

FALL 2023 • LOFT RIDGE

Limelight

WELCOME TO AUTUMN!

*"Autumn is a second spring
when every leaf is a flower."*

- ALBERT CAMUS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HOA Board Meetings

- October 17
- November 14
- December TBD

The Board would like to invite Loft Ridge residents to attend monthly Board meetings, 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

BOARD UPDATE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello neighbors and welcome, fall! Over this summer we welcomed new board members and a new managing agent from Sequoia to the Loft Ridge community. In this time, my gratitude to this community for its willingness to volunteer has deepened further. The board, the committees, and the homeowners have all dedicated their spare time to making Loft Ridge such a great place to live and I'm thankful for that.

Our active committees, the Conservation Committee and Communications Committee, both work hard and make use of their knowledge and skills to create wonderful things like this Limelight and to find ways to make our grounds sustainable through projects (and grants!). We are in the process of re-forming our ACC that helps homeowners make changes to their exteriors through the RFC process and works to modernize our guidebook in a once-monthly meeting (inspections are now carried out by Sequoia Management). Would you like to serve as the chair? Please let us know! We are also considering a dedicated grounds committee that can help us keep track the acres of common grounds and find and carry out projects that further beautify this community.

I also want to personally thank the homeowners who help us in so many other ways: volunteering your food and tools for events (National Night Out would not have been such a success without it!), letting us and management know about what you observe, asking us questions, and sharing your knowledge. This is a very large community and there is only so much we can keep track of as individuals, but as a collective your continued feedback helps the board make better informed decisions. Your participation has helped shape so much of what we've been able to do and what we have been focusing on this summer. Thank you.

— continued on page 2



BE A FOSTER, SAVE A LIFE: PROJECT SECOND CHANCE

Alexandria-based Project **Second Chance** has many great dogs in need of a short term foster home as they work to find them the perfect family. If you are above the age of 21 and interested in fostering, please learn more by contacting volunteer@project-secondchance.org.

GOING SOLAR

In August, two homes on Evergreen Knoll were among the first in NOVA to take advantage of a new Dominion program offering a free solar system for eligible customers. With the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, sunlight is converted into electricity. To take advantage of free solar panel installation opportunities, it's crucial to work with a licensed local installer who can guide you through the process and help you qualify for the appropriate programs. Not sure if you're eligible? Learn more about Dominion Energy's Income and Age Qualifying Solar Program at 1-888-366-8280.

SPECIAL TRASH PICK-UP

It's FREE! All you have to do is schedule [online](#) or call 703-802-3322. On regular trash day, the County Trash will pick up bulk items too large for cans, i.e. mattresses. Set items away from regular collection points in an area without trees, light poles, etc

AROUND TOWN

SAVE THE DATE!

Student Holiday: October 9 - Indigenous Peoples' Day

Celebrated on the 2nd Monday of October, instead of Columbus Day. Indigenous Peoples' Day honors the histories, cultures, and contributions of Native peoples, past and present.

Alexandria Fall Festival: November 5

The Alexandria Fall Festival is back at River Farm, the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society. Visit alexandriafallfestival.com to purchase tickets.

Holiday, Winter & Christmas Markets in Virginia: Opening Dates for 2023!

Wondering when holiday, winter & Christmas markets will be open this year in Virginia? Christmasmarketguides.com has done the work for you. Click [here](#) for the list.

NEW LEGO DISCOVERY CENTER NOW OPEN

The highly anticipated Lego Discovery Center opened its doors at Springfield Town Center in August. The 32,000-square-foot attraction marks Lego's first discovery center in the D.C. area. The attraction features an area for kids to create and build with LEGO bricks, a Mini-World that features LEGO creations made from more than a 1.5 million bricks, a train ride through a LEGO world with game and models, a creative lab, a 4D theater and a workshop where master builders display their creations. Tickets start at \$28.99 with [online ticket](#) purchases recommended.

