

W I N T E R 2 0 1 6

Loft Ridge Limelight

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



Warmest Greetings of the Season

Christmas Tree Pickup

UNDECORATED Christmas trees will be picked up with trash **ONLY** January 4 and 11. Please do **NOT** dispose of the trees in the woods.



Feeding the Wildlife

Please don't put out food for animals. They are searching more actively in winter but they could end up inside your home or take up residence in your rear yard.

Snow Plowing & Sand

Snow plowing will occur at 3" and sand will be spread as needed.

Keep It Cleared

Don't block the mailbox area with your garbage/recycle cans.

When It Snows....

Keep the snow cleared in front of your **storm door** to make sure you are able to open it.

Snow Shovel Storage

Please do not store your snow shovel on the front porch. Sometimes it "grows legs and walks off." Then what do you do the next time it snows? And it's so out of place in the Spring when it doesn't get put away.

News from the Board

Welcome to Chris Payne and Drew Lucio who were appointed to the Board.

Contracts were renewed for **Management**, **snow removal** and **Grounds**. **Irrigation** systems were winterized. **Benches** were installed on EGK and Lofthill.

Aereation, **overseeding** and one **leaf removal** were done in November. A second common area **leaf removal** will occur in December, as well as **mulching and fertilization**. The **audit** was completed with no issues. Fall **tree assessment** was performed.

Animals, Birds and Your Trash

Food is scarce in the winter. **Please** don't set your trash out early or in white trash bags. Once animals/birds find your "trash deposit spot" has bags they can chew into, they will return (not just on trash day). *Be considerate of your neighbors and the appearance of our Community*, and place your trash out in cans or heavy-weight black bags after 5pm on Tuesday.

And if you are one of those who is using a recycle bin, rather than the blue can, remember that any food or liquid left in your cans and bottles is an attractive nuisance to animals who might carry disease. Pizza boxes have food residue and are not recyclable but they are tasty!!



2016 Bluebird Box Wrap-Up

The 4th year of monitoring bluebird nest boxes as part of the Virginia Bluebird Trail has come to a close. Bluebirds aren't always early or aggressive enough to establish nests in these boxes, and throughout the spring and summer, several other species may also use them to nest. This season, our boxes have been dominated by House Wrens, a small, native, rather gregarious songbird with a beautiful voice. Across all boxes, we had 27 House Wrens and 13 Carolina Chickadees successfully fledge (be raised to adulthood and left the nest box). These numbers get reported to the Virginia Bluebird Society each year to help with overall tracking of trends of native bird populations. We hope the bluebirds seen by the tennis courts will scope out those newly installed boxes and nest next spring!

Crabgrass Preventer

Crabgrass seeds can germinate each year when nighttime soil temperatures reach over 50 degrees for 3 days. This "wakes up" the seed and starts the process of becoming your worst nightmare. The best time to apply the pre-emergent would be between mid-February through the end of March or while forsythia is in full bloom.

Neighborhood Tidbits

- Keep your porch light to make it easier for dogwalkers to see and vehicle vandals prefer dark cars.
- Street light out or malfunctioning? Call or email our management with pole number and nearest address.



Fairfax Alerts System



For those of you who like to be more connected about things like severe weather warnings, bad traffic, government closings, etc.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts will allow you to customize which alerts you want to receive.

You can set up locations you're most interested in getting alerts about (e.g. home, school, work) and you can indicate your method of communication (e.g. email, text). Set up is free and takes just a couple of minutes to customize.

Those Pesky Potholes

Cracks in pavement are caused by vehicle weight and temperature changes. When water gets into a road crack and freezes, the crack enlarges and eventually weakens the asphalt. Continual road traffic over this weakened area leaves a jagged hole, typically the size of a grapefruit.

The best way to avoid "calamities" when driving is to avoid those potholes. If you hit a pothole and your vehicle is damaged, you can submit a damage claim to Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Each claim will be investigated as to the circumstances, type and location of the pothole, whether VDOT had been notified of its existence, and if VDOT had been given a reasonable amount of time for repairs. To report a pothole or check on damage claim, call VDOT at 1-800-367-6723 (1-800-FOR-ROAD).

Fairfax County has 85 miles of interstate, 180 miles of primary roads and 1700 miles of secondary roads. It's anyone's guess how many potholes there are!!

And why is VDOT responsible for the roads in Fairfax County? In 1932 all counties in Virginia were given the option of maintaining their roads or turning that responsibility over to VDOT. After evaluating the cost and effect on taxes, only Arlington and Henrico counties chose to shoulder road maintenance. Aren't you glad?



Thank You!

Thank you Kari Buttera for a good job organizing the Halloween Ghoulympics.
Thanks to all who shovel snow from mailbox areas and storm drains.

