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Renee Grebe

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Make Repairs Early -- Enjoy Summer Sooner!!!

The ACC has concluded their annual inspection of Loft Ridge properties. The members found a variety of maintenance issues from minor "clean front steps" to major "repair rotten rake board." As the homes in our neighborhood keep aging, materials will degrade and get dirty/worn. Please remember that wooden decks and fences can use fairly consistent TLC. Power washing and treating with a water sealer, can make an aging deck or fence look nearly new again. In addition, please check the Loft Ridge website for the approved deck stains. There are decks out there that are stained the wrong color and older wood may cause a stain to look (much) darker than the sample shows. Opaque stains are not allowed, so please read product labels carefully. Also, as entering your home becomes routine, you may not notice those front steps getting dirty or a board starting to rot in the corner. Take 5 minutes before you walk in the front door to really look around, and you may catch the start of a problem before it gets too big to repair yourself.

If you receive your violation letter, please don't hesitate to contact someone with any questions or concerns that you have. If you don't understand what the violations are, or would like to talk to someone about the timeline to correct your violations, Kristy Faulk at Sequoia and the five members of the ACC are there to help. You can reach Nicolette Daleske, the ACC Chair by emailing her at accchair@loftridge.com, or the Board ACC liaison at ACCliaison@loftridge.com. The ACC holds meetings the 2nd Wednesday of every month, the locations are listed on the Loft Ridge web page, and in the next few pages. The ACC Committee welcomes questions about violations and the violations process.



Loft Ridge Community Updates

Recently there have been questions about the herbicides used in the Loft Ridge community. Carter Mullen, a volunteer board member and a professional environmental scientist, provides the following information.

Americans have a fascination with big green lawns, free of weeds. They look great and are inviting to play around in. Unfortunately, lawns do not exist like this in any natural system. A natural environment would have many different species of plants, many of which humans have deemed "weeds." Our lawns are what is known as a "monoculture," a single species taking over a large area of land. From an ecological point of view, lawns are a completely artificial system created by humans for the sole purpose of aesthetics. Keeping a lawn in that condition requires some means of removing the undesirable plant species, or weeds.

If Loft Ridge wants to keep our common areas green and weed-free, we have to remove the weeds. There are only 2 ways of removing weeds: manually or with an herbicide of some sort. From an environmental and health standpoint, manual weed removal is best, but in a large association like ours, it is just not practical, in man-hours or cost. That leaves us with the other alternative: herbicides.

There has been much talk about organic herbicides, like corn gluten. Almost all of the organic herbicides are designed for small-scale operations, not large areas like we have in Loft Ridge. Corn gluten is not recommended for large-scale applications because it requires numerous, large applications over the course of the year, and does not produce the same results as single or double application of synthetic herbicides. In the long run, corn gluten causes more runoff problems than synthetic herbicides, due to the large concentrations used during each application. This causes abnormal amounts of nitrogen to build up in the soil. Nitrogen does not break down quickly, is easily washed out by rain, and causes nitrification of surrounding rivers and streams.

UPCOMING LOFT RIDGE BOARD AND COMMITTEE EVENTS

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:

Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 25, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 22, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 26, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
Mark Twain Middle School Lecture Hall

FUTURE ACC MEETINGS:

Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at 4334 Gingham Ct.
Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at 5757 Ridge View Dr.
Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at 5603 Ridge View Dr.
Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at 5727 Evergreen Knoll Ct.
Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at 5703 Gladden Ct.

FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS MEETINGS:

Tuesday, June 19 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
5707 Evergreen Knoll Ct.
All are invited to join in!

For more information, please go to www.loftridge.com.

Telegraph Road Construction Near Completion

The Telegraph Road Interchange reconstruction phase of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project is currently on schedule to be completed by late 2012.

Construction is both on schedule and on budget, said Jenny Rios, a spokesperson for the project. "That's one of the things we like to promote about the bridge project in general," Rios said. "Since its inception, we've been on budget."

According to a Winter 2012 construction update, there are three major project stages left to complete on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project: reconstructing 2.5 miles of I-95/I-495 from the Eisenhower Connector to the Route 1 interchange, including THRU and LOCAL lanes; building ramps for an interchange at the Beltway Outer Loop, Telegraph Road, Huntington Avenue and North Kings Highway; and improving Telegraph Road from East Drive to Duke Street.

