When the last edition of the Rotonda Rostrum was sent to print, we were able to say that we had not yet had a case of Covid-19 infection among our staff. Then the reality of essential workers performing important work hit home. Within a few days we were faced with twin notifications of Covid-19 infection among the staff.

The first notice from one office staff member and one janitorial staff member that they were suffering from symptoms and had tested positive for Covid-19. A significant number of their colleagues were sent home to self-quarantine. Testing later showed that a significant portion of our office staff and several members of the Janitorial Contractors would need to remain self-quarantined due to positive Covid-19 tests.

Continued on page 2
We were able to keep the front desk open, but it has been with a skeleton staff, with only a single individual in the office at most times. We asked that residents limit their in-person visits to the office to only the most urgent needs, or that they send an e-mail to the front desk for any non-urgent requests. Some of the most common requests, such as entry fobs or decals that don’t work, were handled without a visit. We also suspended notary services, and asked that residents hold all maintenance requests, except those which are causing damage to property. We plan to return to a regular staffing on June 15.

At the same time, we put in place, first on April 30 and then again on May 5, a special one-time disinfecting cleaning protocol for common areas in all of the Association’s buildings using a third-party cleaning company. Planned Building Services, the regular janitorial service company, put together a temporary staff of relief employees who had not been exposed and regular staff whose testing demonstrated that they were Covid-19 free.

Throughout this time, we were in contact with the Fairfax County Health Department, which provided guidance and infection control recommendations. As with all reported cases of Covid-19, the health department followed up on possible exposures and reached out to those identified as having had close contact with persons sick with coronavirus (contact tracing).

This signaled the arrival of a second new work environment in the Rotonda Offices. Since May 1, we have had just one person in the office to answer calls and respond to urgent matters. Several of the administrative employees were enabled to telework.

- We installed a plexiglass shield between the lobby and front desk.
- We reinforced the expectation that all staff wear masks.
- We began working to make that same expectation clear to all guests and other contractors entering the property.
- The maintenance staff was not included in any of the positive results.
- The patrol and gate access staff have not been affected at this time.

When this crisis started, we ordered sanitizer stations and a supply of hand sanitizer to fill them. It took many weeks before we had a sufficient supply to place them in the common areas. We are still limited in the supply, but we have been able to place “no touch” hand sanitizer dispensers at the main lobby entrance of each building.

Board Meetings were held by conference call in March and April, but some important orders of business, like the selection of new carpeting for the hallways, have been put on hold while meetings are restricted to no more than three persons, even in the tightest of formats. We also canceled the May 19 Board Meeting as there were no important decisions pending. We made it through the month of May and many of those staff who had once tested positive are now returning to work. Where do we go from here?

Northern Virginia continues to be a “hot spot” for Covid-19 infections. Virginia Governor Ralph Northam initially delayed the start of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of his ‘Forward Virginia’ reopening plan for the region of Northern Virginia. Northam has most recently signed Executive Order 65, which defines the Phase 2 Covid-19 restrictions. Those restrictions of his “Forward Virginia” plan may now be put into effect in Northern Virginia as of June 12. Even with that, Phase 2 still stipulates restrictions on indoor exercise facilities and swimming pools, and that indoor recreation centers must remain closed. The process of reopening our amenities is also going to need to occur in phases.

In the meantime, we continue to maintain extra cleaning on the high touch surfaces of common areas on a daily basis. We ask that residents maintain the standards that will prevent sustained community transmission such as the wearing of masks, limiting elevator car capacity to a single-family unit, and the frequent washing of hands.

We are now preparing new procedures for the eventual reopening of the fitness center, business center, pools, and other amenities. That time will come, but when it does, we will have to operate in a new normal. The old standards will not be sufficient, until the time when all residents will have access to a vaccine; a vaccine that does not yet exist.
STAFF APPRECIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROUNDUP

Upcoming Board Meeting via Teleconference

June 23, 2020
Tuesday at 7:30 PM
Resident Dial In: 703-936-8152
Call #: 7777#; Password: 2468#

Sign up to speak during Owner’s Forum by emailing chorn@rotonda.org prior to the start of the meeting.

The Board provided what Doug Doolittle, Board President, expressed as “a ‘Thank you’ cake to the Rotonda Staff for all of their above and beyond hard work during the coronavirus shutdown.”

GreeNSboro sign project

Work on the sign marking the Rotonda on the corner of Westpark and Greensboro began back in May after many years of planning by countless hands. The brick wall is installed and provides the foundation for the new granite sign to be placed in the upcoming weeks.

