

Loft Ridge Limelight

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



*Fill each day with fun
And make this holiday season
A very happy one!!*



Christmas Tree Pickup

UNDECORATED Christmas trees will be picked up with trash **ONLY** January 2 and 9. Please do **NOT** dispose of the trees in the woods.



Feeding the Wildlife

Please don't put out food for animals. They are searching more actively in winter but they could end up inside your home or take up residence in your rear yard.

Snow Plowing & Sand

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

Keep It Cleared

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

When It Snows....

Keep the snow cleared in front of your **storm door** to make sure you are able to open it.

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.

New Architectural Control Committee Members

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a positive impact in your community? The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) may be for you! We meet once per month, and our main responsibility is to ensure that any exterior changes that a homeowner requests are reviewed to ensure that they are in compliance with the Loft Ridge HOA guidelines. In the Spring, we inspect all townhouses, looking for maintenance issues or changes that are not in compliance. Homeowners are then notified in writing of any violations and given ninety days to correct the maintenance issues and/or request approval of unapproved changes. The ACC's mission is to ensure we continue to live in an attractive and well-maintained community.

We also recommend guideline changes to the Board, usually based on several homeowners suggesting them or to comply with a new law. When approved, the updates are mailed to each homeowner and also posted on the Loft Ridge website.

The Committee members are your neighbors who have volunteered because we want to keep Loft Ridge the beautiful community that it is. Additional members are needed and welcomed. If you are interested in joining, contact accchair@loftridge.com. Meeting dates and locations are reflected on the last page of each issue of this newsletter.

Lanternflies on Your Christmas Tree?

The lanternflies in Summer 2018 Limelight article may appear on your live Christmas trees. Purchasers are being told to check for any suspicious "bumps" which might be the un-hatched egg masses. Google "lanternfly egg mass" for pictures.

*****Last day for leaf pick-up is trash day, December 18*****

Board News

Contracts for **management, grounds maintenance and snow plowing and sanding** were renewed. **Irrigation systems** were winterized and **tree removal/pruning and stump grinding** was performed.

Aeration, overseeding and mulching were done. November saw the first **leaf removal**; the second is scheduled for December after the last leaves have fallen. The **audit** was completed with no issues.

The Board is in contact with the HOA attorney exploring our options regarding **short-term rentals**.

Winter “Useful Hints”

- If you didn’t drain your outside water lines before the first freeze, you might want to do that now to avoid burst pipes.
- Remember to change your furnace filter.
- Cooking spray on your shovel will prevent snow from sticking.
- Hand sanitizer on your car door key might make it easier to insert.
- How about some tube socks for your wipers to make future snow easier to remove.

Rose Hill Drive Markings



Rose Hill has been remarked to allow for a separate bicycle lane. To remind yourself how to safely turn into the shopping center, access "Driver's Guide to Bike Lanes in Fairfax County" at www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Tree Branches

When you trim or thin your trees and trim or remove bushes, please bag the material so it will be collected by the County. Simply putting items in a pile on the ground near a collection spot doesn’t do the trick.

Snow and Your Trash Can

This time of year it is more important to have your cans out for as short a time as possible. Out after 5 Tuesday and in by dark Wednesday. They can freeze in place, making it difficult to move, and the snowplow has to maneuver around them.

Remember if weather is severe, the County trucks may not collect on schedule but assume they will.

Snow and Shrub Survival

When removing snow from shrubs, use a broom and sweep in an upward motion to avoid breaking branches.

Vehicle Vandalism

It’s getting darker earlier so it’s more important to **keep your porch lights on** to illuminate the parking spaces and **lock your vehicles**. All homeowners who have reported break-ins via Group email have indicated their vehicles were unlocked.

Locked or not, **report any incidences to the police non-emergency number**. Their patrolling areas are impacted by activity.



Stuck or Tires Spinning?

In either case, it’s better to keep the gas light but steady while jiggling the steering wheel. If you floor it, over-torqued tires will melt snow (which will then refreeze), making it harder to get moving. And if the car suddenly gains traction, you can lose control.

Facebook is 15!

On February 4, 2004 Facebook was launched as a universal website to connect people at Harvard University. By March it had spread to Stanford, Yale and Columbia. It quickly expanded to other universities and was incorporated Summer of 2004.



Thank You!

- Kari Buttera for organizing the Halloween festivities for our younger children.
- All who keep the mailbox areas clear of snow so we can get our mail.
- Those who participated in the planting of County-provided trees behind the tennis courts.

Winter Celebrations

December 26 is National Candy Cane Day. Red-and-white-striped candy canes are one of the most iconic candies. They are sweet to eat, great for dipping and stirring a cup of hot chocolate and have been used as Christmas tree decorations since the 1800s.

January 19 is National Popcorn Day. This popular snack can be eaten plain, buttery, salty, cheesy or drizzled with caramel. It can be enjoyed while watching your favorite movie or sports event or used as garland or inexpensive packing material.

January 23 is National Pie Day. Choose your favorite and enjoy.

February 25 is National Chili Day. Great for after shoveling snow!! The recipes are as varied as the number of beans in the pot - - from spicy to vegetarian to con carne.

February 27 is National Pancake Day. An everyday, any meal favorite!

Loft Ridge Reminders

**Poop can full? Put
"deposit" in your trashcan**



DST - March 11



**Keep pets inside in
cold weather**



**ACC Inspections
are scheduled for
April 2019**



Loft Ridge Real Estate Update – Start to Prep for the Spring Selling Season!

