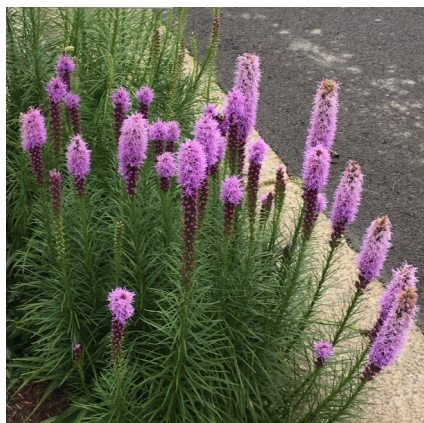


# The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

September 2023



## RHA Board & Committee News:

### Upcoming Meetings:

Board	Sept 11
ACC	Sept 5
Recreation	Sept 13
SA	Sept 6

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:

Sept 1-4	FCPS Labor Day holiday
Sept 4	Labor Day 
Sept 4	pool closes at 8pm
Sept 9	SA Coffee & Donuts 7-9am, Saunders & Pruitt
Sept 11	Patriot (9-11) Day
Sept 15	Rosh Hashanah
Sept 16	Octoberfest begins
Sept 16	Mexico Independence Day
Sept 23	Fall begins
Sept 24	Yom Kippur
Sept 25	FCPS Yom Kippur holiday
Sept 27	Mawlid Un Nabi
Oct 4	Emergency Alert test
Oct 5	VA Personal Property Taxes (car tax) due

### 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)

### Board of Directors:

by Charlie Marts, Board President

The RHA Board is reviewing the Fairfax County Easement agreement for temporary construction and permanent walkway easement (circled) for the proposed shared use path across Recreation common grounds from Apgar Place to the **Metro walkway** bordering Farougi Ct.

The 10 foot wide shared-use path (pedestrian & bike) will be 10 feet wide, and include both a pedestrian bridge across the creek and lighting. Construction is scheduled to begin next Spring and may temporarily affect access to some areas.

The addition of the path will benefit all of RHA, not just for the commuting residents but also for increased home values in our community.

### Architectural Control Committee:

by Leron Culbreath, ACC Chair

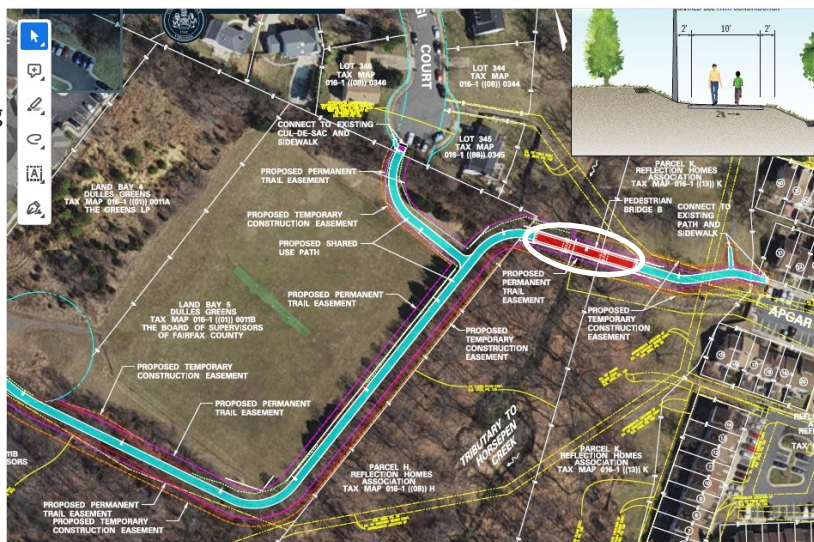
Georgette Nuss, our longstanding ACC Chair, has elected to pass along her chairmanship while continuing to support the ACC as a committee

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**National Night Out a Success! Thank You, Volunteers!**  
by Georgette Nuss, Social Committee

I want to thank everyone who helped with the National Night Out celebration on Aug 1. It was an amazing success and probably the best one yet. We gave away approximately 400 snow cones and 350 bags of popcorn. I have never seen the lines so long. I estimate about 150-200 people attended.

There were so many volunteers that showed up to help that day. There were also people that showed up before that day to help with preparations. A special thank you goes out to Mike Olson and Donald Nuss for everything they did for **weeks ahead of time**, for popping popcorn for over two hours, and for staying afterwards to clean up.