All of this work is expected to be completed by June 2013. Rios said residents and commuters can expect to see ongoing construction on the Telegraph Road interchange throughout the rest of 2012. She said the Telegraph Road section of the project was "a little more complicated because we've got a lot of bridges that we're dealing with," including the bridges over Cameron Run and the railroad tracks.

Project officials are aiming to have the Telegraph interchange work completed by the end of 2012, according to the Winter 2012 construction update.

Phase 1 of Lee Rec Center Upgrades Completed

The Lee District Family Recreation Area continues its construction and will be a magnificent and one-of-a-kind family and play area upon its completion. This recreation area began in 2011 with completion of the Joey Pizzano Special Harbor Sprayground, a tree house, rest rooms, and a covered picnic area (temporary), all fully accessible. Over 75,000 visitors entered the Sprayground and every day was fee-free! This year, the final portion of Phase 1 of Chessie's Big Back Yard opened on May 26th, with a fully-accessible playground, primarily for children 5 - 12 years old.

Phase 2 of Chessie's Big Back Yard will be completed as funding permits. Future features of the project include a tree house-themed playground, primarily for children under 5 years of age (Phase 2), a carousel and permanent covered picnic area (Phase 3) that are all fully accessible. For an artist's rendering of the final phases of the project, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/lee/downloads/newsletter.pdf>.

The Fairfax County Park Authority Foundation (FCPF) is seeking donations to complete construction Phases 2 and 3 and to permit the facility to offer entrance to the public at no cost. Contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations are needed as park usage continues and tax support is reduced. Opportunities exist for major donors to sponsor and name elements of the facility. For information on donations, call 703-324-8582 or go to <http://www.fairfaxparkfoundation.org/default.htm>.

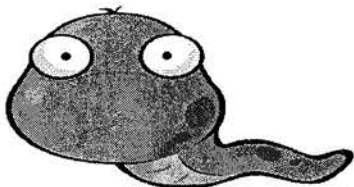
**Taken from Lee District News, Vol. 1, Issue 4, 2012.*

Snakes Alive – Don't Panic!

There have been a few recent snake sightings in Loft Ridge. These snakes met the general descriptions of black rat snakes (diamond patterned as a baby, but all black as an adult) and ring-neck snakes (all black with a yellow ring near its head). Neither type of snake is poisonous or to be feared. For more information on either of these snakes, go to: (black rat snake) http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/black_rat_snake.htm; (ring-neck snake) http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/northern_ringneck_snake.htm.

It can be easy to jump to conclusions that you're seeing a poisonous snake when you see an unfamiliar snake. But, don't fear – the likelihood of seeing a black rat snake surely outweighs the possibility of anything dangerous. Only three of the 35 species of snakes commonly found in Virginia are poisonous, and only one species, the copperhead, is found in Fairfax County. For helpful tips on identifying poisonous vs. non-poisonous snakes, go to <http://www.piedmontmastergardeners.org/uploads/SnakesofVirginia.pdf>; or <http://uvahealth.com/blog/index.php/2011/07/13/poisonous-snakes-just-leave-them-alone/>.

Please keep in mind that snakes are good to have around because, amongst other things, they keep the rodent populations down.



If you're still not comfortable with having a snake in your house or garden, please contact the Fairfax County animal control unit at 703-691-2131. They will be happy to identify and remove the snake for you.

Bluebird Nest Box Project Update

The bluebird nest box project organized as an Eagle Scout by Brian Lindt is nearing completion! Brian both raised the funds and then constructed the nest boxes. He and his troop will be installing the four boxes in Loft Ridge on Saturday, June 16th.

While it's a bit late in the season for nesting bluebirds, these boxes may still be used this summer by other birds, such as house wrens. And, we hope they will be used by bluebirds next spring.

Renee Grebe will be leading nest box monitoring for the 2013 season. If you are interested in volunteering as a monitor, please contact Renee Grebe at grebebird@yahoo.com.

Invasive Plant Removal Project Update

In April and May, six different "invasive plant removal" work days were organized for Loft Ridge and Clermont parks through Fairfax County's Invasive Management Area (IMA) program. Nearly 50 volunteers, including many Loft Ridge residents, lent their hard work to "take back our forests."

