

S U M M E R 2 0 1 4

Loft Ridge Limelight

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



**When Thunder Roars
Go Indoors!!**



HOA DUES INCREASE

Effective July 1, HOA dues will be \$237 a quarter. If you have direct debit, make a note.

Tennis Courts



If you see any **ACTIVITY OTHER THAN TENNIS**, contact the Board!! Any repair is costly so please supervise your children and **DO NOT** allow your pets on the tennis courts.

Is that blowing trash yours?

Please don't put loose items in your trash cans/bins. If they don't make it into the trash truck, they stay on the ground and no one picks up litter.

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!

Thank You to Retiring Board Members

The Board would like to thank retiring Board Members, Erika Wheeler and Kevin Johnson, for their years of service to the Loft Ridge community. Erika Wheeler served as President for five years and stayed to assist the new President as Vice President for the past year. Her tireless efforts to make Loft Ridge a wonderful place to live included getting FIOS into the Community, a major legal and logistical effort, and the stream stabilization project near the tennis courts to reduce water erosion damage. She was always available to the Community, with a continual cheerful attitude and a willingness to help make Loft Ridge a better place to live.

Kevin Johnson has served as both Secretary and Treasurer while on the Board the last six years (even after he moved out of the Community!) but it was his excellent stewardship of the Association finances for which he will be remembered. His attention to detail and thorough understanding of the operating income and the reserves helped insure the Association had a good audit report year after year. Kevin's ability to answer any Board question with professionalism and courtesy will be missed greatly by the Association.

Website Redesign

The redesign effort is complete and the end result is stunning!! The information is easy to find and the neighborhood pictures give it a personal touch!

Special thanks to **Erika Wheeler** who coordinated all input with the designer and reviewed the progress almost daily, **Louise Whitt** who updated, wrote, or rewrote much of the content, the **Board members** who commented, **Matt Iden** (homeowner/published author) who wrote the introduction and all of you who provided the wonderful pictures.

We hope navigating the website will be an enjoyable and informative adventure.

News from the Board

Grounds maintenance contract is being re-competed. **Annals** have been planted at the entrances. **No Trespassing signs** have been installed at both tot lots and the "big field." Letter was sent to homeowners identifying four new **Resolutions** and changes to the **Handbook**. **Baby swings** have been ordered for Ridge View tot lot. Bids have been solicited for **sidewalk cracks and trip hazard repairs**. **Irrigation systems** have been checked and are operational. **Tree work** has been scheduled. **Mulching and Spring clean-up** have been done. The **clogged drain** under the dip on Ridge View will be cleaned and repaired by the County.

Annual Meeting Update

Officer Reid, Franconia Crime Prevention Officer, encouraged us to call the non-emergency number when we have unlicensed solicitors or suspicious behavior and to keep cars locked. If you see a crime in progress, call 911. President gave an update on Board activities and asked residents to get identifying information on any speeding vehicles. Renee Grebe gave a presentation on the Rain Garden project. Treasurer explained the budget and the \$11 per quarter dues increase. Jonathan Heisey-Grove and Christopher Maletz were elected to three-year Board terms.

Off-Leash Dog Park Coming



Blackjack Dog Park is scheduled to open this summer. To get there from Route 1 or N Kings Hwy, turn onto Memorial Street, and the park will be located at the intersection of Memorial and Lenclair. Hours are not yet firm; rules will be posted and for everyone's safety must be adhered to. We hope the Loft Ridge dog owners will use and enjoy this County Park.

Report Crimes Online

Fairfax County Police Department has developed an online reporting system for these non-emergency crimes/incidents:

- Bicycle Theft
- Civil Disputes
- Destruction of private property/vandalism
- Larceny/Theft from motor vehicles or parts
- Larceny/Theft under \$5,000
- Lost Property
- Solicitor Violations
- Suspicious persons/vehicles
- Telephone harassment/threats
- Trespassing
- Unoccupied hit & run crashes

Log onto fairfaxcounty.gov/police to report these crimes at any time. Filers will be given a report number and may use it for insurance purposes. If appropriate, an officer will be notified and/or respond to the complainant.

No crime is too insignificant to report. These reports are used by crime analysts to detect trends and implement proactive, preventative measures.

Rain Garden Update

As part of the stream stabilization project, the County proposed the installation of a rain garden behind Gypsy Court. The rain garden will help reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality and minimize stream-bed erosion in Loft Ridge Park. The project will be fully funded and maintained by the County; there will be no cost to the HOA.

To date, half of the Community has provided supportive responses so the Board is now working with Fairfax County Storm Water Management and Supervisor McKay's office to see if the funding still exists for this project. The Board will post updates on the Loft Ridge website as they are available.

