



For Board and Committee Meeting Dates, please see calendar on the last page.

Loft Ridge Board

board@loftridge.com

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HOA Annual Inspections Update

By now, all properties with identified repairs or maintenance issues should have received a letter from management indicating what exterior items should be addressed. This letter again details the more stringent violations enforcement policy established in 2008, which applies violations assessments to unresolved prior-year violations. If you did not receive a letter but wish to make certain there are no pending violations for your property, please email management@loftridge.com and include your name and Loft Ridge address (unfortunately, our attorney has advised the Association not to send "No Violations" letters, in the event a violation is inadvertently omitted and a homeowner uses the "No Violations" letter to claim that a violation was approved by omission).

This year, homeowners may have received one or all of the following types of letters below:

1. Structural violations with a 90-day deadline for making repairs and/or corrections;
2. Yard and Landscaping violations with a 30-day deadline to make corrections;
3. A list of prior year violations, asking for immediate correction and reminding homeowners that violation assessments have been accruing since April 2010.

Follow-up landscaping and yard inspections will be underway in the near future, and follow-up inspections to check the status of structural violations will take place in mid-October. After the second round of follow-up inspections, homeowners with unresolved violations will receive a letter from management notifying them of the open status of their ongoing violations and any potential actions that may be taken by the Association.

Once you have corrected a violation, **please notify management**. This information is given to the ACC or the Yard Maintenance and Upkeep Committee and aids in the follow-up inspection process.

As always, if you have any questions about the inspection process or something you were cited for, please email management@loftridge.com.

Why did I get a violations notice when my neighbor has several violations that aren't getting fixed?

This is a commonly asked question, and the answer is simple: please don't assume that because you see open or ongoing violations on another property that the owner has not been cited or the Association is not working to get the violations resolved. Ongoing violations such as these that led to the more stringent policy for getting violations resolved, and the Association is doing everything it can to get these addressed so property values continue to rise and remain as high as possible.

Additionally, the Board, ACC and management have gone to great lengths to ensure that violations are cited consistently, so rest assured that if you've been cited for a particular violation, so has everyone else with the same issue!

Loft Ridge Project Update

With the completion of street sealing and the replacement of split rail fencing in July, all major **structural maintenance projects** for the year are now complete. The next round of infrastructure maintenance (curbs and sidewalks) is not scheduled until FY2014.

We are still waiting to hear from the County as to when they will begin work to resolve the **creek erosion** behind Churchman Court and install the **bioretention area** at the end of Gypsy Court. We will continue to work closely with Supervisor McKay's office to ensure these projects are completed as soon as possible.

Tree pruning and removals were completed in August. Although the next round of tree prunings and removals will not occur until spring, we maintain an ongoing list, so if you're aware of any dead trees or damaged limbs on common area trees, please email board@loftridge.com.

Tree plantings are planned for the area across from the Ridge View playground, Lofthill Court and Evergreen Knoll Court, to replace recently lost trees and prevent vehicles from driving onto common areas. In order to ensure that the trees planted on Ridge View have a chance to survive, we'll need some volunteers to help water them. Please email board@loftridge.com if you're able to help water two or three times a week through October or in the spring (we'll provide any needed materials and will reimburse for water).

Discussions with the County over cutting branches on the **Leyland Cypress** serving as a barrier for residents on Caprice Court have indicated that the County acted within its authority. The Board is currently investigating several alternatives to help provide privacy and some protection against Franconia noise and traffic, including barrier walls and fences, or accelerating the planting of Cryptomeria which began several years ago.

Grounds crews will continue **mowing** every 7 to 10 days from now until November (edging occurs every other mowing). Still to come are two more fertilization treatments, aeration of soil, and seeding. As in prior years, two **leaf removals** will occur around the end of November and the first week in December.

Sod and grass repair continues. If there are areas near your house that need sod and seeding and you're willing to water regularly, please email the Board at board@loftridge.com.

Where do we often find warmth...

in front of the fireplace, of course. The fireplace in your home is a source of warmth and soothing relaxation for your family and friends. Like any home appliance, it should be safe, properly maintained, and good for the environment – inside and out.

Remember to keep the area around the fireplace and chimney clear, always use a fireplace screen, and never overload the fireplace with too many logs. If you use your fireplace even a few times a year, have it inspected before the first use of each season.

When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace, always keep a fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.

Be certain the little ones know that the fireplace is always out-of-bounds.

We need to pay – but how?

