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A Reminder about Inspections!

The ACC hopes that everyone has enjoyed their summer and that not all your free time was spent making repairs following the Spring home inspections. We would just like to remind everyone that follow-up inspections for structural violations will occur throughout the month of September. Follow-up inspection letters are expected to be sent to homeowners in early October. If you would like to request an extension to complete work outside this time frame, please contact Kristy Faulk at (703) 803-9641 or kfaulk@sequoiamgmt.com.

Note: If a violation is still found to be open after this round of inspections, homeowners will have 14 days from the date of the follow-up inspection letter to contact management and request a hearing for any open violations, if desired. Violation charges will begin accruing at \$10/day per violation starting 14 days from the date of the follow up letter. So *please* get an extension now if you need one *and* notify management as soon if you have corrected any violations. Violation charges are removed from homeowner accounts once the HOA has verified that the violations have been corrected.

Thank you to everyone for help keeping Loft Ridge beautiful!!!

Upcoming Loft Ridge Board and Committee Events

As of publication, the following HOA events have been scheduled:

Upcoming Board Meetings:

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday December 28, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Mark Twain Middle School Lecture Hall

Upcoming ACC Meetings:

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

5757 Ridge View Drive

Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

5703 Gladden Court

Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

4334 Gingham Court

Upcoming Communications Committee Meetings:

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

5707 Evergreen Knoll Court

All invited to come!

No December meeting due to holidays

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

Loft Ridge Community Updates

A “pedestrian refuge” or a traffic island was recently installed along Franconia Road near the Ridge View Drive entrance to improve pedestrian safety along Franconia Road. The refuge will give pedestrians a safe place to wait mid-way while crossing the road. Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay authorized funding for the project from Lee District funds to hasten the refuge’s installation

Storm drain labeling completed through Loft Ridge. Storm drains prevent flooding by carrying rain and snowmelt away from streets and sidewalks. Unlike water from our taps and tubs, water flowing into storm drains is not treated. Labels on storm drains help remind all of us to keep storm drains and our streams clean.

Split rail fencing installed last July needs to be repaired. It was damaged by people climbing and standing on the fencing. Neighbors are cautioned not to sit, stand or climb on the fencing, and to politely request others not do so.

Bioretention Update -- Loft Ridge legal counsel and the County are finalizing our easement agreement. Once finalized, the County will schedule work to mitigate creek erosion behind Churchman Court and install a bioretention area at the end of Gypsy Court.

Common Area Grounds Update – Regularly-scheduled Fall and post-hurricane tree pruning and removals are in the process of being completed. The next round of pruning/removal will occur in Spring 2012. If you’re aware of any dead trees or damaged limbs on common area trees, please email management@loftridge.com. Mowing will continue every 7-10 days until November, with edging occurring every other mowing. Irrigation systems will be winterized and shut down at the end of September. Two leaf removals are planned for the end of November and the first week in December. Soil aeration, seeding, fall weeding/mulching and cleanup are still to be scheduled.

Attention: School Bus Danger Zone!



With school starting again, please remember to watch out for students on their way to and from school. Also, talk to your kids about the danger zones around school buses. These zones are the areas in which children are most likely to be struck by a bus because the driver cannot see them. To avoid these blind spots, children should stay at least ten feet away from a bus, and never go behind a bus. (Remember: if you’re behind a bus and you can’t see the bus’s mirrors, the driver cannot see you.) Children should also be instructed to take five giant steps when crossing in front of a bus so they can be seen by the bus driver.

7th Annual Loft Ridge Halloween Parade

Volunteers Needed to Organize!!!

This event still needs a coordinator(s). If you would like to volunteer to coordinate, please email Lisa Nelson at lnelson16@hotmail.com.

Typically, the parade starts at the corner of Caprice Court and Ridgeview Drive. After the parade, there are treats, games, and maybe even some tricks!

