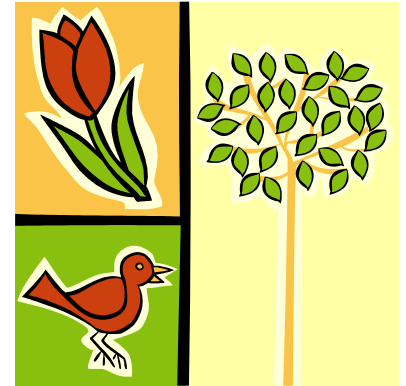




Spring into Action

Spring is universally recognized as a time of rebirth and renewal, as well as a time to get organized, start new projects, and shake off the winter malaise.

This edition of the Loft Ridge Limelight highlights the hard work of community volunteers, the upcoming HOA Annual Meeting and Board elections, annual exterior inspections, as well as the annual Easter egg hunt. In addition, the newsletter will draw your attention to ideas for planting gardens, eating healthy, how to build a rain barrel, and Freecycling; as well as updates on the Eisenhower Connector, the local real estate market, and area activities. This edition also provides worthwhile charitable and giving opportunities, as well as strong reminders about our individual responsibilities as community members.



Board of Directors

board@loftridge.com

President
Nancy Schoenig
703-960-0658
president@loftridge.com

Vice President
Eric Naide
703-329-9391
vicepresident@loftridge.com

Secretary
Erika Wheeler
703-329-0642
secretary@loftridge.com

Treasurer
Chris Buechler
703-786-0990
treasurer@loftridge.com

Officers

Karen Dyar
703-329-0533

Jason Kramer
703-472-4271

Kevin Johnson
703-960-5810

ACC Chair
Kathi Cahall
kcahall@cox.net

Communications Chair
Rebecca Moericke
703-317-9278
rmoericke@hotmail.com

Management
Sequoia Mgmt
703-803-9641
management@loftridge.com

Get the 411 on the Loft Ridge Annual Meeting and Board Elections

Every spring our community gathers to reflect on the previous year's accomplishments and look forward to the exciting events proposed for the next year. This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **May 20th at 6:30 pm at Mark Twain Middle School**, which is fast approaching, so keep the date free to be able to attend this important community event. The Annual Meeting is much more than the normal monthly Board meeting - it involves a recap of the past year's projects, a look ahead to what may be possible in the next year, and provides an opportunity for the community to share their thoughts on how things are going. It is also the time when a number of seats on the Board are up for election. This is a wonderful time to get involved with your community if you feel like you could lend a helping hand. This year, three seats on the Board are up for election. Would you be willing to fill one of them?

The process of running for the Board is easy. You need only to notify the Chair of the Nominating Committee, this year it is Kevin Johnson, that you are interested. You may also send an email to the whole Board (board@loftridge.com) or just tell any Board member you are interested. It is then a matter of showing up at the Annual Meeting, giving a short talk on why you feel that you'd like to be a member of the Board, and surviving a ballot vote. Any Loft Ridge resident in good standing can run for a seat on the Board, and it would be great to see everyone who is interested in being an active member of the community consider it.

Even if you don't want to run for the Board, make sure you cast your vote. If you cannot make it to the Annual Meeting, don't worry - your vote can still count! Each resident will receive an Annual Meeting packet in the mail. Included with this mailing will be a proxy form, which you may fill out and give to a neighbor who you know will be attending. You can either give them the power to vote for you, or you can write in your vote before giving them your proxy. A third option, which is to waive your vote and only have your proxy counted so quorum may be met, is also available. At minimum, if you cannot attend in person, it is highly recommended that you give someone your proxy with at least the third option checked.

Keep your eyes and ears open for Annual Meeting packet, which will contain details on the agenda, specific proposals to be considered, and details on items that require homeowner participation.

Loft Ridge Community News

2009 Loft Ridge Projects

As spring approaches, plans are being developed for several projects throughout the community. As promised, **irrigation systems** at the tennis court common area and extending along the west side of Ridge View Drive (from the entrance to the dip area) will be added in the spring or early summer. More **flowering trees** will be planted throughout the community, including a crepe myrtle, pear and cherry tree which were already added along the Ridge View entrance area last fall.