Volunteers removed over 50 large trash bags of invasive plants such as garlic mustard and Japanese honeysuckle. While there will be fewer work days during the hot summer months, look for work days to pick up again come this fall and next spring.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Renee Grebe at grebebird@yahoo.com.

Let's be Safe Out There People!

Every day since Jan. 1, 2011, more than 10,000 Americans have turned 65, a trend set to continue for the next 20 years as "baby boomers" become senior citizens. By the time many people reach their senior years, they have a half-century of driving experience under their belts, which is quite an advantage over their younger counterparts because they've learned through experience how to manage the countless risks drivers face every day. But age also brings other natural changes that can produce risky situations while behind the wheel.

Research shows that aging is associated with a decline in functional abilities important for driving, including vision, reaction time, and dividing attention between tasks. With age, there's also an increase in the occurrence of medical conditions, such as impaired vision, physical limitations, dementia, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, and in the use of medications for their treatment, which can affect safe driving and contribute to an increased risk of a crash. "For the first time in history, we must plan for our driving retirement just as we plan for our retirement from work," says Rich Bradley, Public Affairs Specialist for AAA South Jersey, "This is a critical issue for families throughout the country." "Older adults need to consider how their health might affect their driving ability, [yet] making an objective self-assessment can be tricky," says Bradley. "Aging affects people so gradually they often don't realize how their capabilities may have changed over time."

As part of its ongoing commitment to keeping older adults safe and on-the-go, AAA recently launched an improved website, SeniorDriving.AAA.com. The website provides easy access to expert advice about driving safely while aging gracefully. Site visitors will find a collection of research-based resources and tools designed to help keep seniors behind the wheel for as long as safely possible. The site is action-oriented and organized around key topic areas that will help seniors assess and improve driving skills, reduce driving risks, and better understand how mind and body changes can impact driving abilities. Content is delivered in a variety of formats, from quizzes, videos and Q&As, to slideshows and even unique brain fitness exercises shown to cut the risk of a traffic crash in half. Although the site was re-vamped with seniors in mind, the website provides expert advice and tools for older drivers as well as adult children concerned about their parents' skills and safety."

**Taken from AAA World March/April 2012.*

Real Estate Update

<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Rental Rate</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>	<u>Seller Subsidy*</u>
4305 Gypsy Ct.	\$1,800	5734 Lofthill Ct.	\$429,900	\$0
5710 Lofthill Ct.	\$2,150	5627 Ridge View Dr.	\$354,000	\$10,000
5716 Gladden Ct.	\$2,050	5702 Medallion Ct.	\$345,000	\$5,000
4319 Gingham Ct.	\$1,950	4406 Churchman Ct.	\$340,000	\$0
		5708 Ridge View Dr.	\$340,000	\$6,500
<u>Under Contract</u>	<u>List Price</u>	5743 Ridge View Dr.	\$330,000	\$0
5773 Ridge View Dr.	\$384,900	4324 Gingham Ct.	\$349,000	\$5,000
5706 Gladden Ct.	\$369,500			
4311 Gypsy Ct.	\$385,000			

* "Seller Subsidy" = total seller contributed to buyer's closing cost.

LOCAL SUMMER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Here is a small sampling of the many fun things to do in our area this summer:

- On July 4th - Mount Vernon hosts an 18th-century celebration with music and 'George and Martha' from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- On July 7th - Old Town Alexandria's USA and Alexandria Birthday Celebration takes place and includes a concert, birthday cake, and fireworks (beginning at 6 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park).
- Daily - Alexandria-National Harbor Water Taxi operates boat trips to Georgetown and Mt. Vernon. (Pick up the Free Visitors Guide for more information.)
- Wednesday evenings - check out the FREE summer long concert series held at 7:30 p.m. at the Lee District Park amphitheater in Franconia.
- Saturday & Wednesday mornings - Arts in the Parks provides FREE family activities to entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, and introduce them to live entertainment in an informal atmosphere.
- Various dates - Investigate the many activities offered at Huntley Meadows. One example is a Tiny Tots summer program at 10 AM on Tuesdays with nature songs, crafts and stories. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/calendar.htm>.)



FOURTH OF JULY BIKE PARADE & PICNIC



Come join your neighbors for Loft Ridge's Third Annual Bike Parade & Picnic,* and celebrate our great nation and great neighborhood by gussying up your bikes, trikes and wagons with a whole lot of patriotic flair and parading them around the community for others to enjoy! The parade will run along Ridge View Drive, ending at the tennis courts. Afterward, families can then gather near the tennis courts with their picnic baskets, and share the day outdoors with their neighbors.



