



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one."

- BRAD PAISLEY

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 will continue to be held via Zoom.

2024 HOA Board Meetings

January 9 – Zoom – 7pm
February 13 – Zoom – 7pm
March 12 – Zoom – 7pm
April 9 – Zoom – 7pm
May 14 – Zoom – 7pm
June 11 – Zoom – 7pm
July 9 – Zoom – 7pm
August 13 – Zoom – 7pm
September 10 – Zoom – 7pm
October 8 – Zoom – 7pm
November 12 – Zoom – 7pm
December 10 – Zoom – 7pm

Check Loft Ridge website for updates www.loftridge.com

BOARD UPDATE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

As we welcome 2024, I would like to also welcome you to join and explore our community administrative portal, Cinc Web Axis. Provided by our managing company, Sequoia Management, this web portal allows you to pay your dues electronically, access the updated community calendar, find Board of Directors Meeting Packages along with other community documents, sign up for and change preferences for reminder emails, and receive important community announcement emails from Sequoia (these mirror the announcements sent to the listserv, but are from a different, distinct email source and do not require subscription to the listserv). Secured behind a login, homeowners can manage

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ACC — CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

As we strive to enhance and preserve the beauty of our community, we are excited to announce a newly envisioned Architecture Control Committee—the (ACC). The ACC plays a crucial role in ensuring that any architectural changes or additions to our homes align with our community's guidelines, maintaining the aesthetic harmony we all cherish and we've updated the process of how the ACC works in tandem to support our management company, but we still need volunteers from our community to make this a success. You live here! Get involved in preserving what you love most about our community.

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SPRING FORWARD TO DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!

Sunday, March 10

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

At our last HOA meeting, we discussed ways to improve our neighborhood communications, including the pros/cons of transitioning to TownSq, a popular platform for communities. We also discussed the possibility of more Pet Waste Stations throughout our community. We'd love to hear your thoughts at the next meeting!

SNOW PLOWING AND SANDING

Snow plowing will occur when the accumulation has reached 3". Sand will be spread as needed.

SAVING WITH SOLAR: WHAT TO KNOW

While the addition of solar panels to residential housing is becoming more common, the architectural integrity and standards of the community are also significant considerations. If you're interested in installing solar panels, keep in mind ACC approval is required before installation and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Also note, all work must be done by a licensed contractor in compliance with all county codes and regulations.

President's Message continued from page 1

their payments, get information for attending Board of Directors Meetings, and access important community documents all in one place. Please follow registration instructions here to get started: <https://sequoia.cincwebaxis.com/>

Abbie Boyle

President, Loft Ridge Board of Directors

ACC — Call for Volunteers continued from page 1

We are currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers from our community to join the ACC and help shape the future of our neighborhood. If you have a passion for architecture, an eye for design, or simply a commitment to maintaining the appeal of our community, we encourage you to consider becoming a part of this important committee.

Responsibilities of the ACC will include:

1. Reviewing architectural proposals and plans submitted by homeowners.
2. Ensuring proposed changes comply with community guidelines and regulations.
3. Providing constructive feedback and guidance to homeowners.
4. Collaborating with residents, contractors, and the HOA board to maintain architectural harmony.
5. Meeting once per month (Virtual or In Person) to discuss ongoing projects and make informed decisions.

By volunteering for the ACC, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the visual identity of our community and play a pivotal role in shaping its future. Your expertise and dedication will be highly valued, and together, we can maintain the unique charm that makes our neighborhood special.

If you are interested in joining the Architectural Control Committee, please contact Jen Darwin at jdarwin@sequoiamgmt.com.

Thank you for your commitment to making our community a wonderful place to live. We look forward to working together to reenergize the Architectural Control Committee.

DID YOU KNOW?

The feeding of deer is prohibited year-round in Fairfax County. Previously the deer feeding ban was in effect in Fairfax County from Sept 1 through the last Sunday in April but has been extended to a year-round feeding ban to reduce the potential spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) within deer populations in Virginia.

Learn more about Fairfax County deer management [here](#).



