

The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

November 2023



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:

Board
Annual Meeting Nov 13
online & in-person

ACC Nov 6
Recreation Nov 8 & 15
SA Nov 1

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:

- Nov 1 All Saints Day
- Nov 2 All Souls Day/Dia de Los Muertos
- Nov 5 Daylight Saving Time ends
- Nov 6-7 *fcps holidays*
- Nov 7 Election Day 
- Nov 11 Veterans' Day 
- Nov 12 Diwali starts
- Nov 13 RHA Annual Meeting
- Nov 22-24 *fcps Thanksgiving holiday*
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 3 Advent begins

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

As the community looks forward to the **Annual Meeting Monday November 13, 2023**, the good news is there will be no increase in annual assessments. The bad news is the community is still sadly short of volunteers. Keep in mind that the Board and committee members are All Volunteers. Things get done with community involvement. Volunteers are the Real Heroes in Action. The breeze, the trees, the honeybees, and "You" – All Volunteers!

So consider getting involved with the board or one of the committees that interest you and making the community a better



place for everyone. We do this NOT because it is

2023 Annual Meeting is Online & at the Poolhouse!

November 13, 2023 6:30 pm Sign In 7:00 pm Meeting Starts

(info on RHA-Homes.org, and in FSR mailing to homeowners)

(Note: No online voting. Vote by proxy or in-person at the annual meeting)

The five members of the RHA Board of Directors each serve terms of three years, which are timed so that there is overlap among the members. This year at the annual meeting (Monday, November 13, 2023) **our community will elect two new members.** Statements from the **four declared candidates** are in your annual meeting mailing: **Charles Marts** is a Realtor with Long and Foster, a US Marine Corps veteran trained in computer technology security, a retired business owner (Tech Support & Solutions, Inc.), Vice-President of the non-profit Herndon Village Network (serving Herndon Senior citizens), a 23-year owner/resident of RHA (raised two children here), served a previous term on the board and is the current RHA Board President. "Community is what we make it -- Let's work together to make it a friendly, family place to live, work and play." **Donald Nuss** is a retired Computer Scientist with the US Dept. of Commerce Office of the Inspector General, a Navy veteran, a 35-year owner/resident of RHA (raised two children here), served one term on the board in the 1990s, and is the current RHA Board Secretary. "I am interested in continuing to address issues with parking, trash collection, lighting, drainage and erosion. I regularly walk through the whole community and keep aware of issues that need to be addressed so home values remain high and the community continues to be a good place to raise a family." **Michael Hamiary** is an Information Security Architect, has an MBA from Georgetown University and a Computer Engineering Degree From GMU, is a 15-year owner/resident of RHA, and previously served one term on the board. "I am looking to continue to help the efforts for our community that has been disregarded both on our detached homes and townhouses." **Matthew Knepper** is an Auditor, has both a BS and MBA in Accounting, and is a 1+ year owner/resident of RHA. "I would love to serve on the RHA Board so I can utilize my background in compliance, and with my skillset and determination, I can bring our community to its fullest potential."

easy, but because we wish to improve the life of our neighbors.



Develop the mindset of getting involved and going the extra mile, and by the way, it's not really an extra mile. Often, it's just a tiny bit more effort, than the next person. It's just an attitude and doing it because, "If I don't, who will?" We would love to work with you!

Architectural Control Committee:

by Leron Culbreath, ACC Chair

At the October ACC Meeting, 1 application was reviewed and approved (roof replacement)

Did you know... As the trees begin to go dormant, this is a great time to plan how you want to trim them this winter

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Did you know... Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance (Article 6) dictates that the front side of a lot smaller than 36k Sq ft in R-3 zoning (which should apply to all the lots in our community) can't be more than 30% paved. Please consider this when planning any driveway or walkway additions

Did you know... if you have a vegetable garden, this is a great time to clean it up and plan/prepare for the next growing season

Did you know... hiding your trash & recycling totes behind a partition that matches the aesthetic of your home helps to improve your curb appeal and keeps the neighborhood looking more inviting.

Did you know... This is an ideal time to prepare your snow removal equipment and conduct winterization tasks around your property

Did you know... The Old Farmer's Almanac forecasts lots of snow this year. Read more about it here: <https://www.almanac.com/winter-extended-forecast-farmers-almanac>

The next two ACC meetings will be online at 7pm on November 6th, 2023 and December 4th, 2023 at the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88050150929?pwd=ODdXaFhGRXFyK3g5YXA5bnhhMWh4dz09>

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

Six members of the committee conducted their monthly meeting on Oct. 18. Sequoia Senior Community Manager Dale Edwards also participated.

