independence Day	25 National Dog Day	26 Women's Equality Day
27	28	29	30 NATIONAL BEACH DAY	31 Overdose Awareness Day	1 (September) FCPS Labor Day holiday Sept 1-4	2 WORLD BEARD 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: RHAbboard@RHA-Homes.org and/or newsletter@RHA-Homes.org