Areas needing **sod or seeding** will be identified throughout the community, and in places where a watering commitment from homeowners can be obtained, new sod and/or seeding will take place. If you are interested in sod or seeding for a particular area **and are willing to water regularly**, please let us know (board@loftridge.com); materials will be provided and you will be reimbursed for water usage.

Pending the availability of funding, **landscaping** of targeted areas such as the tennis court common area will be developed and implemented, as well as sprucing up the entrances with pruning, new plantings, and mulch. **Spring mulching** and the first round of **grass fertilization** will take place sometime in mid to late March, as will the annual spring cleanup of the community by our grounds company.

The Board will be performing a community walkthrough on March 15th to identify **curbs and sidewalks** in need of repair and **street signs** in need of replacement. Work on curbs and sidewalks will be scheduled for the late spring/early summer timeframe, and it is hoped that faded street signs will be replaced by late summer or early fall.

Planning continues with the Fairfax County Office of Stormwater Management to address the **creek erosion** behind Churchman Court (in the natural area across Ridge View Drive from the tennis court common area), with work hopefully taking place sometime this summer.

Lastly, the Virginia Department of Transportation has scheduled the installation of the two approved **speed tables** along Ridge View Drive; no date has been set yet, but we have been told the work will take place sometime in 2009.

If you're aware of any needed projects in Loft Ridge that aren't being addressed, please let us know!

You Can Get Help from Neighbors You Don't Even Know – All You Have to Do is Join the Loft Ridge Group Email!

Just send your name and address to groupadmin@loftridge.com and allow 48 hours for your request to be processed. The group@loftridge.com email can be used to send and receive information to over 150 homeowners and residents in the Loft Ridge community. You can ask for help in finding qualified and efficient service providers, evaluations of people you may be thinking of using, and about Association or area activities.

Additionally, you will also receive up-to-date details from the Association on safety issues, alerts on things such as snow plowing, grounds maintenance updates, Association meetings, progress of on-going efforts in the area, and many other informative announcements. It's a way of staying in touch with all of your neighbors in the community, of being informed on timely issues, and having the ability to seek quick assistance/recommendations/ideas from people who have dealt with similar problems. There is nothing to lose and a lot to be gained!

2009 Annual Inspections

Depending on the weather, inspections of all 284 Loft Ridge properties are scheduled to begin in April 2009. These inspections are based on a standard list of exterior items identified as requiring regular maintenance, and have proven to be one of the best means available for promoting the overall appearance of our community and helping to maintain property values.

In an effort to resolve the 180+ violations still open from prior year inspections, homeowners with old violations have been provided notice to correct any open violations prior to the spring inspections or face violations assessments.

For questions regarding annual inspections, please contact the ACC at accchair@loftridge.com, Board at board@loftridge.com, or Management at 703-803-9641.





\$25,250 Saved through Volunteer Efforts

Since July 1, 2008 (the start of the fiscal year), volunteer efforts have saved the Association over **\$25,250**, which breaks down to **\$88.91 per household!** These volunteer efforts have included help with landscaping, tree and bush pruning, watering, digging holes for tree plantings, trash pickup, and painting newly installed speed tables.

We need your help! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at board@loftridge.com. Thanks!

Recognizing Loft Ridge Volunteers

Many people donate time and effort to improve the Loft Ridge community. Whether it is volunteering on committees, landscaping or cleanup projects, emptying garbage cans and pet waste receptacles, bringing goodies or lending a hand for one of the community events, or going out of your way for someone in the neighborhood, it is deeply appreciated. So below is a list of many of the people who volunteer in our community. If you or someone you know have been missed on the list, please forgive us and know your efforts have not gone unappreciated. Volunteers help make Loft Ridge a wonderful place to live, thank you!

