

Limelight

SPRING 2024 • LOFT RIDGE

Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party!'

- ROBIN WILLIAMS

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

April 16 – Zoom – 6:30pm
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

After much time, deliberation, and hands-on experience, the Board would like to announce that we are looking to integrate TownSq, a community management website/app, into Loft Ridge's realm of online interaction. TownSq is specifically designed for communities like ours and will allow us to have a one-stop shop for everything related to your online activities regarding our community. You will be able to access your dues status as well as directly click through to the payment portal, submit reports for any questions/concerns/suggestions you have to be sent to the board and management, see our calendar, find the multi-sport code, access important community documents, have a dedicated announcement page for news from the board, sign up for email alerts, and have your own community message board with multiple searchable topic

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HOA ELECTIONS: JOIN US!

Are you interested in joining the Loft Ridge HOA Board of Directors? There will be 4 seats open this Spring. One (1) position will have a one-year term and (3) positions will have a three-year term. The three-year terms will be appointed to the top three vote receivers.

To become a candidate, you must be in good standing, and you should have a sincere desire to serve your community. There are no specific requirements to be a member and the amount of time devoted depends on your level/areas of interest. Board members must consider the Community as a whole and not

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It's As Easy As A-B-C: Are you Planning an Exterior Change?

Ask the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) if your intended change or construction project is within guidelines by submitting the request form (Exhibit A) found in the Handbook.

Be approved. The ACC has 30 days after receipt of your request to provide their decision by annotating and signing the request form.

Commence your project. Call Miss Utility at 1-800-552-7001 before digging.

Come to Earth Day Fairfax 2024!

Fairfax County's 2024 Earth Day Festival, the largest Earth Day celebration in Fairfax County, will be held on April 20, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sully Historic Site. [Learn more.](#)



Vehicles on Common Ground

It is the time of year to build/replace fences, decks and sheds so please remember that wheeled vehicles are not allowed on common ground. We realize this is an inconvenience, but you are responsible for damage.

President's Message continued from page 1

threads. We believe that TownSq will improve accessibility to the community by making all features easier to access and to use. We also know that a change like this, regardless of how beneficial, will take time, so please don't worry about doing anything differently any time soon as we will be introducing this slowly. We are very excited for what this means for Loft Ridge. Good things are coming.

Abbie Boyle

President, Loft Ridge Board of Directors

HOA Elections continued from page 1

have a specific agenda. You will have input in creating a budget, make decisions regarding issues of non-compliance and ACC violations, review contracts and delinquencies, generate resolutions and oversee our committees.

Nomination forms are available through Sequoia Management Company, Inc, and must be submitted no later than 5pm on April 12, 2024. Biographies of nominees will be distributed with the official Annual Meeting notice ahead of the 2024 Annual Meeting to be held hybrid via zoom and in person on May 14, 2024.

Please contact: management@loftridge.com or 703-803-9641.

5 (Great) Reasons to Join our HOA Board

1. Meet Neighbors: An HOA meeting offers an opportunity to meet your neighbors and know more about them.
2. Safeguard Property Value: When you join the HOA board, you can be more involved in maintaining property values.
3. Gain Better Understanding: Volunteering as a board member will make you more well-versed in the laws and regulations related to our Loft Ridge community.
4. Meet More of Your Expectations: Did you have certain expectations when you bought your home? By serving on an HOA board, you can work toward achieving those expectations by working with your neighbors.
5. Help Fellow Residents: Part of the Board's job is to hear out concerns from residents, and, when possible, do something about them. By being a part of the homeowners association board, you can make decisions that have a direct positive impact on the community and your neighbors.

Coming Up: Board of Directors Meeting, Starting Early!

Our next Board of Director meeting has been moved to April 16th and will be starting a half hour early at 6:30pm to include the annual financial year-in-review from management's CPA.



It's That Time of Year! Architectural Inspections Are Underway

Exterior inspections allow our Loft Ridge neighborhood to maintain its community standards and property value year over year to attract new residents and keep existing homeowners.