Also, special thanks go out to Lourdes Umana for enlisting the swim team parents to help out. Those parents showed up that night and rotated from one



member. Acting ACC Chair, Leron Culbreath, is your new official Chair of the ACC.

At the August 7 ACC meeting 8 applications reviewed: 4 were approved (1 for a shed, 1 for replacement door and windows, 1 for a roof, and 1 for siding). 4 applications are still waiting on clarifying information to be provided (windows, siding replacement, driveway expansion, and a retaining wall).

**DID YOU KNOW...** September is the ideal time to aerate and overseed your lawn.

*(continued on page 2)*

station to another whenever someone needed a break, and they stayed and helped with cleanup. THANK YOU SWIM TEAM.

There is one volunteer that I must thank for being a real trooper. Patsy Velin was supervising the slip 'n slide to be sure everyone got out of the landing pool before the next child came sliding through. Patsy ended up soaked from when the kids splashed water when they landed in the pool. You are a trooper. Thank you for hanging in there.

Looking forward to seeing everyone next year on August 6, 2024.



(continued from page 1)

**DID YOU KNOW...** Adding lime can help with controlling your lawn's pH and should occur in the fall, long before any expected frost.

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the September ACC meeting will occur at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 5 at the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88050150929?pwd=ODdXaFhGRXFyK3g5YXA5bnhhMWh4dz09>

**Recreation Committee, Inc. (RCI):**

Two community residents joined the full committee and Sequoia Senior Community Manager Dale Edwards for the August 9 virtual RCI meeting.

During the acknowledgement of his attendance, one community member, Mike Olson, who also sits on the Reflection Homeowners Association board, thanked committee members who volunteered at the National Night Out (NNO) event on Aug. 1. Chief NNO organizer and RCI committee member Georgette Nuss added her appreciation, noting that "it was a spectacular evening" and that she found the occasion "rejuvenating." The other resident, Cara Fortner, said she was attending the meeting to observe.

The committee discussed the need to improve communications and procedures to control traffic flow and pool lot parking during events such as NNO and swim meets.

Dale reported that several storm-downed trees in RCI areas had been removed. He also said that pool parking lot towing will resume after Labor Day after loosened restrictions during pool season.

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**Creative Lawn Mowing ("Lamb Mowing")**

RHA residents Mike & Sylvia tried a rather unique method of mowing their lawn in July, and provided considerable entertainment to their neighbors on Pocono Court. Thank You!



The committee continued its final review for a revised poolhouse rental agreement as well as discussions on increased camera security throughout the RCI area.

Several RCI members commented on the wonderful job done by this season's pool lifeguard crew.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. The next meeting date is set for September 13 at 7 p.m.

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



**Free Donuts and Coffee: Save the Date!!! Saturday morning September 9, 2023 from 9:00 to 11:00 am.** Free donuts, water and coffee on the corner of Saunders and Preuit. We'll set up a table for the food, neighborly friendship AND valuable information from the Office of Emergency Preparedness. Hope to see you there!! Your RHA Board and Street Ambassadors.

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

The Townhome trash collection contracts are way over the budget, and the board is discussing the issue.

The following TH parking stickers have been revoked; any vehicle parked in TH lots with these #s will be towed:

- 13-14, 15-16, 37-38, 47-48, 53-54, 67-68, 97-98, 99-100, 119-120, 214-215, 236-237, 289-290, 311-312, 393-394, 453-454, 557-558, 567-568, 573-574, 593-594, 643-644, 653-654, 659-660, 685-686, 722-723, 765, 736-737, 837-838.

**Paint Can Disposal**

by Mike Olson, Board Member-at-Large

During the past few months, a large number of paint cans have appeared in our common areas. None of the three vendors who collect our refuse will pick up cans which might contain liquid. The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services recommends the following:



**Latex** - let air dry and throw container in your regular trash toter. (Tip: You may pour the paint onto newspaper. Once it dries, roll up the newspaper and dispose of it in your regular trash toter.) Other options include using a latex paint hardener or kitty litter to solidify the latex paint. Once solidified, dispose of it in your regular trash toter. If you are unable to let the latex paint dry, you may take the container to a Household Hazardous Waste Site. Note: Reusable FULL or near full cans of latex paint should be taken to the Household Hazardous Site at the I-66 Transfer Station for donation to Habitat for Humanity. *Notify staff of any reusable FULL or near full cans of latex paint for donation!*  
**Oil or Lead-based Paint** - Take to the Household Hazardous Waste Site. If container is empty, it can be disposed of in your regular trash toter. DO NOT attempt to dry out or solidify oil-based paint. More info at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/household-hazardous-waste>

