

S U M M E R 2 0 1 5

Loft Ridge Limelight

Loft Ridge Home Owners Association – Alexandria, VA – www.loftridge.com



**Redesigned website is
now one year old.
Hope you are enjoying it!**

HOA DUES DECREASE!

Effective July 1, HOA dues will be \$212 a quarter. If you have direct debit, make a note.

Thank You to Outgoing Board Members



Dawn Terminella devoted three years serving as ACC Liaison and for the last year was also Secretary. For three years **Todd Hunt** was our Neighborhood

Watch Liaison with the Franconia Crime Prevention Officer. We wish them both enjoyment of more time with family.

Yard Debris

Set bags of leaves, weeds, grass clippings, dead plants, etc. away from regular trash for collection by the County Yard Waste truck.

Congratulations Grads!!

ES grads, say hello to lockers!

MS grads, say hello to more activities/events!

HS grads, best of luck in college, trade school, or the workforce!



College grads, welcome to the 9-5 world!

New Board Members

Newly elected for three-year terms are **Richard Everett** of Gingham Court and **Louise Whitt** of upper Ridge View. **Mary Quigley** of Ridge View was re-elected, also for three years.

Declaration Amendments

In an attempt to bring our Declaration into compliance with recent changes to the Virginia Property Owners Act (POA), amendments were proposed to homeowners via a mailing. Several homeowners attended the Annual Meeting and listened attentively to a presentation by the Association's attorney after which she responded to questions.

Although many homeowners have cast their ballots, the 75% approval requirement for amending has not been met. You can still mail your notarized ballot to Sequoia Management, 13998 Parkeast Circle, Chantilly, VA 20151. Or better yet, come to the June or July Board meeting and use Sequoia's notary.

Speeding "Costs"

Speeding in residential zones results in
-- 3 or 4 points on your license for 5 years -- \$200 fine
-- plus \$8 per MPH over limit -- \$67 processing fee
And your insurance company will love you – they may even drop you!!

And if you cause an accident or injury, there could be more "costs."



Sell, Buy or Give-Away

A new email list has been created to sell, give-away or request items. It's named classified@loftridge.com.

- If you have an item to sell, indicate "FS" or "For Sale" and price in subject line (i.e. FS Bedroom dresser \$100)
- For an item to give-away, indicate "FF" or "For Free" in subject line (i.e. FF Moving Boxes)
- If you are in search of an item, use "Wanted" in subject line (i.e. Wanted Desk)

Most importantly, if you want to respond, use "Reply" and NOT "Reply All".

To join, email classifieds-subscribe@loftridge.com, with "Subscribe" in subject line

Website Link

In addition to mailing each of you the newsletter, an email will be sent via Group advising of the link to our website for those of you who would rather read it online. Printing the newsletter in color is cost prohibitive.

If you want to read earlier issues of the Limelight, simply go to www.lofridge.com/news/newsletter and click on whichever issue(s) you want to read.

Community Landscaping

Thanks to the interested homeowners who responded to Kelly Campagne's request for suggestions from which the Board created the following list of immediate concerns:

- erosion and draining issues (multi-year task)
- removing of piles of brush in wooded areas behind homes
- removing ivy and vines from trees
- removing and replacing dead plants
- removing exposed tree roots as appropriate
- removing ruined trees along Franconia Road and replanting with appropriately-spaced trees and plantings

Concerns expressed which can't be addressed are:

- lack of grass in space between sidewalks and curbs
- removal of mature trees that overhang parking spaces

Tennis Courts

For the sake of our dues, please remember the courts are for tennis ONLY! No food or drink inside, no children unless playing tennis (not even if they are in strollers), no skateboarding, etc. The surface is expensive to repair when damage occurs. Children should not be without supervision inside the court.

Gypsy Court Rain Garden

Thanks to the efforts of Renee Grebe and Hannah Phillips, Loft Ridge HOA received a grant from the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) to install a rain garden in the common area behind the homes on Gypsy Court. The garden will provide an area for rainwater from roofs to be absorbed more slowly, helping to minimize runoff into Loftridge Park. The garden was installed behind 4301 Gypsy Ct. Be sure to stop by and see it!!