ROSE HILL PLAZA DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Our six-decade-old Rose Hill Shopping Center, or Rose Hill Plaza, is still proposed for redevelopment, however, the proposal continues to remain in Tier 3 of the 2023 Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan amendment, meaning the project is deferred to complete more community feedback. In August, **Franconia District Supervisor Rodney Lusk** asked the owner of Rose Hill Plaza to lower the number of residential units and increase retail space in its next redevelopment proposal. Lusk says he anticipates a new proposal, a subsequent staff review and a public meeting to take place this fall or early winter. [Hear more from Supervisor Lusk.](#)

President's Message continued from page 1

If you'd like to volunteer, ask a question, etc. please send an email to Board@LoftRidge.com and include Management@LoftRidge.com, as they have dedicated folks for answering your emails and they work closely with us to get the information that you and the board both need. As a board we do our best to answer in a timely manner, but reaching out to both the board and management is the most effective way to get information to us and from us. Teamwork makes the dream work! May your leaves be crunchy and your cider warm,

—Abbie Boyle, President of Loft Ridge Board of Directors



CONTRIBUTORS CORNER

IT'S LEAF SEASON. LET'S CLEAN THEM UP

by Renee Grebe from the Conservation Committee

Every year, without fail, the leaves fall from the trees, especially in our community where we are surrounded by so many acres of woods. Every year, we gather them up, place them in paper bags or reusable containers, and put the containers out on trash day. Our homes and streets look neater, people are less likely to slip on the wet leaves, and we prevent clogged storm drains. Fairfax County provides free pickup service of our leaf bags (and any yard waste) each week between March 1 – December 24.

Which tool gets the job done best? The most basic, cheapest, and environmentally-friendly option is a rake. Leaf blowers are another option, either gas or electric. Like many choices, there are pros and cons to each. Bob Vila explains the options well in this article: <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/the-war-on-leaf-blowers/>, and in a more recent article he rates the most recent leaf blowers on the market: <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/best-leaf-blowers/>.

In a community such as ours, where we live so close to our neighbors, it is worth noting that not only are some options *louder* than others, but some are also *more toxic* than others (and you can probably guess which). While the old gas operated leaf blowers are fast and efficient, their two-stroke engines are bad for human health and the environment. Cleaner electric models are improving their efficiency and while they're still a little slower, they are quieter and don't pose the health risks of the two-stroke engine gas models. They are worth a look! Lastly, the old-fashioned rake option is the quietest and cleanest of all. Yes, you will spend more time getting the leaves up and bagged. But you will get some great exercise, and the neighbors will appreciate it. The wildlife around us will be better off as well.

CAR TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Personal property taxes, better known as car taxes, were due on October 5. On average, car tax bills increased by 33% this year. Keep in mind, you may qualify for tax relief if you are at least 65 years old, or permanently and totally disabled, and meet the income and asset eligibility requirements. Learn more about [tax relief](#) to see if you qualify or call 703-222-8234, TTY 711.

LOFT RIDGE REAL ESTATE

Address	Close Date	Rented	Sold
5740 Evergreen Knoll Ct	6/28/23	\$2,600	
5722 Lofthill Ct	6/15/23		\$599,000
5660 Ridge View Dr	7/21/23		\$613,000
4323 Gypsy Ct	6/26/23		\$615,000
4321 Gypsy Ct	6/16/23		\$635,000

— Source: Bright MLS (As of August 31, 2023)

2023 SEASON - FARMERS MARKETS

Kingstowne Farmers Market

May 5 – October 27,
Fridays, 3pm to 7pm
Located in the Giant
Supermarket parking
lot at 5935 Kingstowne
Town Center. Learn more [here](#).



McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market

April 19 - December 20, 2023,
Wednesdays, 8am to 12pm
Sherwood Regional Library,
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane.
Learn more [here](#).

Old Town Alexandria Farmers Market

Year-Round, Saturdays, 7am to
12pm, 301 King Street, Alexandria,
VA. Learn more [here](#).