Starting in late April/early May, Sequoia Management Company will conduct annual inspections of every home within the Loft Ridge community. Once these inspections are finalized, letters will be mailed to all homeowners in violation. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the [Architectural Control Committee \(ACC\) Guidelines](#) and other Rules and Regulations and correct any issues with your home that may violate the Guidelines.

Additionally, if you plan to sell your home this year, it is highly recommended that homeowners check in with management to determine what approvals you have for architectural modification to your home. This will help avoid any missing applications prior to the resale/disclosure process to ensure a smooth transition.

Join the ACC Committee

Did you know our governing documents require an Architectural Control Committee (ACC), comprised of a minimum of three volunteer homeowners? The Committee's primary responsibilities are to review and disapprove all requests submitted for exterior changes and to ensure the Architectural Guidelines are followed.

Interested in joining the ACC Committee and learning more?

Email: accchair@lofridge.com

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

May 1 – Nov 6
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](#).

West End Farmers Market

Apr 7 - Dec 31, 8:30am - 1:00pm, 4800 Ben Brenman Park, Alexandria, VA. Learn more [here](#).

LOFT RIDGE REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

Address	Status	Listed
5661 Ridge View Drive	Under Contract	\$620,000

— Source: Bright MLS (As of March 25, 2024)

Free Notary Service

Kelly Campagne – 202-607-6331
Cheatham Court

Louise Whitt – 703-960-0428
Ridge View Drive

Reaching Out: Here's How

We would love to hear from you! If you would like to communicate with management, please email management@lofridge.com and to communicate with your Board of Directors, please email Board@lofridge.com.

Food Scraps Drop-off at Farmers Markets

Food waste makes up as much as one-third of the trash we dispose of every day in Fairfax County.

Now in addition to the City of [Alexandria Farmers Market Composting](#), you can bring your food scraps to Fairfax County Farmers Markets, including the nearby the Kingstowne Farmers Market will begin accepting food scraps on Fridays from May 3 – October 25 (3-7pm).

If you are interested in composting, consider dropping off your scraps at the Fairfax County Farmers Markets! How does it work? [Learn more.](#)

Loft Ridge Reminders

- **Tax Day**
Federal—April 15
State—May 1
- **Trash & Recycling Cans**
Out - Monday after 5
In - Tuesday Night
- **Don't Feed Wild Animals**, Food attracts critters like rats!

Think Spring! April and May for Planting

Looking for advice on what to plant? The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association has served as the area's expert in helping local gardeners for more than 40 years.

[Learn more.](#)

Public Hearing: 4-cent Real Estate Tax Hike?

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has advanced a proposal for a 4-cent real estate tax increase, which would mark the first hike in six years, if approved.

A public hearing will be held in the board auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway) over three days, starting Tuesday, April 16. [Learn more.](#)

Itching to Get Those Spring Cleaning Wheels in Motion?

As Fairfax County Collection Customers, you can take advantage of their services beyond trash and recycling.

The county offers five (5) FREE special/bulk pickups per customer, per fiscal year (July 1-June 30). This means that five times a year the county will haul off 2 cubic yards (about 6 ft x 3 ft x 3ft) of waste for you without you ever needing to load up your car. This includes things like refrigerators, small tree limbs, mattresses, wood pallets, TVs, grills, exercise equipment, etc. I myself have used it in order to dispose of a mattress and table. While they won't come for a pickup without you first scheduling one, it is super easy and I think we are incredibly lucky to be able to have a service like this. Now with any super exciting service, there are rules, limits, and procedures so please carefully read through the [Fairfax County Bulk Pickup](#) Page before scheduling your first pickup.