CONTRIBUTORS CORNER

WHY CAN'T WE DUMP YARD WASTE IN THE WOODS?

by Kathleen Allen from the Conservation Committee

“Why” you ask? Let us count the ways:

- 1) Dumping yard waste in natural areas is harmful and spreads invasive species. It also smothers ecosystems, impacts floodwaters, and causes nutrient overload in parks.
- 2) Put another way, dumping adds biomass to an ecosystem that would not naturally be there.
- 3) Excessive dumping can smother native plants that may be trying to live on the forest floor.
- 4) The cuttings from your garden contain seeds of invasive plants that then get spread in the forest.
- 5) It's illegal.
- 6) It junks up the beautiful, natural woods.

Though convenient, the woods are not a dumping ground. It is illegal in Fairfax County to dump yard waste in common areas and storm drains. Fairfax County does provide free weekly yard waste pickup between March 1–Dec 24. Just bag your non-invasive yard waste in paper bags and place them out with the weekly trash. It will be made into compost. (Invasive plant material is not made into compost and should go in a separate plastic bag and thrown in the regular trash).

For a list of invasive plants see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/naturalcultural/non-native-invasive-id-control-book-let.pdf>.

For a list of native plants, (and non-invasive) see <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/post/go-local-time-to-plant-native-plants>.

For curbside yard waste instructions, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/public-works/curbside-yard-waste>.

2024 SEASON - FARMERS MARKETS

Kingstowne Farmers Market

May 3 – October 25,
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 17 - December 18,
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](#).

Old Town North Farmers Market

Year-Round, Sundays, 10am to
2pm, 901 North Royal Street,
Alexandria, VA. Learn more [here](#).

Del Ray Farmers Market

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

WINTER JOKES

- Q:** What's the weatherman's favorite food in the winter?
A: Brrr-itos!
Q: Why was the little snowman sad?
A: Cause he had a meltdown.
Q: Why was the snowman rummaging through the bag of carrots?
A: He was picking his nose.

LOFT RIDGE REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

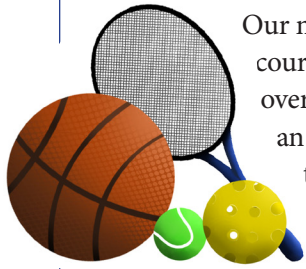
Address	Status	Close Date	Rent
5701 Evergreen Knoll Ct	Pending	12/21/23	\$2,895
5730 Evergreen Knoll Ct	Active		\$2,995

— Source: Bright MLS (As of January 5, 2024)



RESOLVE TO GET IN SHAPE?

Did you make a New Year's resolution to get in shape?



Our multi-sports court, resurfaced just over a year ago, is an excellent way to get out there and move your body. You can choose

from a variety of sports, including pickleball, basketball, shuffleboard, four-square, and tennis. Email or call Management for multi-court combinations at management@loftridge.com or 703-703-9641. Please note that only Management can share the lock combination with homeowners.

LOFT RIDGE REMINDERS

- **Trash & Recycling Cans**
Out - Monday after 5
In - Tuesday Night
- **Drive Twenty-Five**—Speed Limit in the neighborhood is 25
- **Don't Feed Wild Animals**, Food attracts critters like rats!
- **Call 811**—To mark utility lines before you dig!

FREE NOTARY SERVICE

Kelly Campagne – 202-607-6331
Cheatham Court

Louise Whitt – 703-960-0428
Ridge View Drive

NEW LANDSCAPING CONTRACT AWARDED

After listening to our fellow homeowners and assessing the status of our current community grounds, we are pleased to announce that we have entered into a contract with Complete Landscaping for next year. Complete Landscaping Services has been nominated as one of the top-ranking landscapers in the DMV for the past several years by the Washington Business Journal. We feel that Complete Landscaping will be able to assist with plans and protocols to start bringing our grounds back to beautiful!

The HOA put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the landscaping contract in October to five different companies, including our contractor for 2023. With rising costs for labor and materials, we decided to short list the two vendors in the middle, Complete being one of them. After careful comparison and consideration, we decided to proceed with Complete for a few reasons:

- First, their extensive experience and services were superior to their competitors, ensuring that we have access to experts across lawn care, arborists, and landscape architects.
- Secondly, their personal attention to their clients was paramount in our decision. We will be able to have an assigned crew just for our grounds to ensure continuity of quality of services throughout their contract.

