

Limelight

WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*"Be at war with your vices,
at peace with your neighbors,
and let every new year find you
a better man."*

- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Board would like to invite Loft Ridge residents to attend monthly Board meetings, generally held the second Tuesday of each month. Until further notice meetings continue to be held via Zoom.

Check Loft Ridge website for updates www.loftridge.com

HOA Board Meetings

- February 7
- March 14
- April 11

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS

Spring Forward March 12

BOARD UPDATE



Looking back on 2022, many projects were completed to improve and maintain the community. Below are some highlights, and we hope that completion of these projects aided in your enjoyment of the community.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- Tree maintenance/pruning in March and December address the highest level priority tree work needed within the community.
- In summer, the Limelight Newsletter went digital.
- National Night Out cookout in August brought neighbors together.
- Invasive plant treatment continued in four areas in the community.
- Turf remediation was completed for several areas in October.
- In November, the tennis courts were resurfaced with one court being converted to a multi-sport court.
- Also in November, invasive bamboo was removed near Churchman Court.
- 28 new trees were planted in December.
- An updated reserve study was completed.

LOOKING TO 2023

- On January 5, members of the board accepted the 2022 Friends of Trees Award that was awarded to our community.
- A review of the reserve study will be conducted in order to help guide community projects for the next few years.
- The board will continue to work with the community to roll out a more robust communication vehicle for the community to share information.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY – 2023

This 2023, MLK Day is celebrated/observed on Monday, January 16th, which is close to King's actual birthday on January 15. Consider visiting the Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial located just 10 miles from Loft Ridge near the National Mall in Washington, DC.

ALARMINGLY IMPORTANT – TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARMS!

Consider making testing your smoke alarm at least once a month a New Year's resolution. To keep your alarms in working order:

- Make sure there is at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home
- Test your smoke alarms by pushing the button every month
- Check that your smoke alarms are less than 10 years old

SNOW PLOWING AND SAND

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

VALENTINE'S DAY JOKES

Q: Why are artichokes so beloved?

A: They're known for their hearts.

Q: What do you call a colorful heart that loves books?

A: Well-red

Q: What did one piece of toast say to the other?

A: You're my butter half!

BOARD UPDATE *continued from page 1*

- Tree maintenance/pruning will address medium priority tree work, and tree health will continue to be assessed to ensure prompt attention to the highest priority needs.
- The board will work to identify the next grounds-related improvements needed around the community.

Additionally, the board would like to sincerely thank all homeowner volunteers for their feedback and time invested in helping improve our community. If you have ideas for future projects or would like to be involved in community projects, please email the board at board@loftridge.com. We look forward to what 2023 has to offer!

LOFT RIDGE COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY: THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Thank you to those who participated in our latest Loft Ridge Communications Survey! Your feedback helps us know how to make our Limelight newsletters most useful. While the findings have been shared with the Board, many of you also expressed a desire for more local highlights. The Communications Committee would like to invite Loft Ridge residents to consider content submissions suggestions. While we can't guarantee all ideas will be included, our goal is to make this our newsletter! *Do you have any kudos for your kiddos? Is there a neighbor we should feature? Have you made any improvements to your home that you'd like to share?*

Consider joining the Communications Committee or email the Committee Chair with your suggestions at ComChair.loftridge@gmail.com.

DON'T FEED THE WILD THINGS

While it is common to see deer and other wildlife roaming around our Loft Ridge homes, feeding them can be illegal and often has unintended negative consequences which do more harm than good. Officials recommend against feeding wildlife in general, as it can cause human-wildlife conflicts that too often result in poor outcomes for wildlife. Furthermore, it's against the law in Fairfax County to feed deer all year round (due to Chronic Wasting Disease). Instead, plant native plants that provide food and habitats.

Learn more here:

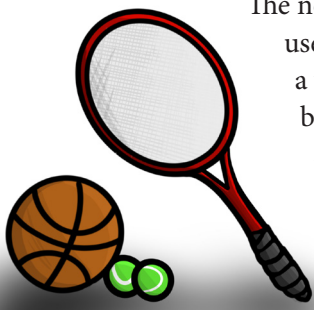
<https://dwr.virginia.gov/blog/dont-feed-wildlife-provide-habitat-for-them/>

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/deer/faq/>

VA code: Unauthorized feeding of wildlife: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode-/title4/agency15/chapter40/section286/>



NEW LOFT RIDGE MULTI-SPORT COURTS – IT'S GAME ON!



The newly resurfaced multi-sports courts are now open for use after our tennis courts were transformed to include a wider variety of outdoor sports, including pickleball, basketball, shuffleboard, four-square, and tennis. We appreciate your patience with supply and weather delays.