Loft Ridge's Bluebird Boxes & Inchworms

In their third year of service the bluebird nest boxes are providing nests for three Carolina Chickadee pairs and one House Wren pair. While we unfortunately did not have any nesting bluebirds, the boxes still provide critical habitat to these other native species.



Do you know what it takes to raise a family of chickadees? Dr. Doug Tallamy, a Professor of Entomology at the University of Delaware and author of *Bringing Nature Home*, discovered that chickadees fed their offspring between 300 and 590 caterpillars a day – that's 4,800-9,000 caterpillars over the course of the 16-day nesting period! The inchworms (Fall Cankerworm) we see each spring in Loftridge Park are a critical component of the food supply for our migrating and native birds including the ones in the bluebird boxes.



Off-Leash Dogs

Fairfax County Code Section 41.1-2-4 states **pets must be on a leash** (held by a person) when off your property. **Under voice control or within your sight doesn't count.** Dogs have different temperaments and even a leashed dog nearby can cause a problem.



If you see an off-leash dog, call Fairfax County Animal Control at 703-830-1100. If the animal is loose when Animal Control Warden arrives, it can be impounded. If the owner can be located, a summons can be issued.

County Code also states it is unlawful to allow your pet to trespass on, destroy or damage another person's property. So while you are walking your dog, please control its direction, distance from you and "pit stop" locations.

There is an off-leash dog park at the intersection of Memorial and Lenclair (off S. Kings Hwy).

Saga of the Unhealthy Tot Lot

Resident brings dog to playground
 Dog answers "nature's call"
 Mulch quickly absorbs liquid
 Kids kick/roll/drop balls on that mulch
 Kids throw mulch at each other
 Kids jump off swings/bars into the mulch
 Kids on slides land in the mulch
 Those "nature call" hands end up touching faces
 and in little ones' mouths
 And finally the hot sun comes out
 so we can all "enjoy the smell"

Ridge View Paving

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) owns Ridge View from Franconia Road to the circle. We have been advised we are on VDOT's schedule with a projected start date as early as mid-September.

The work will consist of milling off 1.5" of current asphalt and replacing with 1.5" of new asphalt. Potholes and distressed areas will be milled deeper before re-asphalting.

The two speed humps and the cross walk at Churchman will not be affected.

Franconia Road Paving

An as-yet-determined portion of Franconia Road between Van Dorn and Telegraph Roads is slated for paving this year, tentatively slated for late summer.

Native Garden Items

To buy sun or shade plants/trees/shrubs nearby Earth Sangha (<http://earthsangha.org>) is located in Franconia Park just down the road. Visit and buy year round by appointment; email Lisa at lbright@earthsangha.org.

Or there's Nature by Design in Alexandria (<http://nature-by-design.com>). Open 10am – 7pm almost every day.

First Aid for Bites and Stings

Animal Bites: Flush wound with water then thoroughly wash with soap and water. Cover with clean dressing or cloth before transporting victim to doctor or hospital immediately.

Bee or Wasp Stings: Try to remove stinger by gently scraping with sterile tweezers. Clean with soap and water before applying ice pack.

If victim gets hives, itches all over, wheezes, vomits or has an allergic reaction (will happen within 30 minutes) transport to doctor or hospital immediately.

Loft Ridge Reminders

4th of July Kids Festivities on EGK

Check Loft Ridge Group email for details on neighborhood 4th of July party

Trash/Recycle Cans

Move back to rear yard Wednesday night



National Night Out

Tuesday, August 4
6pm – 8pm
Tennis Court area
Moonbounce
Refreshments
Meet policemen
and maybe firemen

Petcare in the Summer

Don't leave your pets outside without shade and water



Loft Ridge Real Estate Update

Active	TH Type	List Price	List Date	Rentals	TH Type	Rental Rate	Date Rented
4408 Cheatham Ct	Int	\$430,000	05/11/15	4407 Cheatham Ct	Int	\$1,950	05/29/15
Under Contract		List Price	Date	5705 Gladden Ct	End	\$2,400	05/11/14
4401 Cheatham Ct	End	\$470,000	06/01/15	5747 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$2,350	05/01/14
5710 Lofthill Ct	Int	\$409,999	05/26/15	5714 Lofthill Ct	Int	\$1,995	03/20/15
5657 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$436,900	05/07/15				
5630 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$435,900	04/29/15				
Sold		Sold Price	Seller Subsidy*	Sold Date			
4309 Gypsy Ct	Int	\$439,500	\$1,000	06/01/15			
5706 Medallion Ct	Int	\$345,000	\$5,000	05/20/15			
5664 Ridge View Dr	End	\$460,000	\$2,000	04/29/15			
4333 Marjoram Ct	End	\$469,000	\$0	03/16/15			