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Lucy Ajello | Karen Dyar | Kai Moericke | Michele Shirey |
| Heather Albert | David Fallert | Rebecca Moericke | Fred Simmons |
| Tom Albert | Jennifer Fallert | Pat Michalski | Jo-Ann Simmons |
| Teresa Bearden | Kitty Garcia | Ruth Miller | Irv Soloway |
| Dominic Bonaiuto | Dorothy Holstine | Carter Mullen | Lisa Staesina |
| Jessica Bonaiuto | Charlie Hudgins | Luba Mullen | Patrick Staesina |
| Al Boucher | Norma Hughes | George Mullins | Amy Talbot |
| Deni Brancheau | Matt Iden | Lynda Mullins | Pete Talbot |
| Chris Buechler | Kevin Johnson | Eric Naide | Dawn Terminella |
| Kathi Cahall | Lesa Jones | Maddie Naide | Alayna Theunissen |
| Chris Campione | Mike Kavros | Sophia Naide | Lydia Theunissen |
| Meghan Campione | Ken Kaye | Mark Nixon | Peggy Thompson |
| Ursula Chadwick | Mary Kelly | Melissa Perreira | Mary Underwood |
| Lisa Cole | Laura Kisailus | Mary Quigley | Erika Wheeler |
| Danielle Conklin | Jason Kramer | Virginia Ramsey | Don Wheeler |
| Wayne Cook | Laura Livingston | Steve Riccardi | Liam Wheeler |
| Marie Danco | Bob Lucas | Janelle Sarch | Tyson Wheeler |
| Diane Davis | Judy Markowski | Michele Schaefer | Louise Whitt |
| Steve Davis | Kevin McHale | Nancy Schoenig | Jodi Williams |
| Gale Deutsch | Clare Merrill | Michelle Shelbie | Wendy Williams |

“Good Parking” Neighbor

To comply with Fairfax County requirements, the builder paved two parking spaces for each of the 284 townhouses in our development. However, these two spaces are not always in front of (or adjacent to) each townhouse.

Additionally, the Declaration of Covenants for the community allows for the assignment of only one parking space for exclusive use of a townhouse, which is your numbered spot. All unnumbered spaces are available on a first-come, first-use basis, and are available for your second car, your neighbors, or your guests. Those unnumbered spots are not reserved or assigned exclusively to any townhouse.

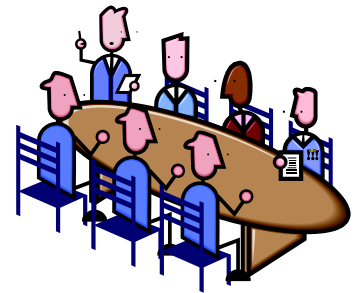
There are, unfortunately, not enough parking spaces to satisfy the demand or please everyone, and there are no practical solutions to change that. So the best we can do is understand the limitations, and be caring members of the community, which includes being a good parking neighbor.

Be considerate in your parking. Please park your car in your numbered spot first. If you have only one car, don't habitually use an unnumbered spot and don't straddle two spaces. Alternatively, your neighbor may need the unnumbered spot in front of their house for guests or repairmen, so please be considerate and use the unnumbered spot near your house whenever possible. If you have multiple cars, park one along Ridge View Drive or at the circles on Ridge View Drive and Cannon Lane.

This is a great community. Be a Good Neighbor when parking.

The Communications Committee Needs You

So, do you want to know the details of what is happening in the Association? What are the latest decisions of the Association Board? What is going on with the traffic calming concerns? How do we deal with ACC guidelines? What we need to worry about when selling our home? How the Association deals with issues? There are numerous questions and concerns homeowners have about things that affect their everyday lives as well as when the time comes to sell.



A major source of information is our Association newsletter – Loft Ridge Limelight – a communications effort of the Association designed to help every homeowner keep abreast of important issues.

Even though it is a quarterly publication – which can't address immediate concerns – it contains a wealth of information about how the Association works, what are changes in long standing guidelines, issues the Board is dealing with, details on future happenings in the area, and how to maintain the value of your property.

What do we need? Anyone who is willing to contribute to making this newsletter better, more effective, and more valuable to everyone who lives here. That includes people who just have ideas of possible articles, people who feel they have a special ability to edit, people who are willing to write articles, people who want to brainstorm ideas for content, and anyone who just wants to be included in building the community. It does not require a major time commitment on your part.