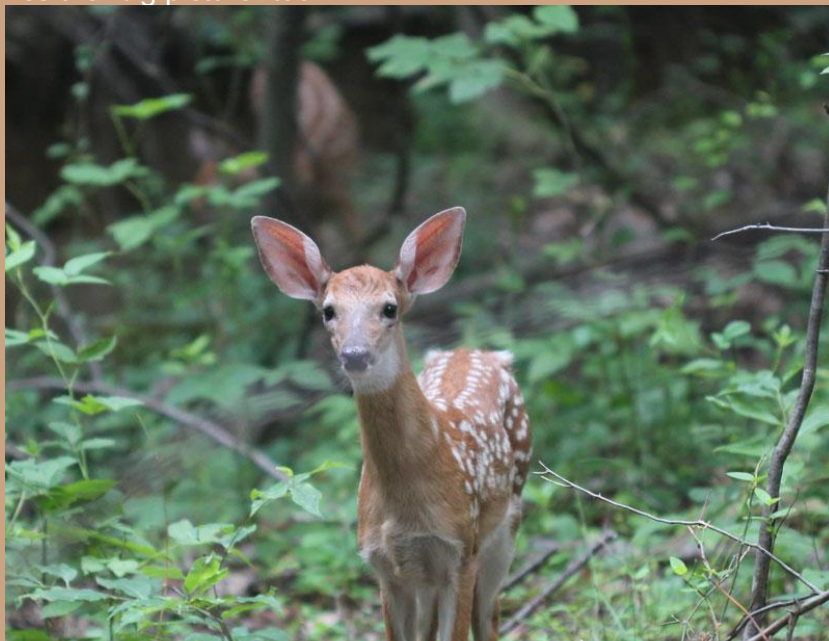
More parade details will be available once a coordinator (or two?) has volunteered.



Getting the Most out of Loft Ridge Nature

The parkland surrounding Loft Ridge is by far one of the Community's biggest draws. Have you taken full advantage of all that the forest offers? Here are some tips for making the most of the place we call home.

- **Every season has its perks** - Winter may be cold, but the lack of leaves means you'll be able to see deeper into the woods than any other time of year. Catching a glimpse of a cardinal in the snow is enough to make anyone smile. Spring brings the arrival of bird migration, with dozens of breeding-plumage species, like the spectacular Blackburnian Warbler, which you won't see any other time of year. Summer brings lush forests where newborn spring fawns and other babies have plenty of places to hide. And of course Fall brings deciduous color we only get to see once a year.
- **Get out early** - Animals love the early morning hours just after sunrise. They're more active and therefore easier to spot. In the warmer seasons of spring, summer, and fall, the mornings are often the coolest parts of the day – a perfect time for a walk. Fresh sunbeams pour through the canopy, raccoons are heading off to bed, owls haven't gone to sleep yet, deer are beginning to stir, and box turtles are enjoying the day before it's too hot.
- **Walk quietly** - The quieter you are, the less you'll frighten off the natural miracles around you. (The fawn in the photo was taken by Renee Grebe. The fawn barely heard her coming, and wasn't frightened as she stood quietly watching it feed.)
- **Be aware of your surroundings** - Listen. Look up, look down, look all around. Walk at a pace that allows you to soak in the sights and sounds of the forest. Take notice of big and small things alike. Enjoy the variety of both huge trees and small, hidden mushrooms. Sometimes the smallest insects and the largest mammals are just as intriguing. Educate yourself with the things you see – find out more about how bats and spiders help keep our mosquito population down, or how caterpillars are the pre-cursors to some of our most beautiful butterflies and moths, such as the amazing mint-green luna moth.
- **Bring a camera or binoculars** - if you have them, these will allow you to capture the moment, or get a closer look at the things you might see. But don't overuse them – make sure to not miss the "big picture" too.