OUTDOor Pool PERGOLAS

With the arrival of wood from California, Facilities will coordinate installation with the assistance of Forever Redwood workers in assembling.

ELEVATORS, SIGN & Pergolas

Facilities Roundup Works In Progress

OUTDOOR POOL LIFT and AUTOMATIC DOOR installation complete and awaiting final permit and inspection.

COMMUNITY CENTER ELEVATOR
Installation complete and County approved for operation.

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Finally, some consistently pleasant weather for us to walk around at the Rotonda, enjoying the beautiful landscaping, feeling the warmth of the sun, and maybe letting our minds drift in daydreams. Remember, it’s important when out walking to be aware of the cars driving around in our parking areas. Here are some tips for pedestrian safety:

- Try to use the sidewalks that extend in front of the buildings to the maximum extent possible.
- Keep children close and under control.
- Dogs should always be on a leash and preferably close to you. Sometime drivers may see you but not a dog that is on an extended leash.
- Look both ways before walking out into the lanes between where cars are parked and watch out for cars backing up.
- Avoid distractions like looking at your phone.

And drivers, please observe the 15 mile-per-hour speed limit and the stop signs, and be on the watch for pedestrians, especially when exiting the garages.

Thank you for your cooperation.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Springhill Elementary Update
By Danielle Patton, Rotonda Children’s Committee Co-Chair

Distance learning has been going smoothly for the elementary school students. Spring Hill recently added “live” classes with special instructors for music, art, library and even P.E. It is nice for the kids to get to see these teachers, as “specials” are often a favorite part of the school day.

McLean High School Update
By Deena Gordon Parla, Rotonda Children’s Committee Co-Chair & McLean HS PTSA President

My update last month included the rational for why it was important for Cooper and Longfellow Middle Schools be included in the Langley HS/McLean HS boundary change discussion and confirmation that there are no boundary changes for Fall 2020.

This month’s update is extracted from recent letters from Elaine Tholen, Dranesville District School Board Member and the Region 1 (Langley pyramid) and Region 2 (McLean pyramid) Assistant Superintendants.

May 9—the school board consented to have the FCPS facilities department move ahead with putting a modular classroom at McLean HS to replace some of the trailers. The modular unit will have bathrooms and 12 classrooms. This will make for a more comfortable learning environment for students and teachers at the school.

How many trailers will be removed and just how the school site will be affected (e.g. school traffic patterns and field use) during the installation of the modular unit is still being negotiated with school administration and facilities staff. The modular unit will be available for occupancy in January 2021.

The decision to place the modular classroom at McLean does not preclude a future addition to McLean HS to address capacity challenges at the school. Even with a modular unit in place, McLean HS will continue to be at overcapacity. FCPS staff are working in collaboration with county staff to look at land use and planning decisions for future development and enrollment figures for the entire Tysons/McLean area.
The Meridian Group, a Bethesda, MD based developer, hopes to expand The Boro in the former headquarters of the National Automobile Dealers Associations (NADA) space right across the street from the Rotonda’s front gate. Their proposal submitted in April shows plans for a mixed-use development with two residential buildings, a continuing care facility, and either a health club or townhomes all located around a central park that will be open to the public.

According to the Tysons Reporter in a May 28 article, Fairfax County accepted the rezoning plans for the project the previous week. No county hearing dates are set yet for its planning committee and board of supervisors leaving the decision on temporary hold.
We asked, you delivered.
A sampling of your
“Around the Rotonda” and
“Safer at Home” submissions!

“Our very own Geese” - Laura Tortorelli

Jim’s Vuvuzela Balcony Celebration - Mickey Lewis

Maya & Twin Sisters Hana and Zaina - Nicola Gaballah

“Staying Home Working on my Computer and Waiting for Baseball to Return!” - Denny Carrico

“Balcony Celebration” - Laleh Teymurian

“Nature’s beauty always welcomes Rotonda residents” - Pat, Happy Renter

“Father (Trace Lasley) and Sons (Patton and Jensen)” - Danielle Lasley

“Due to high risk, we haven’t left the unit in weeks. But we do enjoy our balcony view. This photo is from Kiril French, 8 y.o.” - Victoria French

“Noble at 102!” - Susan Allen

“Rotonda Park” - Rajachandana Emmadi

“Whole Foods Parking Lot” - Lui Bartoni

“This is my balcony always full of flowers” - Parvin Talakoub

“Nature’s beauty always welcomes Rotonda residents” - Pat, Happy Renter

“What happens when the lid is off the treats! UTTERLY, BORED, TASHIE THE CAT IS HELPING HERSELF TO TREATS.” - Anne Garnier

“Balcony Celebration” - Laleh Teymurian

“Wisteria in Arbor” - Russell Moss

“Noble at 102!” - Susan Allen

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How long have you worked at the Rotonda? I came to work at the Rotonda on 31 January 1996. I had been unemployed for about a year, so I was glad to have something. I came aboard at $7.50 per hour. Before the Rotonda, I was a professional correspondent.