We're in a "No Drone" Zone

The FAA recently extended the "no drone zone" deeper into Virginia and Maryland by extending that zone to a 30-mile radius beyond Washington Reagan National Airport. Further information at www.faa.gov.

Even outside the 30-mile radius, Fairfax County does not allow operation of drones in any County park.

Might want to remove drones from your Christmas gift list.

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.

We hope you enjoy "LOFT RIDGE'S FIRST 35 YEARS" included with this issue!

Loft Ridge Reminders

DST - March 12



Do you know where your snow shovel is located?

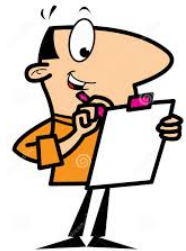


VIRGINIA LAW



On Residential Streets

ACC Inspections are scheduled for April 2017



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

Active	TH Type	List Price		List Date
5734 Evergreen Knoll Ct	Int	\$399,900		10/08/16
	TH Type	Sold Price	Seller Subsidy*	Sold Date
4332 Gingham Ct	Int	\$390,000	\$ 750	09/23/16
5722 Lofthill Ct	Int	\$439,000	\$3,500	09/30/16
5721 Evergreen Knoll Ct	Int	\$350,000	\$3,000	11/09/16
5678 Ridge View Dr	End	\$485,000	\$ 0	12/02/16

Rentals	TH Type	Rental Rate
4320 Gypsy Ct	Int	\$2,350

Rentals	TH Type	Rental Rate	Date Rented
5717 Evrgreen Knoll Ct	Int	\$2,175	10/24/16
5767 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$2,195	10/27/16
5710 Gladden Ct	End	\$2,475	11/22/16

* 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 (Realtor)

Winter 2015 – 2016 Memories

Snowzilla tied for 4th place in snowfall records with 17.8 inches January 22-23. We all shoveled more snow than that though.

And that followed a December that:

- had no snow for the first time since 2001
- set two 71 degree records
- had 26 days hotter than 50, most since 1889
- had 14 days above 60, beating 1971 record
- featured 4.84" of rain, wettest since 5.53" in 2013

And the month was second warmest of the 21st century, just short of 2012.

2016-2017 winter is forecasted to be colder than normal with 16-20" of snow coming in smaller storms.

BE VIGILANT FOR NEIGHBORS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE DURING BAD WEATHER

Do Your Kids Eat Snow?

Some studies cite that as a bad idea. As the snow falls, it acts like a sponge, removing several chemicals from the air. Some of these chemicals can damage the central nervous system, are associated with breathing difficulties, kidney failure or neurological problems.

And if your neighbor's dog has "relieved itself" in a lower layer of snow, that could be scooped up in a handful of snow too.

Snow On Your Car

When clearing the snow, please remember your roof. The snow blowing from a rooftop can be blinding to the car behind you. And those lights and license plates need to be visible too.

Check your gas tank level often and make sure your windshield washer tank is full.



Snow and Your Trash Can

This time of year it is more important to have your cans out for as short a time as possible. Out after 5 Tuesday and in by dark Wednesday. They can freeze in place, making it difficult to move, and the snowplow has to maneuver around them.

Remember if weather is severe, the County trucks may not collect on schedule but assume they will.

And When It Snows

You are responsible for shoveling your porch/stoop, walkway and the sidewalk in front of your home as well as your numbered parking space. Shoveling snow from an unnumbered space doesn't mean you staked a claim but common courtesy is if you didn't clear the space, don't park in it.

Shoveling Courtesy

Don't throw snow into the street or push it in front of islands. It will freeze, turn to ice and when the plow returns, the snow will end up behind vehicles again.

Ensure the mailman can get safely to the mailboxes, that storm drains are open to allow faster exit of melting snow and fire hydrants need to be exposed. Don't forget access to the pet waste stations. And if those are full, please take your doggie bags home - - when the lid won't close due to overload, a health hazard is created and an attraction for some wild animals will exist.

Winter Tips

- Gently rub a small, moistened cloth bag of iodized salt on the outside of windshield to prevent ice and snow from sticking.
- Stuck on ice without sand or kitty litter? Use your car mats to get traction.
- Have hanging icicles? Tap them with a broom, from a window if possible.
- Candles in glass containers can burn out and since it's hot, may burn the table where it sits.

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Second Friday in January has been designated as a day to show appreciation for those in blue. Every day 1 million men and women put their lives in jeopardy dealing with domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder and facing those with lethal weapons.



To say “thank you” say something nice on Facebook or have your child design a card or write a letter and deliver it to your local police station - - ours is at 6121 Franconia Road across from Paradiso restaurant.



Winter starts December 21

FREE Tax Preparation

AARP's Tax Aide Program is available February 1 – April 15. IRS-certified counselors prepare and eFile Federal and Virginia returns. Bring picture ID and social security cards for taxpayer(s) and dependents. Don't have to be an AARP member.

