

W I N T E R 2 0 1 3

# Loft Ridge Limelight

Loft Ridge Home Owners Association – Alexandria, VA – [www.loftridge.com](http://www.loftridge.com)



## Happy Holidays

### Holiday Trash Pickup

NO trash pickup on Christmas day.  
It will be picked up the next day.

### Christmas Tree Pickup



**UNDECORATED** Christmas trees will be picked up with trash **ONLY** January 1 and 8.

### Snow Plowing & Sand

Snow plowing will occur at 2".  
Sand will be spread as needed.

### Inclement Weather Towing

The Association may authorize the immediate removal of vehicles on LRHOA roadways and parking areas that are stalled, stuck, parked or abandoned and may authorize storage of removed vehicles. Homeowners are subject to the imposition of charges for removal and storage of these vehicles.



### Farewell Steve Davis

Gonefishin@partsunknown.fun  
Steve is retiring (again). Thank you very much for your excellent work as our Neighborhood Watch Chairman. Enjoy your new ventures.

### Loft Ridge Website Redesign

The Board is looking for a person to aid in creating a redesigned Community website. Your comments will be taken into consideration. An on-line survey was sent to [group@loftridge.com](mailto:group@loftridge.com) in mid-October to solicit input. Survey responses to date indicate you want a website that is easier to navigate and contains current information. If you haven't responded, please do so. If you are not a member of the group email and would like to complete a survey, contact Board member Eric Naide at [eric.naide.loftridge@gmail.com](mailto:eric.naide.loftridge@gmail.com).

### Community Dog Waste Removal

Fairfax County has decided to enforce its own rule of not picking up large amounts of dog waste so the Association has hired TruGreen to come on Tuesday or Thursday each week to remove and replace bags in the two dog waste stations and the trash can at the tennis courts and the two tot lots. Those trash cans have "baggies" dumped in them too. If the can or waste station near you isn't emptied, please let the Board know.

### FIOS Update

We have hit a snag with the installation of FIOS on upper Ridge View, Marjoram, Evergreen Knoll and Medallion. Although LRHOA Board signed Verizon's document that allowed them to install FIOS in those areas, further research reveals that the Builder of our Community never filed a utility easement for those streets.

LRHOA Board does not have sole authority to grant any easement on common ground. Our governing documents require a 100% notarized vote of all 284 owners, which is an insurmountable task. The only hope is for 75% of homeowners to agree to amend our documents. There are other needed amendments so if you would like to work on a Committee to address all these amendments, please contact the Board.

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

New **towing signs** are posted throughout the Community. Henry's Towing has been given authority to tow, without notice, any vehicle double-parked or parked in front of a fire lane. The fire lanes are painted yellow and have signs posted.

**Aeration and overseeding** were done in late October, **irrigation systems** winterized and **trees assessed** for pruning or removal. A second common area **leaf removal** will occur in December, as well as **mulching and fertilization**. The contract for **snow plowing and sanding** was renewed; **Management and Grounds Maintenance** contracts will be renewed by year's end. The **audit** was completed and there were no issues. The Board is seeking bids for **fire lane painting and sidewalk repairs**.

### Fire Safety and Your Tree

- Keep tree base immersed in water
- No smoking near the tree
- Use only U.L. approved lights
- Use flame retardant decorations/paper
- Inspect lights for frayed or cracked wiring, broken plugs, and defective sockets
- Unplug lights at night or when leaving home
- Remove the tree before needles dry out



### Stream Stabilization Project Update

The County contractor has returned and planted shrubs and trees around the "stepping stone" area and removed the trees they cut down. The remaining black plastic will be removed next Spring after that area has stabilized.

### Old Man Winter's Arrival Means Shoveling Snow

When it snows, it is your responsibility to shovel the snow from your porch/stoop, walkway and the sidewalk in front of your residence. Salt and chemical treatments can damage your sidewalks and plants, so if shoveling isn't enough, use sand or non-clumping kitty litter to help decrease the likelihood of slipping or falling.

When you shovel your numbered parking space, please don't throw snow onto the street. When the snowplow comes through, it will push that snow behind rows of cars where it could freeze into large chunks overnight. Frozen and packed snow takes longer to melt. If you shovel snow from an unnumbered space, that doesn't stake a claim but common courtesy is not to park in a space that you didn't clear.

When the snow melts from the streets, it flows toward the storm drains. If there is one near your home, shovel the snow so the drain is exposed.

And someone needs to insure that the mailman has access to the mailboxes or he can't deliver.