If you're interested in helping organize, please contact Teresa Bearden at teresa.bearden@cox.net. Exact date & time TBD*.

*Subject to HOA Board approval.

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- Various dates - Investigate the many activities offered at Huntley Meadows. One example is a Tiny Tots summer program at 10 AM on Tuesdays with nature songs, crafts and stories. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/calendar.htm>.)



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*Subject to HOA Board approval.

Free Summer Movies!

Looking for some free local entertainment? Several venues show free movies outdoors. As an added bonus, most of the venues are located conveniently near Metro stops, so you can leave the car at home!

Rosslyn Outdoor Film Festival (June 1 - August 24)

The 2012 film festival theme is "Every Night is Election Night," and features political comedies

Fridays at 8 p.m.

Arlington Gateway Park

1300 Lee Highway,

Arlington, VA

Two blocks from the Rosslyn Metro

National Harbor Outdoor Movies 2012 (May 25 - September 28)

Friday nights feature date movies and Sundays feature family movies

Fridays and Sundays at 8:30 p.m.

Near National Harbor Marina

163 Waterfront Street

Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Screen on the Green (July - August)

Monday nights at 8:30 p.m.

National Mall

Washington, DC

Smithsonian or Federal Triangle Metro

For more info call Screen on the Green Hotline, 1-877-262-5866

NoMa Summer Screen 2012 (May 23 - August 8, 2012)

As a spoof on doomsday prophecies marking the end of the Mayan calendar, the 2012 NoMa Summer Screen series features movies about world-ending scenarios. Each movie will also be preceded by live DJs

Wednesdays at 7:00 to 11:00 p.m., rain or shine

L Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets, NE

Washington, DC

Two blocks south of New York Avenue Metro

Capitol Riverfront Summer Outdoor Movies 2012 (May 24 - July 26, 2012)

Thursdays at 8:45 p.m.

Capitol Riverfront, Tingey Plaza

100 Tingey St SE

Washington, DC

One block east of the Navy Yard

Crystal Screen Outdoor Film Festival (June 6 - August 29)

This year's theme: By The Numbers. The title of each movie includes a number.

Mondays at sundown

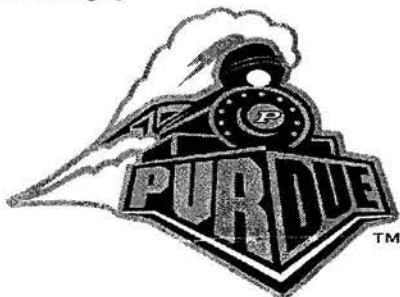
18th and Bell Street, across from Arena Stage and the Crystal City Metro Station

Free garage parking at designated Crystal City garages after 4:00 p.m.

» SMALL TOWN NEWS «

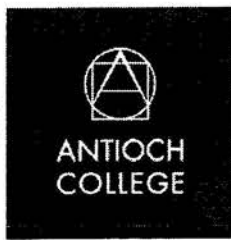
Woo Hoo!!!

Congratulations to Jon D. Holstine (Ph.D. '71, Indiana University) on receiving an award from Purdue University as a Distinguished Alumni (B.S. '59) from the College of Liberal Arts in International Relations. His career in public affairs has included service to academia and government, both at home and abroad. But he continues to follow Purdue sports with great enthusiasm and is a loyal "Boilermaker." His wife Dottie shares his joy. Go Purdue!!!



Congrats Grover Grads!

Congratulations to Hannah Grover on graduation from the American Hebrew Academy, and to Daniel Grover on graduation from Dickenson College. Hannah will continue studies at Antioch College in the Fall, and Daniel will begin a post-graduate internship, living in a yurt and studying farming! Their mother, Ruth, could not be more proud!!!



*Thank You to Amy Talbot
and all of her Eggs-traordinary Helpers
for making this year's Spring Egg Hunt
Eggs-tra Special!!!*



We cannot thank and celebrate everyone in our HOA, but with your help, we hope to acknowledge most. We hope that you enjoy this feature and will contribute to it. If you have something you would like to post in Small Town News, please submit your information to ComChair@lofridge.com. Your neighbors would love to hear about it!