Everyone on the Communications Committee is a volunteer, and we would like you to be one as well. No previous experience is required. Please join us.

We need you. Please contribute your talent. Contact Rebecca Moericke, Communications Committee Chair at rmoericke@hotmail.com or Kevin Johnson, Board Liaison to the committee at kpj104@gmail.com to get further information and discuss participation options.

What Are and Why Rain Barrels?

Rain barrels can be attached to your downspouts to capture runoff from the roof. By installing a rain barrel at your home you will:

- Provide your plants with water they will love! Unlike treated water, which is "softened" with dissolved minerals, rain water is naturally soft. The water stored in your rain barrel is better than municipal water for washing your car and watering indoor or outdoor plants.
- Save money and water! Instead of water from the tap, you can use the water you've saved to keep your landscaping happy and growing. You'll also reduce your municipal water bill!
- Protect the Chesapeake Bay! Water stored in your rain barrel is water that won't rush off into our streams. Instead, as you use the stored rain water around the home and garden, it will absorb slowly into the ground replenishing groundwater supplies. By decreasing the volume of storm runoff, rain barrels also help moderate stream erosion and the resulting pollution that is impairing the Chesapeake Bay.



Fairfax County holds rain barrel building workshops periodically. The next one will be in Spring 2009, just in time for the rainy season. To be notified when the event takes place, sign up to the events calendar email listserve at <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/forms/subscribe.htm>.

Registration is required. For each workshop, registration closes a week prior to the event. The materials fee per barrel is \$50 for build-your-own workshops, \$60 per barrel for distribution events (barrels are built for you and delivered). Limit: 2 rain barrels per person. To register on-line, visit <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/barrel.htm>. A \$2 surcharge will be charged per barrel for on-line registration. To register by mail, indicate your name, phone number, e-mail address and the date of the workshop you'd like to attend and send checks made out to NVSWCD to: Rain Barrel Program, Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 905, Fairfax, VA 22035. Your registration will not be confirmed until your check is received. Questions? Contact [Christin Jolicoeur](mailto:Christin.Jolicoeur@nvswcd.org) at 703-324-1423, for TTY press 711.

For DIY instructions for building rain barrels visit http://www.naturalearning.org/docs/diy_rainbarrel.pdf. Following directions provided and taking all necessary steps to ensure your rain barrel does not become a mosquito issue due to standing water. In addition, always be sure to check the Loft Ridge Handbook for restrictions on outside structures and submit a request for change where needed.

Fun Spring Activities

The National Cherry Blossom Festival: March 28 - April 12, 2009. Seeing thousands of cherry trees in bloom on the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC. The Capitol welcomes spring with this annual tradition, which began with the gift of 600 trees to the United States from Japan in 1912. Mark your calendar for the upcoming spring dates and plan to participate in the parade, kite festival, concerts, fireworks, and cultural events.

White House Easter Egg Roll: April 13, 2009. On Easter Monday, kids of all ages hunt for and race Easter Eggs on the White House Lawn. Enjoy a morning of storytelling and a visit with the Easter Bunny. Free tickets are usually distributed on the Saturday before and early on Monday morning.

Memorial Day: May 25, 2009. Special events for Memorial Day include wreath-laying ceremonies at several monuments and memorials in Washington, DC, a free National Symphony Orchestra concert on the West Lawn of the Capitol, and a Memorial Day parade along Independence Avenue.



Native Plants – Key to a Green Garden

Using native plants in your garden increases plant vitality, reduces the need for pesticides and fertilizer, improves drought resistance, and minimizes maintenance. Greening your garden through planting indigenous species saves money and beautifies your yard.

A native or indigenous plant is one that originated in a particular area or environment, and not one which was introduced into the system. Exotic or introduced plants can be difficult to grow and even be detrimental to your garden if you inadvertently plant invasive plants. Below are the benefits of native plants.

Native plants conserve soil and water. Native plants have root systems that assist them in times of drought, thus allowing them to use less water, absorb moisture, and preventing erosion.