Tree Box Filters

The County is proposing to install and maintain tree box filters. These are "boxes" filled with specific material to help with absorption of some of the chemicals, which would normally end up in the Cameron Run watershed, that will provide nourishment to the tree planted in the box.

They would be installed next to existing storm drains and have a mesh-like grate atop the box. Board will approve the specific locations and trees. No schedule has been set but the project is on the County's list of environmental improvements.

FIOS Update

Sales and installations are underway for upper Ridge View and Marjoram.

The easement issue has been resolved for Medallion and Evergreen Knoll. It will take about six months for this area to show up on the construction schedule for laying of the cable. See Spring issue for specifics on what that entails.

Look for Loft Ridge Bluebirds!

Spring 2014 kicked off the 2nd year of monitoring Loft Ridge's bluebird boxes. During last year's 2013 baby bird season, the newly installed boxes helped to raise: 5 Eastern Bluebirds, 5 Tufted Titmice, and 22 House Wrens.

This May, we had new residents: 2 pairs of Carolina Chickadee raised 7 babies, and one additional box has a resident House Wren with 7 babies. These boxes are actively monitored once a week and the data collected sent to the Virginia Bluebird Society. Want to help monitor the boxes? Contact Renee Grebe at grebebird@yahoo.com.



Take Your Time, Slow Down

Many of us complain about it, and we tend to think it's the taxis, or the pizza deliverers, or even our kids' friends, but the reality is, it's also many of us. We're talking about cars speeding through our neighborhood. You have probably witnessed many cars going at least 40 mph, and a few going 50 mph or more.

For a trivial time savings, a speeder is significantly increasing the risk that he or she won't be able to stop in time should a child, a pet, or wildlife run out in front of the car. Compared to driving the **speed limit of 25 mph**, the distance required to stop a car driving 40 mph rises from 59 to 126 feet, and the time needed to stop increases from about two seconds to about four seconds.

Four seconds may not seem long, but here's a good experiment to try – the next time you are in your car, picture a child taking a spill on his/her bike three houses in front of you. Now count out four seconds and see how far you travel.

So, when you're in your car and feeling stressed or pressured, as we all invariably do, instead of pushing down the gas pedal, ease your tension by taking a deep breath and enjoying our beautiful neighborhood. This will not only improve Community safety for all, but also help preserve the peace and tranquility which moved many of us to our Loft Ridge homes.

Loft Ridge Reminders

4th of July Fireworks

Fireworks are
not to be
discharged or
exploded within
Loft Ridge

Trash/Recycle Cans

Move back to rear
yard Wednesday
night

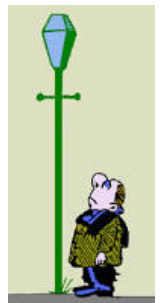


National Night Out

Tuesday, Aug 5
6pm – 8pm
Tennis Court area
Moonbounce
Refreshments
Meet policemen
and maybe firemen

Street Light Out?

Provide
Management
with nearest
address and
4 -character
ID on pole



Loft Ridge Real Estate Update

Under Contract	TH Type	List Price	Contract Date	Rentals	TH Type	Rental Rate	Date Rented
5652 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$435,000	06/01/14	5753 Ridge View Dr	End	\$2,400	05/02/14
4328 Marjoram Ct	Int	\$435,000	05/15/14	5747 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$2,350	04/22/14
5659 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$435,000	04/20/14	5767 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$2,200	04/12/14

Sold	TH Type	Sold Price	Seller Subsidy*	Sold Date
4400 Cheatham Ct	End	\$463,900	\$0	05/16/14
4413 Cheatham Ct	End	\$459,900	\$2,000	05/16/14
4328 Gypsy Ct	End	\$440,100	\$0	05/06/13
5717 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$420,000	\$10,000	03/13/14



*"Location, location, location"
Loft Ridge has it!*

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

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

Oil Spots?

Do you have an oil spot in your parking space? Most of us do, but to rid yourself of it, simply apply soap powder. This will draw out the oil and can hose it away later.



Rate Increases

In FY15 Fairfax County Real Estate taxes will increase ½ cent to \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value.

Your sewer base rate will increase by \$3.07 to \$15.86 and your sewer service will increase 7 cents to \$6.62 per 1,000 gallons.

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.**

Bird Nests In Your Gutters?

...or behind your outside lights? In a vent? The birds are cute, but their nests can cause damage to your home. If your drain spout (near the splash block) seems to have a continuous drip or wet spot, your gutter may be clogged, causing water to trickle down the drainpipe. If birds have nested in your vents, their next stop might be into your stove. Move the nests or have them removed before the damage gets costly.