The committee completed its final review of a revised poolhouse rental agreement, and expects to publish the new rental and policy documents in November. So residents can start planning events for the upcoming holidays.



RCI members agreed to pursue another extra month's time, till Dec. 31, on the current contract period with Sequoia Management Company to allow more extra time for RCI to secure the services of a new property management firm.

The committee then went into executive session to discuss the property management proposals and the 2024 RCI budget.

The next meeting dates will be Nov. 8 and 15 at 7p.m.

Street Ambassadors (SA):

by Brenda Brown, SA Member

In answer to questions from new dog owners:

Fairfax County does have a **leash law**, found in Section 42.1-2-4 of the County Code. "No dog shall run unrestricted (*meaning not under the control of the owner or his agent by leash, cord, chain or primary enclosure when off the property or premises of the owner or custodian. An electronic device does not qualify as a leash, cord or chain.*) in the County." Any dog found in violation shall be impounded unless the rightful owner can immediately be located, and the owner may be subject to a summons for the violation, which is a Class 4 misdemeanor (unless otherwise stated). Enforcement of the provisions is by the animal control officer and deputy animal control officers, as well as other law-enforcement officers. Also the Director of Health may enforce these provisions.

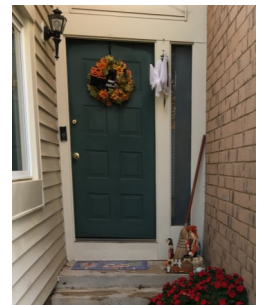


Property Manager's Corner: by Jonathan Stamps, FirstService Res.

Homeowners, this is a Warning and Reminder from the Recreation Committee: Regular monitoring of the Pool Parking Lot and enforcement of the RCI Parking Policy is being restarted by Community Towing.

Parking in the pool lot is prohibited on Tuesdays from 8am to 10am. All vehicles parked on the lot must display a valid RCI hangtag on the rearview mirror, have a current state vehicle license registration sticker, and comply with the RCI Parking Policy rules and regulations. If towed, please call Community Towing: 703-466-5344. The contact number for the tow company is also on the sign posted at the lot entrance.

RHA Decorates for Fall & Halloween!



Why Do You Need To Clean Your Fireplace?

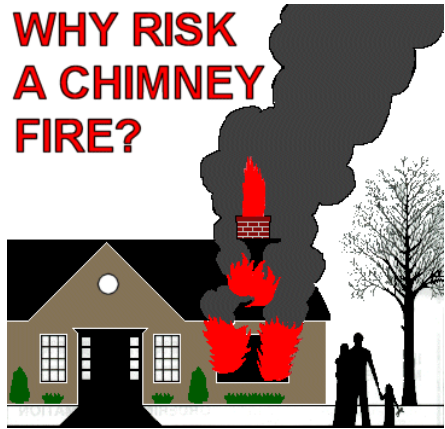
by Charlie Marts, Board President

Burning even the driest firewood will lead to soot and creosote buildup on the flue walls lining the chimney.

Because these by-products are flammable and dangerous, they must periodically be removed.

Creosote buildup is the leading cause of chimney fires. In addition, a dirty chimney can release carbon monoxide and other toxic gases.

WHY RISK A CHIMNEY FIRE?



How Often Should You Get a Professional Fireplace Cleaning?

If you burn a fire about once a week throughout winter, you should have your chimney inspected annually and professionally cleaned every other year. Heavy users might require professional cleanings every year.

Regular chimney maintenance ensures warmth and safety, so the cost is worthwhile. A basic chimney inspection and sweep for a fireplace with a single flue should cost around \$185.

Stay safe throughout the wood burning season!



What Can You “Do-It-Yourself (DIY)” Clean?

FIREPLACE MAINTENANCE



REMOVE ASH

CLEAR ASH & SOOT

VACUUM DEBRIS

CLEAN GLASS



“PumpkinPalooza”

The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services is encouraging residents to **compost** their carved up squash instead of trashing them.