* 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 Maren Seubert (Neighborhood Realtor)

Some Wild Animals are Rabid

Rabies is a deadly disease that attacks the nervous system. It is transmitted through a bite or getting saliva or brain tissue in a wound or the eye or mouth.

-- To Help Control Rabies --

Do not leave pet food outside or have garbage in a container without a tight lid.

If you see an animal acting strangely, report it to local animal control and **DO NOT APPROACH IT**.

If your pet is attacked or bitten by a wild animal, report it to the local health department or animal control.

Have your veterinarian vaccinate your pets and keep the shots current.



Animal Control
703-830-1100



Concern for Our Children

Your dues pay to keep our Community looking good. Toward that end, please remember your children are not unbreakable. You are responsible for any damage your children cause so be alert. Even broken off lower branches are harmful to the health of trees. Some children also pose a risk by riding skateboards and bicycles on the streets. Those children do not have the right-of-way and shouldn't be using the streets for those activities. Unless you have coordinated with another parent to assume responsibility, **please don't leave your child(ren) unattended at the tot lot.**

They're Back!!!

Those unwanted summer visitors that is!!

It's summer and with hot, humid weather comes those mosquitoes. Like guests who stay too long, let's make them want to go elsewhere. You can make their stay more unpleasant by wearing dark clothes during the day and wearing socks when watering lawns and plants. Water attracts them and we often have places where water is retained creating attractive breeding grounds. Some of these are:

- water pockets on tarps used to cover grills and furniture
- saucers under flower pots
- grills (when vent is left open)
- inflatable pools (these should be emptied often)
- kids toys (i.e. bicycle seats, buckets)



You can also keep your shrubbery trimmed back as the underside of leaves provides their favorite hiding place.

Hot Summer and Our Trees

A hotter and drier than normal summer is forecasted. While grass may recover from a lack of sufficient water, trees don't.

To save money on tree/shrub replacement, why not take your hose and give a tree a good long drink. Thirty minutes would be great and since the roots stretch as far as the widest branch, if you move the hose every few minutes it can circle the tree's roots. Hose not long enough? Join it with a neighbor's and you can take turns using faucets. Or simply carry the water in a bucket for shrubs.



Trees can't say thank you but what a wonderful example you would be setting for Loft Ridge youngsters!

Propane Grill Safety

July is peak month for grill fires

There's nothing like outdoor grilling in the summer but a grill placed too close to anything that is flammable is a hazard.

Even though you may have wrapped your propane hose in duct tape to discourage animal chewing, to ensure a summer of safe grilling, check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your **grill has a leak**, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the **leak does not stop, call the fire department.**

If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

Summer Weather Dangers

Thunderstorms produce dangerous lightning. To keep safe:

- Keep an eye on the sky, looking for darkening skies, flashes of light or increasing wind.
- Listen for the sound of thunder. When thunder roars, go indoors and stay there until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder was heard.
- Do not wait for the rain to start before seeking shelter and do not leave the shelter until the rain has ended.

Heavy rains are "deceptive"

- Keep children inside and don't let them play in or near streams
- Don't drive on flooded roads. Adhere to the old adage "Turn Around, Don't Drown." Just two feet of swift water can move or float most vehicles, including SUVs and pickup trucks.

For severe weather warnings, sign up on Fairfax Alerts System. See Winter 2014 issue for details.