Grill Safety

The lazy days of summer can hold various fire dangers. The combination of hot, dry days and BBQs can sometimes have a lethal outcome. Awareness can help to protect both the people and land around you. Here are some grill safety tips:

- Keep grills far enough away from your home, or other combustibles, so that an adequate amount of air can circulate (15 feet).
- Charcoal must be kept dry, as wet charcoal can spontaneously ignite. Spare propane bottles should be stored outside and away from your home.
- Keep children away from the grill. Grills continue to give off heat long after the cooking has stopped.
- When finishing with your cookout, be sure to dispose grill ashes and/or charcoal in a safe fashion. NEVER place hot ashes in paper or plastic bags or containers. Only use metal containers for hot ashes.
- It's always a good idea to have a back up plan – keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen.



Enjoy the summer and stay cool and safe!

Water Conservation Tips

When you wash your car, do it from a bucket. Use the hose only to wet the car down at the beginning and rinse it off at the end. Water lawns only when they really need it. Avoid watering too fast or watering on windy days, when you can't keep the stream going where you want it. Sweep walks and patios, rather than hosing them off. Minimize evaporation by watering lawn and plants during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.



What Should I Do With Latex Paint?

Latex paint is not considered a hazardous waste. Before disposing of it, try to find someone who can use it – such as a neighbor, theater group, or church. If you must dispose of it, pour paint onto newspaper, let the paint dry, then throw away the newspaper with your regular garbage. Mixing kitty litter into the paint accelerates drying.

Leaves & Grass Clipping Piles

Please, for the sake of the appearance of our Community and to prevent the possibility of creating homes for field rats, mice and snakes, don't dump your lawn cuttings or leaves into the woods. These items won't decompose for years and the leaves are a fire hazard.

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

Smart Market

June - November

Parking lot next to Silver Diner
Saturdays 10:00am – 2:00pm

Kingstowne Farmer's Market

May 2 – October 31

Parking lot where Giant is located
Fridays 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Mount Vernon Farmer's Market

Mid-May thru Mid-December

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

FREE CONCERTS

Lee District Park Amphitheater

Wednesdays at 7:30pm

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

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance

June 4 Radio King Orchestra (Big Band)

11 The Pietasters (Ska)

18 Jon Carroll Band (Pop/Rock)

25 Leroy Justice (Classic Rock)

July 2 Washington Saxophone Quartet (Jazz)

9 Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen (Bluegrass)

16 Lox & Vodka (Jewish and American Music)

23 Nora Jane Struthers & The Party Line (Bluegrass)

30 Russikye Musikanti (Russian Dance/Music)

Aug 6 Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer (Folk)

13 Sierra Hull (Country)

20 The United States Navy "Commodores" (Jazz)

27 The Nighthawks (Blues)

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 12, 2014
<http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation>

LOCAL FUN EVENTS

June 14-July 15 – "Plaza Suite" playing at Little Theater of Alexandria, www.thelittletheater.com, 703-768-2525

July 10 – Reenactment of Civil War Battle of St Stevens (150th Anniversary) at Fort Ward Park, 2pm, www.fortward.org

August 2-23 – Monty Python's "Spamalot" at Little Theater of Alexandria, www.thelittletheater.com, 703-768-2525

August 6-10 – Arlington County Fair at Thomas Jefferson Community Ctr, arlingtoncountyfair.us, 703-920-4556

August 8-16 – Prince William County Fair at Prince William County Fairgrounds, www.pwcfair.com, 703-368-0173

August 23-October 19 – Maryland Renaissance Festival in Crownsville, MD, www.rennfest.com, 800-296-7304

August 31 – War of 1812 Commemorative Event, 12noon-5pm, www.alexandria.gov/recreation (click on calendar)

Sept 13-28 – "A Streetcar Named Desire" at Little Theater of Alexandria, www.thelittletheater.com, 703-768-2525

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Limelight Contributors
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Lesia Jones
Mary Quigley
Renee Grebe

Board Meetings – 7:30pm
Mark Twain Middle School Lecture Hall
Wednesday, June 25
Wednesday, July 23
Wednesday, Aug 20

ACC Meetings – 7:30pm
No June meeting
Wednesday, July 9 at 5727 Evergreen Knoll Ct
Wednesday, Aug 13 at 4325 Gypsy Ct

Communications Committee
As needed

Newsletter Survey Results

Newsletter needed?

Yes – 97% Very Informative – 50% Informative – 50%

Which sections useful?

All – 62% Reminders – 38% Board News – 31% Real Estate – 27%

Which sections do you read?

All – 83% Reminders – 17% Board News – 14%

Delete or add anything? No – 100%

Clip Art? Just right – 52% Catches My Attention – 34%

Save Pages 5 & 6? Yes or Will Now – 62%

The Committee thanks all of you who took the time to complete our survey and especially those who added compliments. We're glad you're pleased!



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