

W I N T E R 2 0 1 4

Loft Ridge Limelight

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



Happy Holidays

Christmas Tree Pickup



UNDECORATED Christmas trees will be picked up with trash **ONLY** January 7 and 14.

Snow Plowing & Sand

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

Inclement Weather Towing

The Association may authorize the immediate removal of vehicles on LRHOA roadways and parking areas that are stalled, stuck, parked or abandoned and may authorize storage of removed vehicles. Homeowners are subject to the imposition of charges for removal and storage of these vehicles.



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.



All the leaves are crying because they are sad summer's over!

News from the Board

A **Grounds Maintenance contract** was awarded to Premier Turf and Landscaping for 2015. A list of services and dates of performance will be in the Spring Newsletter. Current company will perform Fall leaf removals; they performed aeration and overseeding in September.

The **Management contract** was renewed at the 2014 rate. The **snow plowing and sanding contract** was renewed with minimal increase in fees. **Fire lanes** were scraped and repainted and **curb/sidewalk repair** completed. There was minimal tree removal/pruning required so none was done. Several **wasp/hornet nests** were removed from/near the tot lots. The annual **audit** was performed with no issues. Our Association **insurance coverage** was reviewed.

As a reminder, the **Board can only consider issues involving the Association; can't interfere/intervene in neighbor-to-neighbor situations.**

Neighborhood Slow Down Project

Fairfax County Police Dept has launched an effort to slow speeding drivers on side streets. They have ordered eight radar messaging signs to deploy across problem speed areas by mounting them on speed limit signs. Speed calculators, utilized at various neighborhood roadways, indicated **over 50% of the vehicles were driving more than 10 mph over the posted speed limit!**



Those yellow, "**SLOW DOWN YOU LIVE HERE, WE LIVE HERE**" signs are hopefully going to catch the attention of our speeding neighbors since frequent Limelight articles have had no effect!! Do those drivers have no families or pets whose safety is uppermost in their minds?"

Smithsonian Research in Loft Ridge

In October and November, Loft Ridge participated in the eMammal program, a collaboration with researchers at the Smithsonian Institution and North Carolina State University, to document mammals throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

After Board approval to place cameras on common property, there were two three-week long photo sessions to capture images of our area's wildlife. During the first session, 870 pictures were taken including a 4-minute session capturing several deer, squirrel, fox, at least two coyotes and two raccoons.

At the end of each session, the photos are uploaded into the eMammal system and tagged with proper species seen. A sample of photos from Loft Ridge have been uploaded to Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com.eMammal> (this shortcut takes you to the longer Facebook URL). Anyone can access the public group at <https://www.facebook.com/eMammal> for photos from the entire mid-Atlantic region.

Funding expires in December but the National Science Foundation may continue its monetary support.

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.

Loft Ridge Townhouse Hit By Lightning

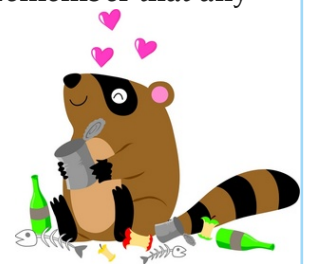
Several fire trucks and firefighters/EMTs were dispatched to the scene. Their efforts efficiently minimized the damage. The residents made it out safely.

Think about a **tax-deductible donation to our local fire station**. It's a great way to let them know you appreciate their work and speedy support. Checks payable to "Franconia Volunteer Fire Department" can be sent to Fire and Rescue Station 5, P.O. Box 30600, Alexandria, VA 22310-8600.

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!!



Area News

Springfield Town Center opened October 17th just in time for Holiday shopping. **Wegmans** is hiring and scheduled to open in late Spring. There are no lights on Mulligan Rd (now **Jeff Todd Way**) making for a carefree connection from Telegraph Rd to Route One. Work at **Telegraph Rd and N Kings Hwy** is finally complete. And the **off-leash dog park** (see Summer issue) has finally opened.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Membership News

George Brooks has decided to take a well-deserved break after serving on the ACC for five years. Judy Markowski is leaving after serving for two years. Thanks to you both for your efforts and time.

This is an understaffed committee with a huge mission and after a recent call for new members, three of your neighbors stepped up to the plate. Welcome and thank you for volunteering!

Thanks to Our Neighbors

Thanks to all who shovel the snow from the mailbox areas and the dog-walking paths.

Halloween Ghoulympics were another success due to organizational efforts of Mary Kelley.

"Which Are You?"

An optimist stays up until midnight
to see the new year in

A pessimist stays up to make sure
the old year leaves

Firewood Salesmen -- Buyer Beware

All salesmen within the County are required to be licensed. If a firewood salesman doesn't have a business card to give you, jot down the license plate number, any wording on the truck and the phone number in case you have future complaints. You could be purchasing disease-ridden firewood.

Loft Ridge Reminders

March 8



Do you know where your
snow shovel is located?



VIRGINIA LAW



On Residential Streets

ACC Inspections
are scheduled for
April 2015



Loft Ridge Real Estate Update – New Home for the Holidays?!?!

| Active | TH Type | List Price | | List Date |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 5706 Lofthill Ct | Int | \$408,000 | | 09/30/14 |
| | TH Type | Sold Price | Seller Subsidy* | Sold Date |
| 5702 Evergreen Knoll Ct | Int | \$350,000 | \$0 | 09/24/14 |
| 4331 Gingham Ct | Int | \$405,000 | \$11,138 | 09/15/14 |
| 5601 Ridge View Dr | End | \$470,000 | \$0 | 09/09/14 |
| 4331 Marjoram Ct | End | \$459,900 | \$3,100 | 08/29/14 |
| 4410 Cheatham Ct | End | \$465,000 | \$0 | 08/26/14 |

| Rentals | TH Type | Rental Rate | |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| 5625 Ridge View Dr | Int | \$2,100 | |

| Rentals | TH Type | Rental Rate | Date Rented |
|----------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| 5672 Ridge View Dr | Int | \$2,300 | 11/28/14 |
| 4322 Marjoram Ct | Int | \$2,100 | 11/01/14 |
| 5722 Evergreen Knoll | Int | \$2,000 | 09/24/14 |



* Seller Subsidy is the total seller contributed towards buyer's closing costs. 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)

Old Man Winter's Arrival Means Shoveling Snow



When it snows, it is your responsibility to shovel the snow from your porch/stoop, walkway and the sidewalk in front of your residence. Salt and chemical treatments can damage your sidewalks and plants, so if shoveling isn't enough, use sand or non-clumping kitty litter to help decrease the likelihood of slipping or falling.