What does your job entail? My job entails supervising six other people to see that the job is done a certain way. Most of us usually spend four hours at the front and back gates controlling access to the property and four more hours patrolling the buildings and property in case something needs to be corrected.

Favorite memory at the Rotonda? My favorite memory would have to do with, after 15 years of doing my job as well as I could, I received the recognition of weekends off. It didn't last long, but I felt appreciated. I have good memories of some fine people who have lived at the Rotonda, many of whom have been very good to us and made us feel valued.

What do you like most about your job? What I like most about my job is feeling like I'm keeping people safe. I won't flatter myself with suggesting bad people are afraid of me, but there's a lot less crime at the Rotonda than in the general area, and I'm a part of the reason.

Where are you from? Where I'm from is complicated. I was born in Japan and lived 11 of my first 14 years in places like Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. My family moved around in Asia because of my father's work. He was part of the occupation of Japan in 1945 when he was part of the OSS (18 years old), so he was an old Asia hand. He was determined to not let the Communists gain control of Indochina.

What do you do when you are not working? When I'm not working, I often walk around a lake near my house with my wife, when she's able. I'm a member of the Virginia Defense Force, which is the authorized state guard for the Commonwealth of Virginia, part of the Department of Military Affairs and under Title 44 of the Code of Virginia. We train one weekend a month and a few times a year at Fort Pickett. I am active in my church, where I'm a reader and an usher and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

What's a fun fact about you many people may not know? Fun fact, well, there may be others, but I can say something in about 40 languages. I'm only fluent in English.
CHILDREN’S COMMITTEE
MOTHER’S DAY CELEBRATED
ZOOM STORYTIME & ACTIVITY

By Laleh Teymurian, Rotonda Children’s Committee Member

Celebrations this year certainly presented challenges but also opportunities to be creative. Thanks to Victoria French and her son, Kiril, we had a very professional and educational Mother’s Day story time event on Zoom. The story time was structured with pre-, during and after-reading strategies from the book Mother’s Day by Anne Rockwell.

Pre-reading strategies: the children build on their background knowledge with learning some facts. They learned about Ann Reeves Jarvis and Julia Ward Howe and how the official national holiday was signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914. Then the children were engaged in discussing their own real life personal experiences with their moms by answering questions like “What is your mom’s favorite food?”

During-reading strategies: children were engaged in the story by making connections: self-to-self, self-to-text, self-to-world. Children also answered higher order thinking questions through discussions.

After-reading strategies: the children applied what they learned and created a special gift for their moms. The activity was open-ended so the children could be creative and imaginative.

The final product, the special gift, was different for everyone. Moms received a beautiful flower from their child. Cheers to all the moms working hard to keep our families safe and healthy!
The annual selection of spring flowers – this year mostly in red and white – is now fully planted and should be even more visible in coming months as the plants establish themselves and burst into bloom. The new additions for this year include seven new hanging baskets, bringing the totals to 38 baskets scattered throughout the property.

Some call the flower arrays near the gate entrances and in the drive circles near the building entrances a symphony of color, complete with brass, woodwind, and string sections. What you see depends on your viewing point, the scene on the ground looks very different from the view from above, but all views are outstanding. Nature lovers should also take a walk to view the blooming plants along the walkways extending to the tennis courts and the ponds. While you are there, take time to look for the new fish in the ponds and the family of geese that resides there. Another worthwhile vista is the arbor near the Community Center, where the early spring blooming wisteria is now replaced with red climbing roses.

Normally this time of year marks the opening of outdoor pool season. Rotonda Pools continue to remain closed. While the rest of Virginia moved into Phase 2 reopening, Northern VA stayed in Phase 1 with a high Covid-19 rate. Amenities will be made available as soon and as safely as possible with likely strict limitations in place. Look for more updates as the summer progresses.

Both the large and small ponds recently filled with a variety of fish. Restocking typically takes place every other year to keep the pond healthy. This year the pond management contractor installed the species in the chart below.

For more complete information, please see the brochure “Pets” available at the Front Desk or read Policy Resolution 22 available through Building Link. For complete information regarding the rules established by Fairfax County, see the County’s Code of Ordinances.
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