Alexandria West Farmers Market

April 9 - November 19, 2023,
Sundays, 8:30am to 1pm, 4800 Ben
Brenman Park, Alexandria, VA.
Learn more [here](#).

Del Ray Farmers Market

Year-Round, Saturdays, 8am to
12pm 203 E. Oxford Ave.,
Alexandria, VA. Learn more [here](#).

FALL JOKES FOR KIDS

- Q:** What do you use to mend a jack-o-lantern?
A: A pumpkin patch.
- Q:** How are you supposed to talk to the apple library?
A: With your incider voice.
- Q:** What did the oak tree say when autumn came around?
A: Leaf me alone.



COOKS CORNER

INSTANT POT CHICKPEA COCONUT CURRY



This creamy and delicious Instant pot chickpea coconut curry is packed with

goodness that comes together in one pot. It's an easy meal made using basic pantry staples. Click [here](#) for the recipe.

—extracted from www.jcookingodyssey.com

TURKEY MEATBALLS IN A CREAMY RED CURRY SAUCE

Garlicky and spiced, these Thai turkey meatballs would be good in ANYTHING. And this insanely rich red curry sauce would be good ON anything. Together, they're a take-no-prisoners combination that'll please any crowd you serve them to. Here's how to make [them](#).

—extracted from www.themodernproper.com

LOFT RIDGE REMINDERS

- **Trash & Recycling Cans**
Out - Monday after 5
In - Tuesday Night
- **Drive Twenty-Five**
Neighborhood Speed Limit is 25mph
- **Don't Feed Wild Animals,**
Food attracts critters like rats!
- **Please Don't** climb trees or break branches
- **Call 811**
To mark utility lines before you dig!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME: DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK

We've been on daylight saving time since March 12, and reaping the benefits: more daylight. But that will come to an end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 5, when we will "fall back," bringing in early sunsets and more darkness for the winter (and yes, an extra hour of sleep that night!)

Under the Uniform Time Act of 1966, states can choose not to observe daylight saving time. In January, a proposal to move Virginia to year-round daylight saving time failed in the state Senate. That means, Virginia, like most states, continues to observe daylight saving time from March to November. The U.S. Senate voted to end the biannual tradition and make daylight saving time permanent in March 2022, but the legislation stalled in the U.S. House.

10 TIPS TO WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

When the temperature begins to drop, consider these maintenance and end-of-season tasks that will help you winterize your home and protect your property.

1. **Check the gutters.** Prevent ice dams by cleaning out your gutters, installing gutter guards and making sure your attic floor is properly insulated.
2. **Protect the pipes.** Protect against frozen pipes by insulating those that could be susceptible to freezing.
3. **Seal the cracks.** Caulk holes and openings around windows, doors, air conditioners and mail chutes to help prevent cold air from seeping in.
4. **Stop the slips, trips and falls.** Keep driveways and sidewalks clear of ice and snow and repair any issues with steps and handrails. Keeping deicing salt handy for sprinkling on steps, sidewalks and your driveway.
5. **Install an emergency release.** Consider installing an emergency pressure release valve in your plumbing system. This protects against increased pressure caused by freezing pipes and can prevent them from bursting. Learn how to shut the water off and know where your pipes are located.
6. **Keep it cozy.** Set your thermostat to at least 65 degrees Fahrenheit and make sure your home is well-insulated. Install an energy efficient or programmable thermostat.
7. **Have your heating system checked.** Furnaces, boilers and chimneys should be serviced at least once a year to keep them running efficiently.
8. **Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** Check monthly and replace batteries as needed. Consider installing a carbon monoxide detector to avoid inadvertently trapping the toxic gas in your home.
9. **Clear the yard.** Keep the trees trimmed and remove dead branches and debris from your yard. Ice, snow and wind can cause weak branches to fall.
10. **House the hose.** Drain and store away garden hoses. Shut off exterior faucet valves. Turn the water off completely if you're planning to be away. Have a friend check your home regularly.