Does that spring cleaning itchiness lead you outside? Fortunately Fairfax County's yard waste pickup has started again for the year! Just place your leaves, grass, shrub, and tree trimmings in compostable paper bags (I get mine from our local bulk-sale club) and place them out on the curb with your trash and recycling bins. There are limits on what they will take, however, so make sure you place any invasive vegetation (English Ivy, Kudzu, [click to see more](#)) in the regular trash and steer away from soil, stumps, large branches, etc, too. [The Fairfax County Yard Waste Pickup Page](#) has more information on how to dispose of yard waste with the county.

Has your itch not been scratched because of a missed pickup? Fairfax County offers email updates and provides a signup [here](#). If you're looking for a more case-by-case update, call 703-802-3322 or fill out a form [here](#). Fairfax County asks you to wait until late in the day to report a missed collection but before 4:30pm the following business day.

Please remember that in Loft Ridge trash and recycling isn't to be put out until 5:00pm Monday night and containers need to be put away as soon as possible on the following Tuesday. Between these times trash and recycling containers cannot be on common grounds and must be within your rear yard. We understand that missed pickups interfere with this schedule, but it doesn't prevent you from bringing your cans back when they're finally empty. Hopefully you're itching to be respectful of your neighbors, too.

Abbie Boyle

President, Loft Ridge Board of Directors



Billions Of Cicadas to Emerge in VA in Rare 2024 Double-breed Event

For the first time in 221 years, two broods of cicadas are set to make an unprecedented emergence this summer in Maryland and Virginia – but not in the DC region. Brood XIII, which comes out every 17 years, and Brood XIX, which emerges every 13 years are set to emerge simultaneously in a rare, synchronized event that last occurred in 1803. And while cicadas used to emerge in mid-May, this year they are due to arrive in April. In Virginia, residents will likely see them in parts of Caroline and King George County, as no cicadas are expected to emerge in the immediate Washington, DC area. [Learn more.](#)

IN THE LIMELIGHT

in the limelight: Meet Mary

“In The Limelight” is a new edition to our newsletter featuring various Loft Ridge residents. This quarter, the Communications Committee Chair selected Mary Kelly (Evergreen Knoll Ct).

Q: *Hi Mary – 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 moved to Loft Ridge in 2003. Its proximity to wooded parkland and my employer, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, attracted me to this community. But I moved here primarily because it seemed like a nice place to raise a family, and it has been. Living on Evergreen Knoll Ct., we are surrounded by nature and friendly neighbors. Six other kids were born the summer when my son was born, and our families have spent many hours playing and enjoying each other’s company on the “grassy knoll,” as we jokingly call it. My son and I both cherish those friendships, and they will help sustain me when my son goes off to college this fall.

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

A: I would really like to see the return of many of the pre-COVID Loft Ridge “traditions” that helped make Loft Ridge a great community for my family, not just a great location for a house. For example, although my son will be an adult in a few short years, I am very keen on bringing back the Spring Egg Hunt and Halloween Parade & Ghoulympics. For several years, our side of the community used to also have a 4th of July bike parade and picnic. We also used to have less formal group picnics on the knoll and neighborhood water fights. It would be great to see that come back too. And whatever happened to those community yard sales? So, I would like to use some of my future free time to encourage those activities. And, if anyone would like to spearhead “box wars” like they have in Australia (and have been cropping up in the U.S. and all over the world), I am all in! Why not reuse all those Amazon boxes before recycling them?!

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

It's GameTime!

Whether you are looking to stay fit or provide an opportunity for your children to play, our Loft Ridge Multi-Sports Court on Ridge View Drive offers a wide range of action-packed options exclusively for Loft Ridge residents and their guests. The courts are normally locked. Go to <https://sequoia.cincwebaxis.com> and find the code under “home”.



Spring Jokes

- Q:** What’s the difference between spring rolls and summer rolls?
A: Seasoning.
- Q:** What did the dirt say to the rain?
A: You’d better cut it out, or my name will be mud!
- Q:** How do you know flowers are friendly?
A: They always have new buds!

Happy Mother’s Day!