Loft Ridge Real Estate Update*

(May 2011 – July 2011)

For Sale

- **5723 Evergreen Knoll Ct - unlisted**
Listed at \$340,000
- **5741 Evergreen Knoll Ct - unlisted**
Listed at \$350,000
- **4319 Gingham Court - Custis**
Listed at \$379,500
- **4324 Gingham Court - Custis**
Listed at \$372,345
- **5743 Ridge View Drive – Welcome Home**
Listed at \$370,000

Sold

- **4404 Cheatham Ct – Blair**
Listed at \$329,000; sold at \$320,000
- **5710 Gladden Ct – Berkley**
Listed at \$430,000; sold at \$395,000
- **5698 Medallion – End Unit**
Listed at 321,500; sold at \$275,199
- **5653 Ridge View Drive - unlisted**
Listed at \$375,000; sold at \$375,000
- **5763 Ridge View Drive – Blair**
Listed at \$399,000; sold at \$380,000



* Information provided by Metropolitan Regional Information Systems.

Daylight Savings Time Ends at 2 a.m. on November 6th



Turn clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5th! For those with trouble remembering how daylight savings time works, just remember this simple phrase: "Spring forward" and "Fall back"!

Remember to change those smoke detector batteries too!!!

Help Keep the Emerald Ash Borer Out of Our Woods!

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an Asian beetle that is destroying ash trees throughout the East Coast. Here are some tips to help prevent the loss of our ash trees to EAB.

Make sure your fire wood is from local sources. Don't transport firewood; or carry it across county or state lines. Don't move firewood from your property, and definitely don't move wood out of quarantine areas. When purchasing firewood, always ask about its origins, and if it is locally sourced. Burn your remaining supply of firewood before Spring arrives to eliminate the chance of spreading the beetle to live trees. For more info on the EAB, go to <http://www.stopthebeetle.info/>.

We need the help of everyone to minimize the impact of this pest. Here are more ways you can help:

- Examine ash trees and wood piles for signs of EAB infestation, such as canopy dieback, epicormis shoots, S-shaped galleries, vertical bark slits and D-shaped exit holes.
- If you observe beetles or evidence of EAB infestations, report your sighting to your State Plant Health Director.
- If possible, take digital pictures of the insect and damage to your trees. And report the information to:

Virginia – Bernetta Barco
State Plant Health Director
bernetta.g.barco@aphis.usda.gov

Wimbledon West

One of Loft Ridge's fine amenities is our recently upgraded tennis court. It has a very good surface that makes playing rewarding and enjoyable. There is no waiting or fees. If you are interested in hitting the ball, how about dusting off your old college racquet and coming out to play. If you'd also like a bit of coaching, you can contact Frank Gallivan at jfg@aol.com.



For information on the tennis court lock, please contact (303) 803-9641 or management@loftridge.com.

ONE TANK TRIP: GREAT WOLF LODGE!

Need a place to where the entire family can be happy? You can find it all under one big roof at Great Wolf Lodge!

Where: Great Wolf Lodge, Williamsburg, VA

Distance: approximately 2 hours, 30 minutes

Things to do and see: Perfect in any weather, Great Wolf Lodge is a fantastic weekend getaway. Driving up to Great Wolf Lodge, the first thing you notice is that it looks -- as the name says -- like a lodge in the mountains of some remote area. Once inside, you'll quickly forget that you just pulled off of the interstate, and need not go outside again until it is time to go home.

The 84° F indoor water park is a sight to behold. There is an interactive tree house, where kids of all ages can spray water cannons or dump water on unsuspecting adults below. There are several water slides, including the Howlin' Tornado, which drops swimmers through a 6-story funnel. Interested in surfing? You can kneeboard on the Wolf Rider Wipeout with a trained staff member. Are the sounds of the ocean calling you? Then Beaver Tail Lake is just for you, kids and adults love the thrill when "high tide" rolls in every ten minutes. There are two "hot springs", one for the whole family and one just for adults. Of course, there's got to be a lazy river that allows guests to relax on an inner tube as Crooked Creek winds around the water park. Small ones in tow? Cub Paw Pool is safe for even the youngest guest with a maximum depth of 1' 6". Kids and parents can play pool basketball or do a water obstacle course in Chinook Cove. In summer months, Raccoon Lagoon, an outdoor pool area is also open.