The county is accepting pumpkins for composting through Nov 17 at the I-66 Transfer Station (4618 West Ox Road) near Fair Lakes. Hours are 7am-5pm M-F and 7am-4pm weekends. Remove all decorations (paint, glitter, candle wax).

from: RestonNow.com

Please Don’t (Unintentionally) Feed Wild Animals!

by Jonathan Stamps, Property Mgr

Management has been made aware of sightings of critters like **skunks** and **opossums** in the community.

Animal Control was contacted regarding these sightings and the officers stated that these animals are attracted to trash, food leftovers, cat food, and refuse containers. All residents must ensure that they properly secure and store their trash/recycling containers and their properties are clear of trash, debris, leftover food, cat food, etc.

All residents must comply the “Trash and Garbage Collection” Policy Resolution 2023-002 (March 8, 2023). Go to: www.rha-homes.org/governing-documents. Scroll down to **Resolutions**, then to **Policy Resolutions** and select #2023-002. Take a moment to review and ensure you are in compliance.

Animal Control provided the following resources as well:

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/nuisance/skunks-and-opossums/>

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-about-skunks>

If you need to anonymously report a resident not complying with the rules and regulations, please contact the Community Manager by email at PM@rha-homes.org or jonathan.stamps@fsresidential.com or by telephone at 703-385-1133.




Please share this information with neighbors that may not have received it.

Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTES

RHA 2023 Annual Meeting will be Monday, Nov 13 (see article on page 1). This year we will elect **2 Board members**. The meeting will be a hybrid: both online and in-person at the poolhouse.

 **Town of Herndon Veterans' Day Observance.** Saturday, 11:00 am, Nov 11, on the Town Green (...behind the Herndon Library). "The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" marks the anniversary of the end of WWI in 1918. Sponsored by Herndon's American Legion Post 184 (www.wmkal184.org).

On Veterans' Day: Throughout the Fairfax County park system, veterans and active-duty personnel of the US Armed Forces and their families are invited to enjoy complimentary access to various amenities and activities: Rec Center Admission (pools, fitness rooms, gyms/courts), camping at Lake Fairfax Park, Wagon Rides at Frying Pan Farm Park. Info at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

Innovation Center Transit Station Community Meeting: Thursday, Nov 16, 7pm via zoom: <https://bit.ly/40dbpQH> Passcode: 153198. Learn about the Comprehensive Plan proposed amendment to increase the residential uses for the area (currently planned for a mix of commercial, institutional, and residential uses).



Persimmon tree on Parcher Ave loaded with fruit (left) and maple tree on Pocono Ct in bright fall color.

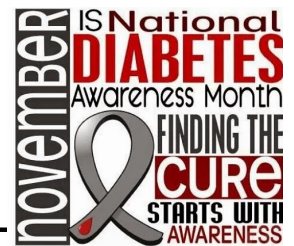




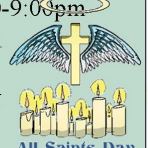




















The picture on the upper corner of page 1 is of a maple tree on Hungerford Pl

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



November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 (October)  National Cat Day	30	31  HALLOWEEN	1 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA online meeting  All Saints Day	2  Dia de Los Muertos All Souls' Day	3  Love Your Lawyer Day	4
5  Daylight Saving Time Ends	6 7:00-9:00pm ★ ACC online meeting  feps holiday INT'L DAY FOR PREVENTING THE EXPLOITATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN WAR & ARMED CONFLICT	7  feps holiday Election Day	8 7:00-9:00pm ★ RCI online meeting  National STEM Day	9	10 Veterans' Day Federal Holiday observed	11  VETERANS' DAY
12 Hindu Festival of Lights (5 days)  दीपावली	13 7:00-9:00 ★ RHA Annual Meeting ★ online + live	14  NATIONAL PICKLE DAY	15  AMERICA RECYCLES DAY NOV. 15	16  1970 Great American Smokeout	17  NATIONAL TAKE A HIKE DAY	18
19  Billboard MUSIC AWARDS	20  1954 universal children's day	21 Guten Tag HELLO! Bonjour Shalom HOLA 你好 1973 World HELLO Day	22 feps holiday THANKS GIVING 	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 feps holiday BLACK FRIDAY 	25  Small Business Saturday
26	27  CYBER MONDAY	28  Giving Tuesday	29	30	1 (December)  World AIDS Day	2

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: board@RHA-Homes.org and/or newsletter@RHA-Homes.org Visit: <http://rha-homes.org> to read past newsletters, or to request email newsletter delivery.