Each of us needs to contribute to the upkeep of the Association and we do that by paying the quarterly assessment. The fee is collected four times a year by management via a mailed assessment notice.

But how do we decide to pay it?

- by personal check/money order;
- by online bill pay via your bank (check with your bank);
- automatic bank draft (check with management);
- credit card charge (check with management).

Direct debit may be the easiest way to make sure your dues are paid on time each month. If you are interested in signing up for direct debit contact Samantha Winterstine at 703-803-9614, Sequoia Management Company, 13998 Parkeast Circle, Chantilly, VA 20151-2283.

County and HOA Yard Waste Rules

Yard debris you can leave for pickup: leaves, grass, plants, shrubs, prunings, twigs and small branches under six inches in diameter.

Yard debris must be:

- bundled, tied or contained in a reusable container or brown paper yard waste bag (plastic bags should only be used as a last option because they cause problems when these items are composted).
- placed separately from regular trash during the spring/summer and fall seasons (4/1 - 12/24). During the winter season (12/25-3/31), leaves and grass trimmings are not collected separately and can be included with your regular trash.

The best way to dispose of leaves and grass is to place them in a reusable container or a brown paper bag.

There is a special Christmas tree collection announced every year by the County (dates will be published in November & December.)

What yard debris not to include: poisonous plants, dirt, rocks, stones, concrete, sand, logs, large branches, insect nests or hives. Do not put out bags or yard debris weighing more than 50 pounds, and do not mix lumber with brush (lumber cannot be ground into mulch).

6th Annual Loft Ridge Halloween Parade

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 23rd at 3 p.m.

Rain Date: Saturday, October 30th at 3 p.m.

Don't let the parade leave without you. The start location is the corner of Caprice Court and Ridgeview Drive. Please be prompt!

After the parade, there will be treats, games, and maybe even some tricks!

More parade details will be available in the official parade flyer distributed two weeks prior to the event. Information will also be posted on the Loft Ridge Group list serve and the Loft Ridge Mom's list serve.

To volunteer, email Lisa at nelson16@hotmail.com or Erika at erikalenzen@aol.com



Halloween Etiquette and Costume Safety Tips

If you plan to take part in the trick-or-treat ritual, common practice is to turn on your front porch light. In addition to signaling a welcome beacon, a porch light will also make it easier for the little tykes to climb steps, especially for those wearing long garb or heavy costumes.

Parents normally accompany their children and door-knocking respectfully starts after dinner time (around 6 p.m.) and ends about 8 p.m. Remember, individually wrapped treats make it easier for the parents to decide if their children will be allowed what loot they may enjoy.

When getting ready to trick-or-treat with your princesses, pirates, ghosts and goblins, consider the following tips that will help make your Halloween safe and fun:

- Choose costumes that are labeled "Flame Resistant."
- Do not dress your children in costumes that are overly large or loose fitting (to avoid tripping or igniting their costume if they pass near an open flame).
- Make sure all masks fit securely and your child can see well through eye holes.
- Add reflective tape to the front and back of costumes and shoes.
- Consider taking a flashlight along to help light the way and make your children more easily seen.
- Tell your children not to eat any candy until you've had a chance to inspect it.



For more information, see the list of Halloween Safety Tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUB/PREREL/PRHTML99/99011.html>

The Dominion Preferred Restoration Program is Now Available to Water Line Replacement Customers

Over time, a number of Loft Ridge residents have unfortunately experienced a failure in the water line running from the street to their home. This very costly repair and replacement is the responsibility of the homeowner. However, some have been protected by the Dominion Virginia Water Line Replacement program, which covered their costs. For a low monthly charge added to your bill (currently \$4.50), Dominion Products and Services will, within 24 hours of your call, provide a qualified, approved contractor to repair and replace the line. This involves substantial amount of digging by earth-moving equipment and basic site restoration.

Recently, Dominion Products and Services is making available to Water Line Replacement customers the Preferred Restoration Program, which ensures their property will be fully restored after the water line is repaired or replaced. This includes upgraded landscaping with sod instead of grass seed and repaving a driveway area, instead of refilling concrete with rocks. This additional coverage is only \$1.50 more per month added to your existing Water Line Replacement Program.

For more information concerning these programs go to <http://www.dom.com/products/home-repair-programs/index.jsp> or call Dominion at 1-866-645-9810, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

White House Greetings

The White House will send a greeting card signed by the President to commemorate special events, accomplishments or milestones free of charge to U.S. citizens. Greetings may be sent for weddings (send your request after the event); baby's birth or adoption of a child; retirement after at least 30 years on the same job; Eagle Scout Award; Girl Scout Gold Award; or Bar/Bat Mitzvah or equivalent religious occasion.