Sherwood Regional Library
2501 Sherwood Hall Ln
Alexandria 22306

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

Can You Be Seen In the Dark?

There is danger in the dark: drivers of vehicles who can't see. Those of you who walk, run, or ride bikes after dark, please consider wearing light-colored clothing and something reflective like tape, a vest, belt or hat. A flashlight will provide additional illumination.



Happy Valentine's Day!



Local Fun Events

Year Round Weekly – Bingo on Wednesday and Saturday, Franconia Fire Dept 703-922-5858

Year Round – Franconia Museum, at Lee District Govt Center (www.franconiamuseum.org)

December 16-17 – Christmas Illuminations (fireworks) at Mt Vernon 5:30-9:00pm (www.mountvernon.org)

December 16-18 – Sesame Street: Elmo Makes Music at Eaglebank Arena (www.eaglebankarena.com)

Thru December 23 – Christmas Tree Sales at Edison High School

Thru January 6 – George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation, daily (www.mountvernon.com)

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

February 18-20 – Celebrate Washington's Birthday on President's Day (www.mountvernon.org)

March 17-19 – Harlem Globetrotters at Eaglebank Arena (www.eaglebankarena.com)

LOFT RIDGE BOARD
board@loftridge.com

President

Jonathan Heisey-Grove ('17)
617-905-6494 (cell) – president@loftridge.com

Vice President
Vacant

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Christopher Maletz ('17)
202-246-3585 (cell) – cwm.loftridge@gmail.com

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Carter Mullen ('18)

571-218-9881 (cell) – carter58@gmail.com

Landscaping / Grounds
Louise Whitt ('18)

703-960-0428 – louise.loftridge@gmail.com

Members

Chris Payne ('19)
703-582-5325 (cell) – cpayne.loftridge@gmail.com

Drew Lucio ('19)
703-795-1032 (cell) – ddlucio.loftridge@gmail.com

Loft Ridge Group Email
group@loftridge.com

Loft Ridge Classifieds Email
classified@loftridge.com
(for sale, for free, or wanted)

Archived Newsletters
www.loftridge.com/news/newsletter

Loft Ridge Mom's Group
groups.yahoo.com/group/loftridgemoms

DRIVE TWENTY FIVE

TO KEEP EVERYONE ALIVE!

Board Meetings – 7:00pm
Mark Twain Middle School Lecture Hall
Thursday, January 19
Thursday, February 16
Thursday, March 16

ACC Meetings – 7:30pm
Clermont Elementary School Library
Wednesday, January 11
Wednesday, February 8
Wednesday, March 8
ACCChair@loftridge.com

LIMELIGHT STAFF

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Free Notary Service

Kelly Campaigne – 202-607-6331 Cheatham Court
Louise Whitt – 703-960-0428 Ridge View Drive

No charge to Loft Ridge owners and residents



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

Loft Ridge's First Thirty-Five Years

1981-1982

Governing documents written by developer Edward Carr

Marketing began for Wellington Green

1983

First home to settlement

1984

Homeowners began to fill Board seats

First newsletter written

Tennis courts finished, two homeowners donated benches

Marketing of Wellington Ridge started

1985

County installed street lights on Ridge View

One parking space assigned per address

Architectural Control Committee (ACC) formed; handbook written

Gladden and Lofthill townhouse design changed to colonial style

Builder turned over HOA; members filled all seven board seats

1986

Fire lanes painted

Community clean-up days started

1987

Fire lane signs installed

Cable TV trenches dug

VDOT marked No Parking areas near Caprice and Gingham

Street lights installed on private streets

Changed from calendar year (CY) to fiscal year (FY) accounting

1988

"Free Dirt" program started to beautify common grounds

1990

Row of evergreens planted along Franconia Road

"Wellington Green" and "Wellington Ridge" on signs painted green

1992

Management Company hired

2002

Website designed

2003
Newsletter renamed the Loft Ridge Limelight

2004
Group@ loftridge implemented

2005
First Halloween parade

2006
New tot lot equipment
New mailboxes

2007
First Easter Egg Hunt/Party
Annual meeting changed from July to May
Loftridge Park deeded to County Park Authority
Irrigation installed at entrances

2008
Irrigation installed at tennis courts, on Ridge View to dip

2009
Initial National Night Out Barbeque
Speed Tables Created

2010
First 4th of July festivities

2011
Irrigation installed on Evergreen and Lofthill

2012
Bird nest boxes installed in Cannon Lane big field

2014
Website redesigned
Native plant gardens created on Evergreen and Medallion

2015
Rain garden (native plants) planted behind Gypsy Court
Evergreens along Franconia Road replaced

2016
Bird nest boxes installed by tennis courts
Bayscaping area (native plants) created in Cannon Lane big field

*** *Let's see how the next thirty five years evolve!!* ***