Despite the cost of services skyrocketing, we were able to secure a 5- year fixed pricing option with Complete, ensuring a maximum 4% price increase over the next 5 years while keeping the flexibility of a 60-day opt-out clause. For comparison, the bid from our 2023 vendor included a 55% increase in their current costs and far beyond the pricing offered by Complete.

The Board is excited to be able to work with Complete Landscaping and start the process of bettering our greatest community asset and we wanted to thank all homeowners who took time to give input on areas that need better care and attention. If you'd like to learn more about our new vendor, please visit their website at <https://completelandscapingservice.com/>.

Michelle Acevedo

Vice President, Loft Ridge Board of Directors

COOKS CORNER

SLOWCOOKER BEEF BRISKET

This slowcooker brisket is sure to put a smile on your face. Click [here](#) for the recipe.

—extracted from www.myfullcook.com



VEGETARIAN CHILI



Vegetarian Chili that's "meaty" and satisfying – without all the meat! Here's how to [make](#) it.

—extracted from www.pinchofyum.com



IN THE LIMELIGHT

IN THE LIMELIGHT: MEET MELANIE PAYNE

"In The Limelight" is a new edition to our newsletter featuring various Loft Ridge residents. This quarter, the Communications Committee Chair selected Melanie Payne from Ridge View Drive.

Q: *Hi Melanie – 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 live on Ridge View Drive with my husband and two sons (5 and 8). We moved to the neighborhood in 2016, and we just love how we are surrounded by nature and wildlife, yet so close to Old Town, DC and all the urban amenities. I am a personal trainer and group exercise instructor, and when I'm not at work or on the school run, I can often be seen chasing after my active boys around the neighborhood.

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

A: For anyone new moving into the neighborhood, definitely make an effort to get to know your neighbors. This neighborhood is incredibly friendly - we have never known as many (nice) people anywhere we lived before!

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

LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

When it comes to celebrating love, the nation's capital tops the list of romantic destinations. To enjoy a great time with your loved one this Valentine's Day, several local activities include:

- The Wharf: Go ice skating together, open Thursday-Sunday
- Potomac River: Enjoy a romantic dinner on a cruise
- Martin Luther King Jr Memorial: Enjoy a quiet walk by the tidal basin and enjoy the beautiful monuments together

For more suggestions, check [this](#) out.

EL NINO WINTER: BE PREPARED

In December, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration updated its forecast showing the probability of a "historic" El Nino winter. In most El Nino winters, Northern Virginia has about 2 or 4 more inches than the average snowfall from January to March.

Tips:

1. Stock Your Food Pantry
2. Buy Bottled Water
3. Fill Your Prescriptions and Pick Up Hygiene Items
4. Protect Your Water Pipes
5. Ready Your Vehicles
6. Stay Informed

For more tips on how to prepare for winter storms, visit weather.com.

HELP KEEP LOFT RIDGE SAFE: NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Neighborhood safety requires a team effort. Neighborhood Watch is a community partnership crime prevention program in which volunteers serve as the eyes and ears of the community, reporting suspicious activity to the Police Department for attention and review. Consider volunteering to be a part of the HOA Neighborhood Watch Committee. Neighborhood Watch helps promote community awareness and works with our assigned Fairfax County Police Officer. This enables us to determine whether a pattern of illegal activity is occurring in our neighborhood, and make certain the police are aware of the need for increased patrols.

Remember, always call 911 if the situation is life threatening or an event is currently in progress. Call the non-emergency line at 703-691-2131 to report all other suspicious activity.

If you want to share something you have reported to the county with management, please email management@loftridge.com.

MAKING CHANGES?

Don't forget we have an ACC handbook on our [website](#). Please refer to it and submit a Request For Change (RFC) form to management before making changes to your home's exterior by visiting loftridge.com or contacting management@loftridge.com.



LOFT RIDGE BOARD

board@loftridge.com

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abbie.loftridge@gmail.com

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LOFT RIDGE GROUP EMAIL

group@loftridge.com

LOFT RIDGE CLASSIFIED EMAIL

classifieds@loftridge.com

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 updating the guidebook and helping homeowners with RFCs! 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, but is on temporary hiatus. Please check loftridge.com for updated 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