Under Contract	TH Type	List Price	List Date	Rentals	TH Type	Rental Rate		
5700 Medallion Ct	End	\$429,900	10/25/18	5732 Lofthill Ct	Int	\$2,500		
4334 Caprice Ct	End	\$499,900	10/11/18					
Sold	TH Type	Sold Price	Seller Subsidy*	Sold Date	Rentals	TH Type	Rental Rate	Date Rented
5713 Evergreen Knoll Ct	End	\$420,000	\$ 0	09/26/18	5632 Ridge View Dr	End	\$2,775	10/13/18
4321 Gingham Ct	Int	\$425,000	\$ 0	10/15/18				
5698 Medallion Ct	End	\$430,000	\$6,000	09/17/18				

* Seller Subsidy is the total seller contributed towards buyer's closing cost. 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 (Realtor)

John Marshall Library Reopened

October 27 finally saw the return on our nearby library after extensive remodeling of the 55-year old building. Hours are Monday 10-9, Tuesday 10-9, Wednesday 10-6, Thursday 1-9, Friday 10-6 and Saturday 10-5.

Featured are twelve public computers, a group study room for six as well as multiple meeting places and two additional conference rooms to accommodate a bright and cheerful children’s alcove.

Please continue to frequent Our Free Little Library on Ridge View Drive which was extremely popular during the library’s remodeling.

Postal Anniversaries

In 1918 the first airmail stamp was introduced, in 1963 the Zip Code was introduced and 1983 the 4 digits were added to it.

In 1973, the first “Love” stamp was introduced for Valentine’s Day and other special occasions.



Winter Weather – Last and Upcoming

For 2018-2019 winter forecasts are for lots (20+) of snow. One forecast says coldest weather will be in January and February with a “memorable” snow of 10+” in February.

December 18-19, 2009 saw 16.4” of the white flakes followed by 17.8” February 5-6, 2010. Then January 22-23, 2016 we saw 17.8”. How quickly we forget!!

We're off to a wintry start with 1.4" of snow and sleet on November 15 which was the first measurable snowfall since 1996 and the biggest in the month since 1989.

Memorable Celebrations

95th Annual Tree Lighting – This tradition started in 1923 and continues to be very popular.

115th New Year’s Celebration – January 1 will be the 115th celebration in New York City.

Pepsi is 115! – Pepsi was first developed in 1898. When it merged with FritoLay in 1903 it became Pepsi Cola, and since 1961 this popular drink has been known as just Pepsi.



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 heavyweight 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!!



Weather “Alerts”

Warning – Conditions for snow event (heavy snow, heavy sleet, ice storm, blowing snow or any combination) expected in next 12-36 hours.

Watch – Same as warning with time frame of 24-72 hours.

Advisory – Same as warning but less snow or ice.

Wind Chill Advisory – within 12-36 hours temperatures can reach or exceed -15 below



National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Second Friday in January has been designated as a day to show appreciation for those in blue. Every day 1 million men and women put their lives in jeopardy dealing with domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder and facing those with lethal weapons.



To say "thank you" say something nice on Facebook or have your child design a card or write a letter and deliver it to your local police station - - ours is at 6121 Franconia Road across from Paradiso restaurant.

FREE Tax Preparation

AARP's Tax Aide Program is available February 1 – April 15. IRS-certified counselors prepare and eFile Federal and Virginia returns. Bring picture ID and social security cards for taxpayer(s) and dependents. 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

First Class Stamps Costing More

Effective January 27, 2019 forever stamps will rise to \$.55 each while additional-ounce postage will decrease from \$.21 to \$.15.

Mailbox Keys

Home Depot on Route 1 now has the ability to reproduce your mailbox keys, blank 136.

BE VIGILANT FOR NEIGHBORS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE DURING BAD WEATHER



Winter arrives December 21

Happy Valentine's Day!



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)

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14-15 – Christmas Illuminations (fireworks) at Mt Vernon 5:30-9:00pm (www.mountvernon.org)

Thru December 23 – Christmas Tree Sales at Edison High School

December 28 – Harlem Globetrotters at EagleBank Arena (www.eaglebank.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

February 1-3 – PAW Patrol Live at EagleBank Arena (www.eaglebankarena.com)

February 16-18 – Celebrate George Washington's Birthday on President's Day (www.mountvernon.org)

Mar 4-5 – Sesame Street Live! Make Your Magic at EagleBank Arena (www.eaglebankarena.com)

LOFT RIDGE BOARD
board@loftridge.com

President

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Louise Whitt ('21)
703-960-0428 – louise.loftridge@gmail.com

Members

Erika Wheeler ('20)
703-329-0642 – erika.loftridge@gmail.com

Vacant ('20)

Loft Ridge Group Email
group@loftridge.com

Loft Ridge Classifieds Email
classified@loftridge.com
(for sale, for free, or wanted)

Archived Newsletters
www.loftridge.com/news/newsletter

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

Sequoia Management
703-803-9641

New Year's Resolution



You are never too old to set another goal, or to dream a new dream - - C. S. Lewis

Board Meetings – 7:00pm
Mark Twain Middle School
Thursday, January 17
Thursday, February 21
Thursday, March 21

ACC Meetings – 7:30pm
Clermont Elementary School
Monday, January 14
Monday, February 11
Monday, March 11
ACCChair@loftridge.com

LIMELIGHT STAFF

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Contributors

Louise Whitt	Maren Seubert
Mark Brunner	Lesa Jones

Free Notary Service

Kelly Campagne – 202-607-6331 Cheatham Court
Louise Whitt – 703-960-0428 Ridge View Drive

No charge to Loft Ridge owners and residents



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