- Anniversary Greetings are sent only to those couples who are celebrating their 50th (and subsequent) wedding anniversary.
- Birthday Greetings will be sent only to individual 80 years of age and above.

Required Information: A written request 6 weeks in advance of the event sent to: The White House, Attn: Greetings Office, Washington, DC 20502-0039. Include the name and home address of the honoree; form of address (Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr., Miss, etc.); exact date of occasion (month, day, year); age (birthdays); or number of years of marriage; your (the requestor's) name and daytime phone number, and specific mailing instructions if other than to honoree's address.

Taste the World

International food market offerings can shake up any meal.

Whether you're looking for ingredients to replicate Mom's recipes or want to try your hand at a new cuisine, there are many international markets in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Here are some worth trying:

- For **Thai** shopping, try Bangkok 54 Oriental Foods Market, 2927 Columbia Pike, Arlington; 703-521-4207
- A mostly **Filipino** grocery store is the Fiesta Oriental Market, 4815 N. 1st St., Arlington; 703-516-9160
- **India** A-1 Grocery is the place to go for exotic produce, 4815 Lee Highway, Arlington; 703-841-9626

Hollin Hall Senior Center

Are you an adult interested in quilting, genealogy, Ikebana, antiques, or house and garden activities? These groups meet at the Hollin Hall Senior Center. The Center's genealogy group has its own website at www.MVgenealogy.org.

For those 55 and over, the Senior Center has about 100 activities, about 80 of which are offered weekly or semi monthly. These include exercise, bridge, dominos, chorus, pinochle, mah jongg, table tennis, billiards, etc. The cost is \$48 a year (\$72 a couple).

The Center is in a former elementary school at 1500 Shenandoah Road, just off Ft. Hunt Road, about 20 minutes from Loft Ridge; the Center's phone number is 703-765-4573. Meet new friends at Hollin Hall!

For more information about senior services in Fairfax County, please check http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec/Senior_Ctr/

EXTRA! EXTRA!

New Features Coming to Limelight Newsletter!

As part of the Communications Committee's commitment to bringing Loft Ridge residents information tailored to their particular needs and interests, three new, (hopefully) regularly-appearing feature articles are being added to the newsletter:



- One Tank Trips
- This Old Townhouse
- Have You Heard What [it could be your name here] Is Into?

The “One Tank Trips” feature allows Loft Ridge residents to share simple and often off-the-beaten-path trips within local driving distance – just what we need in these tough economic times, as more and more people are considering “stay-cations” rather than expensive vacations. This issue’s one tank trip is to Strasburg, Pennsylvania for trains, trains, and more trains!

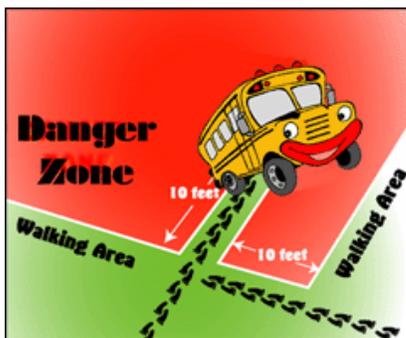
The “This Old Townhouse” feature will give Loftridge residents an opportunity to show others in the community about repairs and remodeling that they have done in their townhomes, and to provide construction details for those interested in undertaking similar projects in their townhomes. In the upcoming Winter issue, “This Old Townhouse” will discuss how to convert one long closet into a more practical closet and kitchen pantry.

The “Have You Heard” feature is designed to allow Loft Ridge residents to share their personal passions, hobbies and talents with other Loft Ridge residents, with an eye toward providing information to others interested in following the same path. In the upcoming Winter issue, one of your neighbors will discuss his love of ham radios and provide helpful tips for those interested in becoming a ham radio operator.

We hope you enjoy these new features. In fact, we hope you enjoy them so much that you will be willing to contribute one of these features yourself.

Want to show off your new closet system? Show people a great place to get pie and walk your dog on the beach? Tell people about how your ballroom dancing trophies? Here's your chance! Please don't pass this opportunity by!

Attention: School Bus Danger Zone!



Talk to your kids who ride a school bus about the danger zones around a school bus. Danger zones are the areas where children are in the most danger of being hit.