Please bring in your trash and recycle cans as soon as possible. They can get frozen into the snow and/or ice if the weather turns bad. And speaking of trash, please don't put it out early! The pickup dates don't change and those that live near the "collection" points shouldn't have to work around your trash to shovel out. The snow plow drivers plow around trash cans and Fairfax County may not pick up trash if the weather is severe.



## History of Daylight Savings Time

The idea was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin in 1784. The main purpose of DST is to make better use of daylight. We change our clocks during the summer months to move an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening. Daylight Savings Time also saves energy. DST "makes" the sun set one hour later which reduces the period between sunset and bedtime by one hour so less electricity is needed for lighting and appliances late in the day.

## Keep Your Pets Safe and Warm

Please remember to watch your pets carefully in the winter months. Just because they have fur coats does not mean they are comfortable outside for long periods of time. Whether you have dogs or cats, be sure they stay as warm and comfortable as you are. Bring them in to enjoy the warmth. If you see an apparently homeless animal, try to locate its family by sending an email to the Loft Ridge Group. Call the Fairfax County Animal Shelter at 703-830-1100 to report the found animal.

## Loft Ridge Reminders

March 9



Do you know where your snow shovel is located?



Porch Lights on 24/7 Makes Vandalizing Cars More Difficult



ACC Inspections Schedule exterior work before April.



## Loft Ridge Real Estate Update – Going Strong, Moving Along!

Active	TH Type	List Price		List Date
5630 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$416,000		10/02/13
5702 Medallion Ct	Int	\$374,900		08/16/13
Under Contract	TH Type	List Price		Contract Date
5724 Ridge View Dr	End	\$435,000		11/12/13
5730 Evergreen Knoll Ct	Int	\$374,900		11/05/13
5648 Ridge View Dr	Int	410,000		10/31/13
	TH Type	Sold Price	Seller Subsidy*	Sold Date
5629 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$419,000	\$0	11/20/13
5725 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$395,000	\$8,000	11/19/13
5723 Evergreen Knoll Ct	Int	\$377,500	\$5,000	09/20/13
5715 Ridge View Dr	End	\$443,000	\$6,500	09/13/13

Rentals	TH Type	Rental Rate
5702 Medallion Ct	Int	\$2,200

  

Rentals	TH Type	Rental Rate	Date Rented
5676 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$2,200	10/27/13
5646 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$2,200	09/11/13
5700 Ridge View Dr	End	\$2,100	09/01/13



\* Seller Subsidy is the total seller contributed towards buyer's closing cost. It reduces the net sold price thus affecting future appraisals of other Loft Ridge homes.

Source: Metropolitan Regional Informational Systems, Inc.  
Courtesy of Lesa Jones (Neighbor and Realtor)

## Area Road Construction

**Mulligan Road.** Located on Telegraph Road, midway between Hayfield Rd and Beulah St, it will provide access to Route 1. Phase 2 is underway and when completed Mulligan Road will feature four lanes and appropriate turn lanes, wide curb lanes to accommodate bicycles, raised curbed medians, and 5-foot sidewalks on each side. Anticipated completion is Summer of 2014.

**Telegraph Road from South Van Dorn to North Kings Highway.** Utilities to be relocated include a water main, sewer and gas lines along with overhead power lines. Current completion date of November 2014 features a raised median, two striped 4-ft wide bike lanes, and a wide sidewalk on each side of Telegraph. The project will reconstruct Huntley Meadows Park entrance and parking lot on South Kings Highway to provide safer access.



**Telegraph Road between Beulah St and Hayfield Rd.** By November 2014 we should see a raised overpass near the Kingstowne Fire Station, four travel lanes and appropriate turn lanes, two striped 4-ft wide bike lanes, raised curbed medians and landscaping.

## BE VIGILANT FOR NEIGHBORS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE DURING BAD WEATHER

### Farmers Almanac Says....

Virginia is in the cold, wet and white zone. First ten days of February could bring heavy winter weather. Almanac looks for a mid-March wave of storminess coast-to-coast bringing a variety of precipitation types including strong and gusty winds.

You may want to reread last issue's "Time to Prepare for Old Man Winter" and if you haven't bought a snow shovel and non-clumping kitty litter for your trunk, better beat the rush. Also, you need to be prepared for power outages – heavy snow or ice on power lines could mean downed power lines.

### Inside Winter Preparation

- Turn off your attic fan
- Replace your furnace filter (monthly)
- Move the air flow "arm" in your furnace duct from summer side to winter side
- Reverse ceiling fan blades
- Check for ill-fitting windows and doors
- Put tape over unused wall outlets on outside walls
- Locate your snow shovel
- Check your flashlight for batteries
- Ensure you have plenty of water and non-perishable food in case of power outages

## Safety Tips for Removing Snow and/or Ice from Your Vehicle

Clear all the snow from the hood, roof and windows of your vehicle. You need a lot more visibility in the winter to avoid other drivers who may not be as careful as you, so be sure to clear the entire windshield not just a peephole.