Restore wildlife habitat. Native plants grow in organic conditions- so the insect and bug balance is restored and the need for pesticides disappears. As well as increasing visits from butterflies and animals, this is good for the ecosystem and educational for children.

Less maintenance. Gardening with native plants greatly reduces your maintenance and upkeep time you need to spend in your yard. They have already been adapted to the environment so no special pruning or fertilizer is needed. This saves valuable time and money.

Fairfax County's Green Spring Gardens website (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/gardening.htm>) offers a complete compendium of plants that are local to our area, and even provides insight into how to get more birds, butterflies, and bees to your garden. Some plants native to Northern Virginia include:

- Bulbs and Annuals: Mountain Angelica, Evening Primrose, Three-lobed Cornflower, Camas, and Daffodils.
- Perennials: Wild Columbine, Butterfly Weed, Bluebell, Black-Eyed Susan, Eastern Purple Coneflower, Verbena, and Garden Phlox.
- Shrubs and Trees: Buttonbush, Silky Dogwood, Winterberry Holly, Azalea, Smooth Hydrangea, Southern Magnolia, Virginia Pine, and Eastern Red Cedar.

Using native perennials – plants that come back year after year – offers even greater value, less maintenance, and drought/pest-resistance as they increase in strength with each returning year.

Keep in mind that many native plants take a few years before they become fully established and lush. Don't be disappointed, start to overfill your garden, or drench it with fertilizer – gardening cannot be rushed, but the return on your patience and efforts will be very rewarding.

The Parkfairfax Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25, 2009

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Parkfairfax

3601 Valley Drive Parking Lot

Alexandria, VA 22302

The 23rd Annual Lahr Native Plant Symposium and Plant Sale

Saturday, March 28, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

United States National Arboretum

3501 New York Ave NE

Washington, D.C. 20002-1958

(202) 245-2726

Calling all Loft Ridge Bunnies, Big and Small!

It's Time for the 3rd Annual Loft Ridge Easter Egg Hunt!

The Loft Ridge Mom's Group is planning the Third Annual Loft Ridge Easter Egg Hunt. The event will take place on **Saturday, March 28th at 10:00 a.m.** at the Tennis Courts. RAIN DATE: Sunday, March 29th at 2:00 p.m.



There will be a toddler hunt area for kids zero to three years or parent's discretion, and a big kid's hunt area for the older kids.

Since this is a morning event, the food provided will center on breakfast item foods, *i.e.*, doughnuts, muffins, breakfast casseroles, fruit, juice boxes, and coffee/tea for adults. The entire Loft Ridge community is welcome to attend, whether you have kids or are a kid at heart.

Anyone interested in organizing games or crafts for the kids or donating food items, is encouraged to get in touch with the event organizer, Teresa Bearden by email at teresa.bearden@cox.net.

Pick up After Your Pooch

A number of residents are again expressing concern over the nasty issue of some dog owners neglecting their responsibilities.



This issue has been addressed repeatedly in this newsletter and at annual meetings, yet the problem continues. It affects non-pet owners and responsible pet owners alike.

According to Fairfax County Code, the owner or custodian of any dog is responsible for the removal of waste deposited by their dog on others' property or on public (common grounds) property. This is not just a Loft Ridge guideline, but a law of Fairfax County. This is a very serious health risk for those who have kids, the dogs themselves, and even homeowners who like to romp in common ground with their dogs!

Recently installed pet waste stations have been placed near tot lots in addition to the lined trashcan at the tennis courts. **Please pick up after your pooch! Poop is gross, don't share!**

If you see neighbors not picking up, report them to Management at management@lofridge.com.

As the Old Saying Goes, "One Person's Trash is Another's Treasure"

Doing some serious spring-cleaning soon? You will probably come up with the typical donation pile: clothes that you no longer wear but don't look too worn, and various knickknacks that have lost their novelty after so many years. Those kinds of things would certainly make a good box for Goodwill, or a Lupus pickup.

But what about the more random stuff that doesn't seem able to be donated, but is still in good shape? For example, a plastic flower arrangement that still looks good, but you're tired of looking at it. Or a steel shower caddy that you no longer need since installing shelves in your shower. Instead of throwing them out, consider posting what you have at Freecycle Alexandria.