Children should stay ten feet away from a bus or as far away as they can, and to never go behind a bus. They should be instructed to take five giant steps in front of a bus before crossing so they can be seen by the bus driver.

One Tank Trip: Come Ride the Rails in Strasburg!

In many ways, Strasburg is a picturesque Amish town nestled in the heart of Lancaster County. But to train enthusiasts – both model and full size – Strasburg is heaven on Earth! If you or your children are ferroequinophiles (a.k.a. train enthusiasts), fill up the tank and head to Strasburg!

Where: Strasburg, PA

Distance: 126 miles (approximately 2 hours, 45 minutes)

Things to do and see:

The **National Toy Train Museum** (\$6 for adults, \$3 for kids ages 6 to 12; open May through October, Friday through Monday; 717-687-8976; nttmuseum.org), is built to resemble a Victorian-era train station. The museum houses one of the world's largest collections of toy trains. Best Feature: kids (and grown ups) are permitted to operate the model trains!

Don't miss the **Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania** (\$10 for adults, \$8 for kids ages 3 to 11; 717-687-8628; rrmuseumpa.org) for the big trains. The star attraction here is the Rolling Stock Hall, which holds more than 100 restored cars. Stroll between the massive engines, coaches, cabooses, and boxcars, and pause to admire the interior of a period passenger car and ducking underneath a tall steam engine. Best feature: kids (and grown ups) get to operate the signal lights, shovel pretend coal into a mock firebox, and drive a "real" engine in the locomotive cab simulator. Don't leave without making any stop in the museum's Stewart Junction Education Center and play with every kind of toy train imaginable.

Take a 9-mile steam train ride at the 177-year-old **Strasburg Rail Road** station (admission packages start at \$13 for adults, \$7 for kids ages 3 to 11; 717-687-7522; www.strasburgrailroad.com).

Still not tired? Go to the **Choo Choo Barn**, which houses a massive replica of Lancaster County with 22 model trains running through it. There you'll find a miniature Strasburg Rail Road, Red Caboose Motel, Dutch Wonderland amusement park, and other local landmarks. (\$6 for adults, \$4 for kids ages 4 to 12; 717-687-7911; www.choochoobarn.com).

Where to eat:

The Pullman Car at the **Red Caboose Motel** is a coach-turned-restaurant that serves Pennsylvania Dutch cooking (breakfast and lunch from \$3, dinner from \$7; 717-687-5000; redcaboosemotel.com). The thing that separates this restaurant from the rest: the train simulator, a button behind the register that makes the dining room shake like a rolling train car.

Also try the **Lee E. Brenner Dining Car** (lunch from \$13.50) or grab a quick bite at the **Trackside Cafe** (kids' meals from \$6) before catching a train.

For dinner, try the **Iron Horse Inn**, which is housed in the building that used to be the Hotel Strasburg and the waiting room for the Conestoga Transportation Company. Today the cozy restaurant serves such German dishes as sauerbraten and spaetzle, as well as kid-friendly pasta, grilled cheese, and chicken fingers (entrees from \$8; 717-687-6362; www.ironhorsepa.com).

Where to stay:

If you're too tired to drive home, you may want to stay at **The Red Caboose Motel**. All of the hotel's "rooms" are remodeled cabooses bolted to their tracks. In addition to a restaurant, the motel has a petting zoo, playground, and climbable silo for a bird's-eye view of the town. (Doubles from \$85; 717-687-5000; www.redcaboosemotel.com)

Do you have a one-tank trip you would like to share? It doesn't have to be fancy or exotic, you just have to be willing to share it. If so, contact Luba Mullen at comChair@lofridge.com. Your neighbors would love to hear about it!

Why Thank You!

In keeping with Loft Ridge tradition, we'd like to take a moment and thank all the residents who have helped out in our community. From the volunteers on the ACC and Communications Committees, as well as our Neighborhood Watch, to those who've helped with special events like the Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth of July and Halloween Parade, Community Yard Sale, and National Night Out, we extend our heartfelt appreciation, and sincerely thank you for all your time and efforts. You've helped keep our neighborhood looking great, made sure our residents stay informed, provided entertaining ways for neighbors to get together and most importantly, brought smiles to the faces of our youngest residents!

Thanks also to those who help water trees and plantings in the community, and to those who regularly pick up loose trash (something we could use more help with!). A special thanks is also due to the brave souls who regularly empty the dog waste stations and community trash cans; their efforts are way beyond the normal call of "doody"! So if you happen to see one of these wonderful people performing this important community service, please be sure to let them know how much their efforts are appreciated!