Email or call Management for multi-court combinations at management@loftridge.com or 703-703-9641.

SHOVELING SNOW DOS & DON'TS

- Do take breaks
- Don't drink caffeine or alcohol before or during
- Do shovel your own porch, stoop, parking spot, and sidewalk in front of your home
- Don't leave your shovel on the front porch

CONTRIBUTORS CORNER

DOMINION ENERGY OFFERS HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS

by Matt Iden

Implementing sustainable energy production solutions like solar, wind, and geothermal systems is just one half of the equation when it comes to energy conservation—reducing waste and increasing the energy efficiency of our homes is also a critical component.

Dominion Energy is helping residents do their part by offering a range of electricity-saving programs that also help shrink their customers' bills by providing a wide range of home energy improvements—all at reduced cost to residents.

The process begins with an Energy Audit by a qualified contractor who will help determine the areas of greatest need in the home, such as poor weather sealing, a lack of insulation, or inefficient appliances.

Services Dominion may provide improved weatherization (including air and duct sealing, attic and pipe insulation, and roof repair), swapping low efficiency light bulbs for high performance LEDs, and a variety of HVAC improvements (tune ups, thermostat and heat pump replacement, for example). Go to <https://www.dominionenergy.com/virginia/save-energy/> to learn more.

Dominion's Income & Age Qualifying Energy Efficiency Program is even more ambitious. Qualifying applicants demonstrating need may be provided with refrigerator, electric appliance, and/or full HVAC replacement. There's even a pilot program underway that may provide free solar installation (up to a 5kw system), with plans to make the program available to the public in 2023. Find more information at <https://www.dominionenergy.com/virginia/save-energy/income-and-age-qualifying-home-improvements>.

Watch for updates from the Conservation Committee or email ConserveChair@loftridge.com to stay informed on these and other conservation programs.

DECLUTTERING AFTER THE HOLIDAYS?

Consider donating to local area thrift stores (see a few suggestions below), join your local Buy Nothing group (<https://buynothingproject.org>) to give away things to your neighbors, or possibly sell items at local consignment stores.

Thrift Stores

Select Seconds, 5834-D, N Kings Hwy, Alexandria, VA

2nd Ave Thrift Superstore, 8750 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA

Goodwill, 6220 Richmond Hwy and 7558-B Telegraph Rd, Alexandria, VA

Home Decor Consignment

Evolution Home, 861 S Pickett St, Alexandria, VA

Women/Men Clothing Consignment

Mint Condition, 103 S St Asaph St, Alexandria, VA

Kids Consignment

Bellies & Babies, 1913 Mt Vernon Ave, Alexandria, VA

529 Kids Consign, 22 S Royal St, Alexandria, VA

MISSED THE CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP?

If you missed the natural Christmas collection for recycling (Jan 2-13), please do NOT dispose of the trees in the woods. Schedule a [brush Special Pickup](#) to have the Christmas tree removed. Lights, decorations and stands should be removed to ensure collection.

SPECIAL PICK-UPS

Make sure you call 703-802-3322 or schedule [online](#) by Tuesday 2pm. Before you add to an existing pile, ensure pick-up has been scheduled. The material scheduled must be out by 6pm on Tuesday placed away from trees and trash/recycle cans.

DON'T GET STUCK: INCLEMENT WEATHER TOWING

A friendly reminder that 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.

KEEP IT CLEARED

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

GET INVOLVED: NEW ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a positive impact in your community? The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) may be for you! The ACC's primary goal is to help ensure we continue to live in an attractive and well-maintained community. We meet monthly, and our main responsibility is to ensure that any exterior changes that a homeowner requests are in compliance with the Loft Ridge Community Handbook. In the Spring, we inspect half of the townhouses in our community, looking for structural and yard maintenance issues. The ACC also makes periodic updates to the Loft Ridge Community Handbook based upon observations and trends in requests received.

We are looking for a few new members. If becoming involved in the community is one of your resolutions for 2023, please consider joining the ACC.

Contact: accchair@loftridge.com.

LOFT RIDGE REAL ESTATE

ACTIVE

Address	Listed	Date
4332 Caprice Ct	\$519,000	11/07/22
5732 Lofthill Ct	\$2,800	10/15/22

CLOSED

Address	Sold	Close Date	
5706 Gladden Ct	\$555,000	9/23/22	
5653 Ridge View Dr	\$582,500	9/26/22	
4319 Marjoram Ct	\$615,000	10/27/22	end unit
5662 Ridge View Dr	\$2,800	11/19/22	end unit
4320 Caprice Ct	\$2,859	9/30/22	

— Source: Bright MLS

COOKS CORNER

WHAT A CROCK POT!