The Freecycling organization was started in Tucson, Arizona in 2001, by founder Deron Beale, who wanted to find an easier way of distributing, donated items to people who needed them. The concept is that instead of throwing out things that would add to our growing landfills, you could simply post an email to your local group and see if anyone else wants it.

After posting your item on Freecycle Alexandria, interested persons email you. You can arrange for a pickup a variety of ways, but generally, the owner leaves the item near their front door with the recipient's name on it. This is convenient since you don't have to be home when the person comes to pick it up. To join Freecycle Alexandria, go to www.freecycle.org and enter your city and state.

Donate Christmas Cards for Kids

Did you know Christmas cards can be recycled into products by St. Jude's Ranch for Children? Old cards should be sent to: St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 100 St. Jude Street, P.O. Box 60100, Boulder City, NV 89006.

Community Collection for SOME...

Non-perishable food collection is being organized for Loft Ridge to help support the efforts of So Others Might Eat (SOME). If you are interested in donating food items, email Rebecca Moericke at moericke@hotmail.com or call 703-317-9278. Items can be picked up at your home by Wednesday, April 1.

11 Best Foods You Are Probably Not Eating...



Many of us resolved to have healthier lifestyles in 2009, and one of the best ways to do so is by eating healthy foods. Sure, we have all heard about various “super foods,” like açai and goji berries, but finding specialty stores that offer such rarities can impede one’s progress towards a healthier self. The solution to this quandary can be found in a recent New York Times article featuring advice from nutritionist Dr. Jonny Bowden, author of “The 150 Healthiest Foods on Earth.” The following excerpt lists 11 nutrient-packed foods that can be found easily at your local grocery store.

- Beets:** Think of beets as red spinach, Dr. Bowden says, because they are a rich source of folate as well as natural red pigments that may be cancer fighters. *How to eat:* Fresh, raw, and grated to make a salad. Heating decreases the antioxidant power.
- Cabbage:** Loaded with nutrients like sulforaphane, a chemical said to boost cancer-fighting enzymes. *How to eat:* Asian-style slaw or as a crunchy topping on burgers and sandwiches.
- Swiss chard:** A leafy green vegetable packed with carotenoids that protect aging eyes. *How to eat it:* Chop and sauté in olive oil.
- Cinnamon:** May help control blood sugar and cholesterol. *How to eat it:* Sprinkle on coffee or oatmeal.
- Pomegranate juice:** Appears to lower blood pressure and loaded with antioxidants. *How to eat:* Just drink it.
- Dried plums:** Okay, so they are really prunes, but they are packed with antioxidants. *How to eat:* Wrapped in prosciutto and baked.
- Pumpkin seeds:** The most nutritious part of the pumpkin and packed with magnesium; high levels of the mineral are associated with lower risk for early death. *How to eat:* Roasted as a snack, or sprinkled on salad.
- Sardines:** Dr. Bowden calls them “health food in a can.” They are high in omega-3’s, contain virtually no mercury and are loaded with calcium. They also contain iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, zinc, copper, and manganese as well as a full complement of B vitamins. *How to eat:* Choose sardines packed in olive or sardine oil. Eat plain, mixed with salad, on toast, or mashed with Dijon mustard and onions as a spread.
- Turmeric:** The “superstar of spices,” it may have anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer properties. *How to eat:* Mix with scrambled eggs or in any vegetable dish.
- Frozen blueberries:** Even though freezing can degrade some of the nutrients in fruits and vegetables, frozen blueberries are available year-round and don’t spoil; blueberries are associated with better memory in animal studies. *How to eat:* Blended with yogurt or chocolate soymilk and sprinkled with crushed almonds.
- Canned pumpkin:** A low-calorie vegetable that is high in fiber and immune-stimulating vitamin A; fills you up on very few calories. *How to eat:* Mix with a little butter, cinnamon, and nutmeg.

You can find more details and recipes on the Men’s Health Web site, which published the original version of the list last year. How many of these “super foods” do you eat on a regular basis?