Lastly, a special thanks to those who serve on the Board. Even if you don't always agree with every decision the Board makes, everyone who serves on the Board deserves our thanks and appreciation for making those tough decisions, and for all the personal time and effort they freely contribute for the betterment of our community.

So once again, thanks to everyone who has helped make Loft Ridge a better place for all of us!

Meet New Board Members

Damon Blanton originally moved to Loft Ridge in 2003. For a while, he kept his home here and rented it out. Damon moved back to the community in 2010. He works for the Department of Defense. Damon truly loves Loft Ridge and hopes to serve the community as best he can.

Bob Lucas has been an active member of the community since he moved here 21 years ago. He has served on several committees both as a member and chair, is a previous member of the Board and has participated in numerous community activities. He was recently selected to serve as the Board's Vice President. Bob is a Chicago transplant who moved to the area when the National School Boards Association relocated here. He retired after 25 years of service as an Assistant Executive Director. He is an ardent supporter of the Association and harbors a hope that more people will join the volunteer effort to keep the community moving in a positive and progressive direction.

National Night Out and Barbeque



Thanks to the many volunteers and residents who came out on August 3rd, this year's National Night Out and BBQ event was a resounding success with over 150 attendees!

In addition to showing our support for the local police and providing residents with a chance to meet Commander of the Franconia District Capt. Shawn Bennett, Franconia Police representative Jim Reid, Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay and State Representative Mark Sickles, there was plenty to eat and drink and fun for the neighborhood children on a moon bounce.

Board members used the opportunity to thank the police and Lee District staff for their efforts on behalf of Loft Ridge in the past year and to talk about some of our current issues, while representatives

from the ACC and Communications Committees were on hand to answer questions from residents.

Everyone was treated to an old fashioned neighborhood barbeque with plenty of good food and drink, courtesy of Carter Mullen. Thanks again to all those who volunteered and attended this year's event. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Loft Ridge Real Estate Update

(May 2010 – July 2010)

Sale

Marjoram Court (Berkeley model) - \$445,000
Marjoram Court (Berkeley model) - \$434,900
Gingham Court (Custis model) - \$400,000
Ridge View Drive (Berkeley model) - \$399,999
Gingham Court (Custis model) - \$399,900 or
rent for \$1,950

Sold

Cheatham Court (Berkeley model) - \$445,000
Medallion Court (Abigdon model) - \$342,500
Ridge View Drive (Blair model; foreclosure) - \$326,850

Under contract

Ridge View Drive (Blair model; listed short sale price) – \$330,000

Information provided by Metropolitan Regional Information Systems.



Need details...

try the Association's website at www.loftridge.com. This is the place to:

- keep up-to-date on all of the important news and activities in our community,
- find details about keeping your home in compliance with ACC rules,
- learn when the Board and various committees will be meeting,
- learn about our HOA governing documents are, and
- much, much more.

Try it – you'll like it.

Then tell your neighbors to do the same.

Daylight Savings Time Ends November 7th!



Turn clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 6th!

For those of you who have trouble remembering which way is which in terms of daylight savings time, just remember this simple phrase: "Spring forward" and "Fall back"!

ACCOUNT ACCESS

Sequoia Management is pleased to announce that over the past year, we upgraded our accounting and architectural tracking software. The initial phase of implementation allowed us to recognize efficiencies in our accounting system. The next phase enables homeowners to pay their dues online and view their account history. Check back frequently for additional features.

To utilize these services, please visit:
sequoia.cincweb.com

Contributing Editors

Our special thank you to residents who have helped in the writing and editing of this issue of the Loft Ridge Limelight:

Grant Davidson	Gerry Grant
Norma Hughes	Mary Kelly
Bob Lucas	Carter and Luba Mullen
Nancy Schoenig	Lisa Staresina
Peggy Thompson	Erika Wheeler
Louise Whitt	

For Upcoming Events...

check www.loftridge.com. As of publication time, the following HOA events have been scheduled:

Board Meetings:

Wednesday, September 22, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, October, 20, 7:30 pm
Mark Twain Middle School

ACC Meetings:

September 15, 7:30 pm
5727 Evergreen Knoll Court
October 13, 7:30 pm
Location TBD

Communications Committee Meetings:

September 14, 7:30 pm
5730 Lofthill Court
October 12, 7:30 pm
5707 Evergreen Knoll Court
November 9, 7:30 pm
5730 Lofthill Court

December meeting is cancelled due to holidays