Most home insurance policies cover damages due to extreme winter weather, but make sure you speak with your independent agent to answer any questions you have about your specific homeowners, condo or renters' insurance policy.

—extracted from [Orange Insurance](#)



FALL IS THE BEST TIME TO SEED AND FEED YOUR LAWN

Fall isn't just for festivals and picking apples. It's also the best time to seed and fertilize your lawn. One of the trickiest parts of growing grass is ensuring the seeds stay moist until they germinate. Cooler Fall temperatures make it a little easier to ensure those budding seeds stay moist. If you have a hard time keeping up with watering, but want to try reseeding again, Seeds.com suggests using a product which expands, in addition to the grass seed, to retain more moisture from waterings to ensure seeds don't dry out. If the target area is small (like the area between the sidewalk and curb) there are patch and repair type grass products that offer pre-mixed seed and moisture control together in one bag.

Looking for more advice on fall seeding? Click [here](#) for more information on keeping your lawn looking great year round.

—from *Scotts.com*

IN THE LIMELIGHT

IN THE LIMELIGHT: MEET ESTELLE MALETZ

"In The Limelight" is a new edition to our newsletter featuring various Loft Ridge residents. This quarter, the Communications Committee Chair selected Estelle Maletz from Lofthill Court. Estelle shared her talent for poem writing as she answered our questions.

Q: *Hi Estelle – Can you tell us about yourself? How long have you lived in Loft Ridge? And what is your favorite part about living here?*

A: *I am a mother, I am a teacher
Art and exercise with preschoolers
Is what I do
I am a nature lover
So are my two daughters*

*Fifteen years in this neighborhood
Walking my dog through the woods
Down the path we go
Every day we say hello
To the neighbors we encounter
Surrounded by wild flowers
Playful squirrels, tweeting birds
For years I've heard
Tall trees, tiny snails
Dogs wagging their tails
Sniffing a turtle by the creek
What an exciting week!
Young families always coming
Talking, playing, running
I look up and breathe
Even when temperatures freeze
Outside Monday to Sunday
In this community I'm here to stay*

*Being close to a little piece of nature
I enjoy and nurture
Is my favorite part
Loftridge is where I live
Peaceful day it gives*

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

A: *no place, no people are perfect, so always be open-minded, polite and respectful to keep Loftridge a sweet place to live in.*

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

FALL SAFETY TIPS FOR PET PARENTS

Beware of Anti-freeze:

Ingesting antifreeze is lethal to both humans and animals. Unfortunately, both cats and dogs have been known to lick this sweet tasting substance. Check your car for leaks of this sweet tasting substance and make sure all bottles are stored.

Update their ID tags: The changing of seasons is a great time to check your pet ID tags and microchip. If you do happen to have a pet go missing in the fall, they will be more likely to suffer effects of the cold environment.

Beware of ticks: It is tick season and playing in the cool autumn leaves is one of the many ways your pet could get them. Be sure to regularly check your pets for ticks.

Be careful with holiday treats: The four most common food-related Halloween hazards for pets are chocolate, candy overindulgence, raisins and candy wrappers. If you think your pet ingested something they shouldn't have, call your vet immediately or the Animal Poison Control hotline immediately.

For more tips, check out pedhub.com.

FREE NOTARY SERVICE

Kelly Campagne – 202-607-6331
Cheatham Court

Louise Whitt – 703-960-0428
Ridge View Drive



LOFT RIDGE BOARD

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group@loftridge.com

LOFT RIDGE CLASSIFIED EMAIL

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FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE (ACC)

The ACC has no future meetings planned, as it needs volunteers. ACC duties will be managed by the Board in the interim. Sequoia now performs community inspections, but Loft Ridge could still use your help! Please check loftridge.com for updates or email board@loftridge.com if you are interested in volunteering.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee meets on an as needed basis. 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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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