# Spot the 9 Problems With This House (Advice for New Homeowners)

## Telltale signs you're flubbing homeowner maintenance, like parking on grass.

by Charlie Marts, Board President

### #1 Tree Limbs Leaning Over the House

Those limbs can be a highway into your home for pests like raccoons and squirrels who might end up nesting in your attic or gnawing electrical wires. So keep limbs trimmed at least six feet away from the house.

### #2 Overgrown Grass

Long grass makes a great hiding place for rodents, who will hang there until they get a chance to scurry into your house. When the lawn mower's away, the mice will play -- and you risk an ACC Violation letter for overgrowth.

Avoid the risk, and just whack that grass.

### #3 Flaking Paint

Paint on your home's wood is the shield of your house. If it's flaking, there are holes in your shield, and that's a problem. It lets in moisture that can rot the bones of your home.

### #4 Wood Pile Near the House

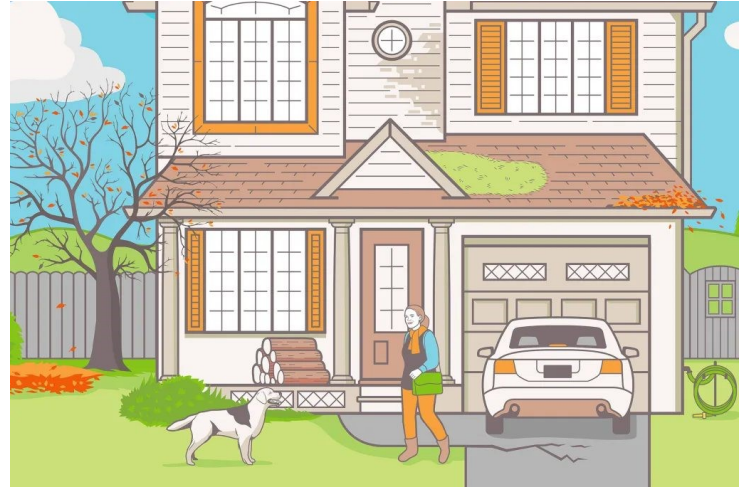
You've got your entire winter supply of firewood stacked right up against the house, so you'll never have to schlep wood in single-digit temps again. But. That woodpile can be a cozy winter home to a who's who of unwelcome critters like mice, termites, and cockroaches.

### #5 Parking on the Grass

You're house-proud, so you have your friends over all the time. But if you let them park on the lawn (your house, your rules?), the vehicles will sink into the yard, compact the soil, and kill the grass. The RHA ACC rules prohibit parking on grass.

### #6 Moss on the Roof or Siding

Moss stores rainwater, causing mold to grow on the roof where it will seep into the wood beneath the shingles, into the attic, and then on indoor walls. Mold in your house = an allergy nightmare. All that moisture will rot your roof, too. Same with mossy siding: water damage and mold await. Remove that moss as soon as you see it.



### #7 Debris In Gutters

When your gutters are full of leaves, sticks, and other gunk, they'll overflow when it rains, pouring water on the fascia and soffit (the parts of your house under the eave), eroding landscaping, or even making your roof leak. Clean-gutter bonus: You'll have fewer mosquitoes, who lay eggs in the water in clogged gutters. So clean them. Or hire someone to do it.

### #8 Cracks in the Driveway

Melted snow will seep into driveway cracks, then freeze, expand, and make the cracks even bigger. That ice can even push up chunks of concrete, leaving you with a driveway disaster. In the fall, patch cracks with concrete to keep winter water out.

### #9 Leaves Left on the Lawn

Your lawn may be done growing for the year, but its roots are alive and well. Leaving leaves on top of it can smother the grass and cause mildew, which will kill your yard. Then when spring comes, your lawn will stay brown. To avoid this, rake up the leaves in the fall. Or, if there's not an overwhelming amount, just run the mower over them. Collect them in your mower's bag, or let the tiny bits mulch your lawn.