Looking for easy, delicious, and convenient recipes? Check out some of our Loftridge favorites for the slow cooker and instant pot.

Crock Pot Beef Stroganoff—This hearty, comforting dish combining beef & mushrooms is perfect for a cold day. [Try this recipe](#). (Mindy-Medallion Ct.)

Instant Pot Chicken Curry—Chicken thighs and warm spices pack a lot of flavor into one pot. [Try this recipe](#). (Erika-Medallion Ct.)



AROUND TOWN

ROSE HILL SHOPPING CENTER UPDATE: NEARBY RHCA CONTINUES OPPOSITION TO REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The Rose Hill Civic Association recently conducted a residential survey of the proposal by Combined Properties, longtime owner of the Rose Hill Shopping Center, to redevelop the plaza. According to the RHCA's latest newsletter, *The Rambler*, the survey found a large percentage of respondents are concerned about increased traffic and higher population density, though many residents expressed support for upgrades to the property and a desire to preserve a shopping center that is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. "The Board of Supervisors has accepted Combined Properties' plan for redevelopment as part of the Site Specific Plan Amendment process, so the issue moves into the public arena. The County has announced, as part of an electronic news release, that the SSPA nomination for the Rose Hill Shopping Center will be discussed at a meeting on Monday, January 23, in the cafeteria of the Franconia Elementary School at 7 p.m. At the January meeting, the RHCA will continue its opposition," reported Carl Sell, RHCA President to Loftridge Communications Chair, Mindy Mizell. "We object to 400 apartments and up to six story buildings on the site because it will disrupt traffic and further overcrowd our schools. We appreciate the support of our neighbors. We would support an upgrade of the center, but not at the density the owners are seeking." The full article can be found [here](#).

IN THE LIMELIGHT

IN THE LIMELIGHT: MEET HARLOW

"In The Limelight" is a new edition to our newsletter featuring various Loft Ridge residents. This quarter, the Communications Committee Chair selected 13-year-old Harlow Wheeler (Medallion Ct), the illustrator creating the beautiful images adorning our newly revised Limelight.

Q: Hi Harlow – Can you tell us about yourself?

A: Hi! I'm 13 years old. I love to read, draw, and volunteer as a historical interpreter at Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason, one of our founding fathers.

Q: How long have you lived in Loft Ridge? And what is your favorite part about living here?

A: I've lived here all my life. My parents bought our home, here in Loft Ridge, 21 years ago. I love the friends we've made here that are like family to us.

Q: Do you have a tip or suggestion for your Loft Ridge neighbors?

A: Go explore Gunston Hall in nearby Mason Neck, VA. They have fun events for kids and families, as well as, adults only events. There is also a fun hiking trail behind the mansion that takes you all the way to the Potomac River!

If you would like to nominate a neighbor to be featured in the next Limelight, please email: ComChair.loftridge@gmail.com.

LOCAL EVENTS ALEXANDRIA

Alexandria Restaurant Week

[January 20 - 29, 2023](#) — More than 70 restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$25, \$35 or \$45 prix fixe dinner. Click [here](#) to learn more.

2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade

[March 4, 2023](#) — Held annually the Parade is the largest one-day event in Old Town Alexandria. Featuring pipe bands, Irish dance schools, community groups, and a host of other musicians and performers. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Cherry Blossom River Boat Cruise

[April 8, 2023](#) — Celebrate DC's cherry blossoms on the water with T-MODE. Enjoy an incredible 3-hour sightseeing cruise featuring a Maid Cafe • Cosplay • Live DJ • Bento Lunch • & More! Click [here](#) to learn more.

WINTER GARBAGE PICKUP TIPS

Old Man Winter has officially set in, and we are all feeling it! For garbage collection, it's important to keep your cans out for as short a time as possible. They can freeze in place, making it difficult to move – and snowplows have to maneuver around them. Don't forget, OUT after 5pm Monday and in by DARK Tuesday. If weather is severe, the County trucks may not collect on schedule but assume they will.



LOFT RIDGE BOARD

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FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE (ACC)

The ACC meets on the third Wednesday of each month.
Please check loftridge.com for dates/times.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Conservation Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month.
Please check loftridge.com for dates/times.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

As needed. Please contact the Communications Committee Chair (ComChair@loftridge.com) if you're interested in contributing or serving on the committee.

LIMELIGHT STAFF

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Erika Wheeler

Illustrator

Harlow Wheeler

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Suicide and Crisis Lifeline	988
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
Verizon	888-363-4498
Dominion Towing	703-339-2400