Clean the snow off the headlights and taillights so others can see you. Don't forget the side mirrors.

Remember to stay further back than usual from the vehicle in front of you. If that driver didn't clear the snow off the roof, it may slide or blow onto your hood or windshield and impede your view. Or that driver could suddenly lose control on the packed snow or ice and you need to be able to "get out of the way."



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If your vehicle is "iced over" the above applies except for clearing the ice from the hood and roof.



**FREE Tax Preparation**

AARP's Tax Aide Program is available February 1 – April 15. IRS-certified counselors prepare 1040s and eFile them. Don't have to be an AARP member.

Sherwood Regional Library  
2501 Sherwood Hall Ln  
Alexandria 22306

Lee Center  
1108 Jefferson St  
Alexandria 22314

Mon – Sat 10:15-2:00  
Mon – Thurs 5:00-8:00

Wed 10:00-2:00  
Fri 10:00-2:00

**Halloween Parade**

Parade started at entrance and ended at tennis courts. Kiddos enjoyed games and refreshments. They were out in large numbers on Halloween night so obviously the child population is growing which makes these events more popular!

**St. Patty's Shamrock**

Shamrock plant (also called the Clover plant) is not a true Clover. It gets its name from the leaves' clover-like appearance.

**Calling All Artists 12 – 18!**

In conjunction with the Invasive Management Area (IMA) Program, the County is sponsoring a "Take Back The Forest" T-shirt design contest. Design criteria may be found at the Fairfax County website, Parks and Recreation, News and Information. Artists have until January 14 to submit their entries. Winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to REI. Good Luck!

**LOCAL FUN EVENTS:**

**Year Round Weekly – Bingo** on Wednesday and Saturday, Franconia Fire Dept on Beulah Rd, starting at 7pm

**Year Round – Franconia Museum**, at Lee District Govt Center, 6121 Franconia Rd, on Mon, Tues, Wed, and Sat 10am–2pm  
([www.franconiamuseum.org](http://www.franconiamuseum.org))

**December 5 - 22 – "Christmas Carol"** at Little Theater of Alexandria ([www.thelittletheater.com](http://www.thelittletheater.com))

**December 17 – Winter Concert** at Edison High School auditorium featuring three Choirs from 7– 9pm

**Thru December 23 – Christmas Tree Sales** at Edison High School

**Thru January 6 – Christmas** at Mount Vernon, 9am – 4pm daily ([www.mountvernon.com](http://www.mountvernon.com))

**New Year's Eve – First Night** is a non-alcoholic, family-oriented celebration in Old Town Alexandria from 7pm-midnight  
call 703-838-5005 or [www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org)

**January 14 –Pyramid Concert** at Hayfield High School featuring Choirs from Edison HS, Mark Twain MS, and six elementary schools from 7- 9pm

**January 24 – Bingo**, at Clermont Elementary starting at 6:30pm

**January 25-February 15 – "Ragtime"** at Little Theater of Alexandria ([www.thelittletheater.com](http://www.thelittletheater.com))

**March 6 – District Performance Concert**, at Edison High School auditorium, featuring choirs from Edison HS and Mark Twain MS, from 7-9pm

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**Loft Ridge Group Email**  
[group@lofridge.com](mailto:group@lofridge.com)

**Loft Ridge Mom's Group**  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/lofridgemoms](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lofridgemoms)



**Board Meetings – 7:30pm**

Mark Twain Middle School Lecture Hall  
 Wednesday, January 22  
 Wednesday, February 26

**ACC Meetings – 7:30pm**

Wednesday, January 8 at 4334 Gingham Ct  
 Wednesday, February 12 at 5727 Evergreen Knoll Ct

**Communications Committee**  
 As needed

The Spring Newsletter will be our first anniversary of the revamped newsletter. We will include a survey for you to provide your feedback.



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**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency (Police and Fire)	703-691-2131
Animal Control	703-830-1100
Poison Control	202-625-3333
Fairfax Connector	703-339-7200
Fairfax Water	703-698-5600
Dominion Virginia Power	866-366-4357
Fairfax County Trash	703-802-3322
Clermont Elementary School	703-971-2400
Mark Twain Middle School	703-313-3700
Edison High School	703-924-8000
Post Office - Franconia (22310)	703-971-1003
Post Office – Jefferson Manor (22303)	703-317-9286
John Marshall Library	703-971-0010
Voter Registration	703-222-0776
Washington Post	202-334-6100
USA Today	800-872-0001