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## More Trash Talk ... & Some Actions!

by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

You've seen the bulk trash that magically (and tragically) appears on your townhouse street corner. Furniture, i.e., couch, chairs, mattresses, construction materials and other items appear overnight.

Guess who pays for the removal of these unwanted, unsafe, and unsightly items? You and I pay for the removal. The RHA Board has received many complaints from residents for trash deposited after trash pickup days.

To accommodate residents and keep our neighborhood clean, the RHA Board has contracted a trash company to pick up this extra trash (...see PM's "over budget" note).

Please help us reduce these unnecessary costs by identifying trash dumps you see. You may remain anonymous by contacting your RHA Board or Street Ambassadors: [rhaboard@rha-homes.org](mailto:rhaboard@rha-homes.org) or [ambassadors@rha-homes.org](mailto:ambassadors@rha-homes.org) We will notify the police and take the necessary actions.

We believe these dumps may be from non-residents in the middle of the night. In fact other neighborhoods nearby have also complained about illegal dumps on their street corners. If you see any dumps, please identify vehicle (ie color, make model, license plate number and state).

Let's stop this illegal encroachment on our property now.

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

**Call For Candidates!** The RHA 2023 Annual Meeting will be Tues, Nov 14. This year we will elect **2 Board members**. If you are interested in serving your community, send your name and contact info to [PM@rha-homes.org](mailto:PM@rha-homes.org) by **Friday, Sept 29** to be included on the ballot.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**ACC Compliance Inspections:** will begin again in Spring, 2024  
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**National Emergency Alert test:** will be Oct 4 at 2:20pm. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will test the Emergency Alert System. The alert will sound on TV, radio & cellphone.  
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**Fairfax County Public Library:** announced that beginning Monday, Aug 28, all FCPL branches will return to normal operating hours:  
**Regional Libraries** (like Reston)- 10am-9pm M-W; 10am-6pm Th-Sun  
**Community Branches** (like Herndon)- 10am-9pm M-Tu; 10am-6pm W-Sat; closed Sun.  
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**Virginia's Personal Property Tax payments** are due by Oct 5.



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

**Spotted Lanternfly** is invasive!!  
See it, Squish it,  
Report it!



Send photos & reports to:  
[ReportSLF@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ReportSLF@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
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**Call for Committee Members:** Each October the RHA Board appoints volunteers to serve our community as members of **Recreation Committee Inc. (RCI)**. The Recreation Committee is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the recreation area and facilities we share with our neighbors in Lake Homes. The committee is comprised of two members from Lake Homes Association, six members from RHA and meets monthly. If you are a current member of the committee who would like to serve another term, or an owner or renter who would like to become part of RCI, please tell us about yourself by completing the form found on the RHA website: [www.rha-homes.org/recreation](http://www.rha-homes.org/recreation) and submit it to the RHA Board by Oct 9.

The picture on the upper corner of page 1 is a clump of Liatris blooming around a mailbox on Parcher Ave



# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 (August) (postponed) MTV Video Music Awards	28	29	30 NATIONAL BEACH DAY	31 Overdose Awareness Day	1 FCPS Labor Day holiday Sept 1-4	2 WORLD BEARD DAY
3	4 feps holiday Labor Day	5 7:00-9:00pm ★ ACC online meeting NATIONAL CHEESE PIZZA DAY	6 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA online meeting	7 NATIONAL BEER LOVERS DAY	8 STAR TREK DAY International Literacy Day	9 SA Donuts & Coffee 9-11am Selichot
10 Grandparents Day	11 7:00-9:00 ★ Board online meeting	12 PATRIOT DAY	13 7:00-9:00pm ★ RCI online meeting	14 M.I.A. RECOGNITION DAY	15 Rosh Hashana (begins at sundown)	16 MEXICO INDEPENDENCE DAY Oktoberfest (ends Oct 1)
17 Constitution/Citizenship Day (1787)	18 INTERNATIONAL TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY	19 National Voter Registration Day	20	21 International Day of Peace	22 Saint Padre Pio	23 Fall begins
24 Gold Star Mothers Day	25 feps holiday (begins at sundown) Yom Kippur	26	27 Mawlid Un Nabi	28 WORLD RABIES DAY	29 WORLD HEART DAY	30 INTERNATIONAL PODCAST 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](mailto:RHAbboard@RHA-Homes.org) and/or [newsletter@RHA-Homes.org](mailto:newsletter@RHA-Homes.org)