Ready to dry off? Great Wolf Lodge offers several activities other than its water features. Kids can purchase a magic wand and play MagiQuest by traveling throughout the lodge, unlocking interactive clues and racking up game points. Scoops Kids Spa offers kids a chance to be pampered. Cub Club is a giant play room with coloring, crafts, live animals, and other fun activities. Northern Lights arcade offers a variety of different video games (including air hockey). The mini-golf course is open outdoors in the warmer months as well. Finally, when it is time to turn in for the night, the little ones can put on their PJs and meet in the lobby for story time and a song from the creatures in the giant tree, and that's all on your first day! Whether you are a parent, teenager, tween, or toddler, Great Wolf Lodge offers something that will appeal to you!

Accommodations: The rooms are spacious and "lodge-like." They have microwaves and mini-refrigerators, along with separate seating areas. Rooms with bunk beds are available if you want to go "all out" on the rustic theme. Families can also rent a cabana poolside and watch a flat screen TV in style. Guests may dine at Great Wolf Lodge or bring food from home. And, don't forget the sweet treats and specialty coffees at Bear Paw Sweets and Eats!

Do you have a one-tank trip you would like to share? The trip doesn't have to be fancy or exotic, you just have to be willing to share it. If you are, contact Mary Kelly at comChair@lofttridge.com. Your neighbors would love to hear about it!

The Communications Committee needs neighbors to show off their home improvements in the *This Old Town House* feature. We also need volunteers for the "Did you hear ...?" feature, which spotlights the unique talents, abilities and interests of our neighbors. If you would like to write on these or any other topics, please submit your articles/ideas to comChair@lofttridge.com.

» SMALL TOWN NEWS «

Stork Delivers 3 New Baby Girls to Loft Ridge!!!

Carter and Luba welcomed their first child, Katherine Leigh Mullen. Both parents are exhausted but filled with joy!

Eleanor ("Ellie") Talbot made her debut on July 27 at 7:52 am, weighing in at 7 lbs 10 oz. She is welcomed by her parents, Pete and Amy, and her big brothers, Brendan and Zack. Finn hasn't decided how he feels about her yet, but we expect him to love her too!

Cala Preston arrived on Friday, August 5th at 5:41 a.m. after a super fast delivery, weighing in at 9 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 21.3 inches long. She is welcomed by her parents, Sofia and Sean, and her big sister Siena.



Big Props to this Year's National Night Out Crew

Thank you to all those who organized, cooked, brought food and drink, set up, took down, and just generally made this year's National Night Out the huge success that it was.



A big thanks to Teresa Bearden for organizing the Second Annual Fourth of July Bicycle Parade and Picnic and to all of those who gussied up their bikes, trikes and wagons in celebration of the holiday!



Thank you to all of our Adopt-A-Tree Volunteers



- The Loft Ridge Trees
We love you guys!

A big Thank You to Renee Grebe, Dawn Terminella, and Louise Whitt for labeling our storm drains and helping to keep Loft Ridge Creek clean!



It's a dirty job, and thank goodness we have these guys to empty our HOA trashcans and dog stations. Thanks!

Terry Bearden,
George Brooks,
Laura Carlson, Gale Deutsch,
Judy Markowski,
Kevin McHale, and
Amy & Pete Talbot

This is a new (and hopefully recurring) feature in our newsletter designed to help further foster a sense of community in Loft Ridge. We hope that you enjoy it and will contribute to it. We cannot thank and celebrate everyone in our HOA, but with your help, we hope to acknowledge most. If you have something you would like to post in our Small Town News, submit your information to comChair@loftridge.com. Your neighbors