Update on Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) began construction last spring on a \$236.4 million contract to rebuild the I-95 interchange at Telegraph Road, the final major contract of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project. Construction will take five years to complete.

Building an improved Telegraph Road Interchange is the final component of the overall \$2.52 billion Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project.

Ultimately, the new, grade-separated interchange is expected to improve traffic flow, as well as provide easier and safer pedestrian access. Traffic improvements include:

- Access to eastbound Huntington Avenue and North Kings Highway from the Beltway Outer Loop and southbound Telegraph Road, through elevated ramps over Telegraph Road, rather than signalized intersections.
- Access from the Beltway Outer Loop to southbound Telegraph Road via an elevated ramp.
- Traffic lights that will provide access from northbound Telegraph Road to eastbound Huntington Avenue and North Kings Highway, as well as access from westbound Huntington Avenue and North Kings Highway to southbound or northbound Telegraph Road.
- Another key component of the project includes widening approximately two miles of I-95/Capital Beltway from west of Route 1 to the Eisenhower Connector Exit, just past Telegraph Road.
- Overall, the contract will build eleven ramps and bridges, five box culvert extensions, drainage improvements, retaining walls, noise walls, pedestrian paths, traffic systems, lighting, signage, landscaping, and an environmental mitigation project at the Cameron Run Wetlands.
- Business and major utility relocations as well as ground improvement work were completed in advance of the interchange reconstruction.

Loft Ridge Real Estate Update

There have been 12 sales of Loft Ridge homes from 1/1/2008 thru 2/10/2009, with 1 foreclosure that went at \$285,000, which is pretty good considering all the bad news about the real estate market and job losses.



The prices for the interior units have still been in the high \$390,000 and the end units, such as the Berkeley model, around \$420,000. Some of these have closing costs associated with them, but not bad, everything considered. Of course, a few homes have sold for less and some higher. It all depends on time, location, and upgrades.

The smaller units off Medallion and Evergreen Knoll have stayed around \$350,000.

The rental market for Loft Ridge varies. The end units and larger interior units average around \$1,900 and the smaller units in the \$1,700 or so range.

Again, of course, a few larger interior homes have rented lower. Some of the townhomes have gone higher, \$1,998 to \$2,100, depending on upgrades, location, etc. The rental market is good now.

There is one townhome on the market now on Evergreen Knoll at \$369,000.

This overview of the market and information obtained from the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Board of Realtors' MRIS service.

Contributing Editors

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

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Meghan Campione | Norma Hughes |
| Kevin Johnson | Mary Kelly |
| Bob Lucas | Rebecca Moericke |
| Luba and Carter Mullen | Virginia Ramsey |
| Steve Riccardi | Nancy Schoenig |
| Lisa Starestina | Peggy Thompson |

Spring Salad

Roquefort, Pear & Watercress

2 tbsp brewed tea, strong, preferably Earl Grey
3 ¼ cup red leaf lettuce, washed, dried and torn
1 tbsp white wine vinegar (or champagne)
3 ¼ cup watercress, washed and dried
1 tbsp walnut oil\1 tbsp shallots, minced
1 ¼ large ripe pear, preferably red, cored, and thinly sliced
1 tsp Dijon mustard
¼ tsp salt or to taste
1 oz Roquefort cheese, crumbled
¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
1 tbsp walnuts, toasted, chopped

In a small bowl, whisk tea, vinegar, oil, shallots, mustard, salt and pepper. (The dressing will keep, covered, in the refrigerator for up to 2 days.)

In a large bowl, toss lettuce and watercress together with the dressing. Divide among salad plates; decoratively arrange pear slices over the lettuce mix. Sprinkle cheese and walnuts on top and garnish with a grinding of black pepper.



Upcoming Events...

Check loftridge.com for the latest information on all Board and Committee meeting dates and locations. As of publication time, the following events have been scheduled:

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 25th, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 22nd, 7:30 pm
Mark Twain Middle School, Library

ACC Meeting

Monday, March 23rd, 7:30 pm
4337 Marjoram Court

Communications Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 17th, 7:30 pm
5707 Evergreen Knoll
Tuesday, April 14th, 7:30 pm
5720 Lofthill Court