Fun facts

- Mother’s Day is celebrated in the U.S. on the 2nd Sunday of May, every year.
- Mother’s Day became an official U.S. holiday in 1914, signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson.
- Mother’s Day is the third highest selling holiday for flowers and plants.
- It’s typically the busiest day of the year in the restaurant industry.

Local Events

Play Unstoppable Festival at LEGO Discovery Center Washington, D.C.

April 5 - May 3, 2024

Be a part of the celebration and take your imagination on an adventure of limitless discovery.

Learn more [here](#).

2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm

April 12-April 13, 2024

Celebrate the start of gardening season with the American Horticultural Society's annual Spring Garden Market at River Farm.

Learn more [here](#).

Vola's Spring Oysterfest

April 13, 2024

Join Vola's Dockside Grill for an unforgettable afternoon of indulgence. Enjoy the salty goodness of unlimited fresh-shucked and specialty oysters, in addition to a delectable buffet featuring a variety of culinary delights.

Learn more [here](#).

Del Ray Dog Fest

April 14, 2024

The Del Ray Dog Fest is a fun outdoor event that will include dog-centered activities, dog menu items, live music, vendors and food.

Learn more [here](#).

Historic Garden Week Old Town Alexandria Tour

April 20, 2024

Enjoy an easy walking tour of Old Town Alexandria including private homes and secluded gardens. Center.

Learn more [here](#).

PNC Parkway Classic

April 28, 2024

Lace up your running shoes for the 2024 PNC Parkway Classic.

Learn more [here](#).

Keep Your Eyes Peeled, Hummingbirds Arriving!

Hummingbirds start arriving this April. If you own a hummingbird feeder or have always wanted one, now's the perfect opportunity.



If you want to enjoy them this summer:

- Place the feeder in a spot you can see and enjoy. The redder the feeder, the better.
- Keep the feeder clean. Nectar spoils easily. In hot summer, you should change the nectar daily and run the feeder through the dishwasher weekly.
- Place colorful annuals and perennials nearby; they like lantana and petunias. Pots on your deck are fine.
- And you don't have to buy pre-made nectar. Just dissolve ¼ cup of sugar in 1 cup of boiling water.

[Learn more.](#)

Spring festival – 100th Anniversary: Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival

One of the most popular events in Virginia, the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival, celebrates its centennial anniversary this year from April 26-May 5, 2024 with the theme “Locally Grown, Globally Shared.” [Check it out.](#)

COOKS CORNER

Bon Appétit's Spring Dinner Ideas

Want to eat something simple and fresh with spring vegetables? Bon Appétit has an amazing sounding lineup of spring dinner ideas.

Click [here](#) for their recipes.

—extracted from www.bonappetit.com

Chai Sugar Cookies

This easy 30-minute recipe will put a smile on your face! These cookies are thick, soft and loaded with sweet warm spices and topped with an espresso glaze.

Click [here](#) for their recipes.

—extracted from www.handletheheat.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 lofridge.com for updates or email board@lofridge.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 lofridge.com for updated dates/times.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee meets on an as needed basis. Please contact the Communications Committee Chair (ComChair@lofridge.com) if you're interested in contributing or serving on the committee.

LIMELIGHT STAFF

Communications Committee Chair

Mindy Mizell Galey

ComChair@lofridge.com

Designer

Erika Wheeler

Contributor

Nicolette Daleske

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

Loft Ridge Board

board@lofridge.com

President

Abbie Boyle (5/24)

abbie.lofridge@gmail.com

Vice President

Michelle Acevedo (5/26)

michellea.lofridge@gmail.com

Secretary

Eric Naide (5/24)

eric.naide.lofridge@gmail.com

Treasurer

Trish Skinner (5/26)

patricia.lofridge@gmail.com

Member at Large

Carie Rothenbacher (5/25)

carie.lofridge@gmail.com

Member at Large

vacant (5/24)

Member at Large

vacant (5/25)

Sequoia Management

703-803-9641

management@lofridge.com

Loft Ridge Group Email

group@lofridge.com

Loft Ridge Classified Email

classifieds@lofridge.com