Summer Fun and Frolics

LOCAL POOLS

Lee District Park
6601 Telegraph Road
703-922-9841

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/leerec.htm

Free Spray Park

Cameron Run Regional Park

4001 Eisenhower Avenue
703-960-0767

www.nvrpa.org/park/cameron_run

Water slides, wave pool, miniature golf, batting cages

LOCAL FARMER'S MARKETS

Springfield Towne Center Farmer's Market

May 2 – October 31
Corner of Spring Mall & Loisdale Roads
Saturdays 10:00am – 2:00pm

Kingstowne Farmer's Market

May 1 – October 30
Parking lot where Giant is located
Fridays 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Mount Vernon Farmer's Market

May 16 – December 16
Parking lot at Sherwood Hall Lane Library
Wednesdays 8:00am – 12:00noon

FREE CONCERTS

Lee District Park Amphitheater

Wednesdays at 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Inclement weather, call 703-324-7469 after 6pm

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance

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| June | 3 | Thrillbillys (Rockability) |
| | 10 | The Pietasters (Ska) |
| | 17 | Veronneau (World Jazz) |
| | 24 | Solas (Irish) |
| July | 1 | Beltway Balalika (Russian) |
| | 8 | Rocknoceros (Children Songs) |
| | 15 | Lox & Vodka (Jewish and American Music) |
| | 22 | The Taters (Roots/Pop) |
| | 29 | Bruce Ewan (Blues) |
| Aug | 5 | The Nighthawks (Blues) |
| | 12 | Monroe Crossing (Bluegrass) |
| | 19 | Project Natale (Jazz) |
| | 26 | The United States Army Blues (Jazz) |

4TH OF JULY

Fireworks, parades, and other activities for Virginia, Maryland, and DC may be found at <http://dc.about.com/od/specialevents/a/4thofJuly.htm>

City of Alexandria celebrates USA and Alexandria birthdays on July 11, 2015
<http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation>

LOCAL FUN EVENTS

June 13 – Civil War Reenactment, Fort Ward Park, 10am-4pm, www.fortward.org

June 30 – July 2 – World Police & Fire Games, Springfield Town Center, www.Fairfax2015.com

Aug 15 – 2015 Hometown History Bus Tour, \$35 per person, 10am – 2pm presented by Franconia Museum, 703-971-4716

75th Year for our Police Department

On July 1, our Fairfax County Police Department is celebrating its 75th year of providing protection and service. We don't often think of those officers as anyone other than ticket issuers, but theirs is a moderate-paying and often dangerous job that is vital to our safety.

If you are interested in lecture series, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police, then search "75th Anniversary."

The next time you see a Fairfax County Police Officer, how about shaking his or her hand and saying "thank you for doing a good job."



LOFT RIDGE BOARD

board@lofridge.com

President

Mary Quigley ('18)

703-960-0426 - president@lofridge.com

Vice President

Jonathan Heisey-Grove ('17)

617-905-6494 (cell) - vicepresident@lofridge.com

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

Eric Naide ('16)

703-329-9391 - treasurer@lofridge.com

Grounds Liaison

Kelly Campagne ('16)

202-607-6331 (cell) - kelly.lofridge@gmail.com

Neighborhood Watch Liaison

Christopher Maletz ('17)

202-246-3585 (cell) - cwm.lofridge@gmail.com

Members at Large

Richard Everett ('18)

703-350-5685 (cell) - rick.lofridge@gmail.com

Louise Whitt ('18)

703-960-0428 - louise.lofridge@gmail.com

Loft Ridge Group Email

group@lofridge.com

Loft Ridge Classified Email

classified@lofridge.com

(For Sale, For Free or Wanted)

Archived Newsletters

<http://www.lofridge.com/news/newsletter>

Loft Ridge Mom's Group

groups.yahoo.com/group/lofridgemoms

Sequoia Management

703-803-9641

management@lofridge.com

Board Meetings - 7:30pm

Mark Twain Middle School Lecture Hall

Thursday, June 18

Thursday, July 16

Thursday, August 20

ACC Meetings - 7:30pm

Wednesday, June 10 at 5670 Ridge View Dr

Wednesday, July 8 at 4334 Gingham Ct

Wednesday, August 12 at 5631 Ridge View Dr

LIMELIGHT STAFF

Communications Chair - Louise Whitt

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Contributors

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FREE Small Slurpee

On **July 11** your local 7-11 will be giving away a free small Slurpee to each customer from 11am - 7pm. This is in celebration of 7-11's 88th year in business and coincidentally it's the 50th anniversary of the Slurpee.



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