When you shovel your numbered parking space, please don't throw snow onto the street. When the snowplow comes through, it will push that snow behind rows of cars where it could freeze into large chunks overnight. Frozen and packed snow takes longer to melt. If you shovel snow from an unnumbered space, that doesn't stake a claim but common courtesy is not to park in a space that you didn't clear.

When the snow melts from the streets, it flows toward the storm drains. If there is one near your home, shovel the snow so the drain is exposed.

And someone needs to ensure that the mailman has access to the mailboxes or he can't deliver.

Please bring in your trash and recycle cans as soon as possible. They can get frozen into the snow and/or ice if the weather turns bad. And speaking of trash, please don't put it out early! The pickup dates don't change and those that live near the "collection" points shouldn't have to work around your trash to shovel out. The snow plow drivers plow around trash cans and Fairfax County may not pick up trash if the weather is severe.

BE VIGILANT FOR NEIGHBORS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE DURING BAD WEATHER

Winterize Your Vehicle

- Have your battery tested; cold weather drains them
- Check your windshield wipers (two passes should clear without streaks)
- Make sure your wiper fluid reservoir is full; have some spare
- When was your last oil change?
- Check your tires, both pressure and condition
- Pack a safety kit – jumper cables, flashlight, blankets, water, and non-perishable food
- Make sure you keep an ice scraper, snow brush, small snow shovel and kitty litter or sand in your vehicle
- And during the winter, keep your gas tank full.
When power is out, gas pumps don't work!



Area Snowfall Statistics

Winter of 2011-2012 produced 2.1" of snow, 2012-2013 only 3.1", but 2013-2014 gave us 22.7" making it the 4th snowiest winter in the last 20 years. Let's hope we don't set any records this season!!



Crisp and Stormy Winter Forecasted

According to the Farmer's Almanac, we are in for a colder than normal winter with above average snow and below average precipitation (sleet?) in most of the Northeast.

Forecasters say the coldest times will be early to mid December, late December to early January, and mid to late January. The snowiest times are anticipated for mid December and early February. Looks like we will burn 432 calories an hour shoveling snow again!

FREE Tax Preparation

AARP's Tax Aide Program is available February 1 – April 15. IRS-certified counselors prepare and eFile Federal and Virginia returns. 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

Lee Center
1108 Jefferson St
Alexandria 22314
Wed 10:00-2:00
Fri 10:00-2:00

Looking For Something To Do?

GoldStar is an event discovery app with the most **half-price tickets** to live entertainment in the world. Use it to experience more and spend less on the hottest concerts, theater, nightlife, comedy, sports & events in your city. You may download the app from iTunes or go to www.goldstar.com for more information.

Christmas Tree Decorations

The first decorated trees in the house began to appear around 1600. Then only apples, cookies and treats were used for trim. When the idea was introduced in England, adornments included candles, nuts and fruit as well as gingerbread.

When Christmas trees were introduced in America in the 1800s, homemade decorations, such as strings of popcorn and cranberries, were added. Today, electric lights have replaced the unsafe candles and there is a huge variety of ornaments available.

The lighting of the Christmas trees at Rockefeller Center in New York City and at the White House are among the spectacular displays enjoyed each Christmas.



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 5-6 – Scottish Walk Weekend & Parade, Alexandria (www.scottishchristmaswalk.com) or call 703-549-0111

December 5-20 – “Christmas Carol” at Little Theater of Alexandria (www.thelittletheater.com)

December 11-14 – Live (Singing) Christmas Tree, First Baptist Church (www.fbcalexandria.org for ticket info)

December 12-14 – Sesame Street: Make a New Friend at the Patriot Center (www.patriotcenter.org)

Thru December 23 – Christmas Tree Sales at Edison High School

Thru January 6 – Christmas at Mount Vernon, 9am – 4pm 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

January 17-February 7 – “The Game's Afoot” at Little Theater of Alexandria (www.thelittletheater.com)

February 21-22 – Disney Live: Mickey's Magic Show at the Patriot Center (www.patriotcenter.org)

March 12-14 – Harlem Globetrotters at the Patriot Center (www.patriotcenter.org)

LOFT RIDGE BOARD

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Vacant

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 703-803-9641
management@loftridge.com

Loft Ridge Group Email
group@loftridge.com

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



Board Meetings – 7:30pm
Mark Twain Middle School Lecture Hall
 Thursday, January 15
 Thursday, February 19

ACC Meetings – 7:30pm
 Wednesday, January 14 at 5631 Ridge View Dr
 Wednesday, February 11 at 5670 Ridge View Dr

Communications Committee
 As needed

LIMELIGHT STAFF

Communications Chair
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Contributors
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Lesa Jones **Glenn Levy**
Renee Grebe **Gale Deutsch**

Mattress and Couch Saga – What To Do?

If you see anyone dumping items within Loft Ridge, jot down the license number and vehicle description. Call 703-691-2131 immediately. Dumping on private property is a crime!!



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 |