

W I N T E R 2 0 1 9

# Loft Ridge Limelight

Loft Ridge Home Owners Association – Alexandria, VA – [www.loftridge.com](http://www.loftridge.com)



***Celebrate the Season  
with Love!!!***



## **Join Group Email**

To stay current of what's going on in Loft Ridge, like recent paving, join the Group Email through [management@loftridge.com](mailto:management@loftridge.com). You can just delete anything you don't want to open.

## **Christmas Tree Pickup**

### **UNDECORATED**

Christmas trees will be picked up with trash **ONLY January 1 and 8**. Please do **NOT** dispose of the trees in the woods.



## **Yard Debris Collection**

Last day for this service is December 18.

## **Snow Plowing & Sand**

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

## **Inclement Weather Towing**

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.



## **Board Meeting Date Change**

Effective **January 2020 the Board Meetings will be on the second Tuesday** at 7:00 still at Mark Twain Middle School. Agenda can be accessed on our website, home page, click on meeting date.

## **News from the Board**

**Concrete work** was completed as well as **milling and paving** of all our streets. Contracts for **management, grounds maintenance, snow plowing and sand** were awarded and **one to correct water overflow from common grounds** which results in icy conditions on several streets. **Audit** for FY19 was approved and **insurance** was renewed.

**Irrigation systems** were winterized and **tree removal and stump grinding** was performed. **Aeration, overseeding and fall mulching** were done. November saw the first **leaf removal**, the second is scheduled for December.

Contract was also awarded to correct water overflow from common ground which results in icy conditions on several streets. Details on website home page.

**Resolution 38**, Procedures Relative to Assessments was written. It can be found on the website under Governing Documents.

## **Phone in Hand = Fine!**

Effective January 1, 2020 holding a phone in your hand while driving will subject you to a fine of \$125 for first offense, \$250 for any further violations.

**\*\*\*No trash pickup on Christmas Day  
Collection will be the next day\*\*\***

## 2019 Bluebird Box Wrap-Up

Our 7<sup>th</sup> season of monitoring bluebird nest boxes as part of the Virginia Bluebird Trail has come to a close and we had our most broadly successful year ever. Bluebirds had 4 nesting attempts resulting in 15 babies successfully fledged. Most importantly, each area of our HOA with boxes had successful bluebirds nest – a first ever! Tree swallows returned for our 2<sup>nd</sup> year with great success – 2 nesting attempts with 10 babies successfully fledged. Also a huge success was our first year *without* a successful house wren nest. While they are a native bird, they are aggressive and will displace our target species. By moving our nest boxes *away* from the woodland edge in 2018, we have made the boxes less desirable to house wrens and clearly better for bluebirds and tree swallows! If you are interested in learning more about Loft Ridge's bluebird trail or in helping monitor the boxes, please contact Renee Grebe at grebebird@yahoo.com.

## Desire – Ability – Opportunity



Now that winter is near, police advise that 5-9pm is the most opportune time for unwanted visitors in your home. We can't do much about the first element above, but we should do our best to limit the "opportunity."

Lighting is the best deterrent to any forced entry. It's amazing how few porch lights are lit if you walk around after dark. Don't forget the rear of your home.

Good locks on doors and windows will also tend to discourage those who want our valuables. "Ring" doorbells have become very popular.

Be a good neighbor and watch out for your neighbor's house if you know no one is home for a few days.

***Always call the police (703-691-2131) if you notice any suspicious behavior in the Community.***

## Change in Recycling

Glass bottles and jars will end up in landfill even if you put them in your recycle bin but there is a large purple dumpster in the parking lot at the Government Center (on Franconia Rd across from Paradiso) that is designated for glass disposal.

While there, you can dispose of all expired or unwanted medications in the large green container in the lobby.

And remember that tissue paper, bows, bags with glitter and shiny wrapping paper are also not recyclable.

## Deer and Your Plants

A single adult deer eats about twelve pounds of foliage a day. When regular foods like leaves, grass and annuals become scarce, deer turn their attention to woody plants, shrubs and trees that stay green in winter, like rhododendron, arbovitae, yew, holly and those that lose their leaves like oak, willow and dogwood. Deer will tear away at the lower leaves and branches of shrubs and trees which won't grow back evenly and may be permanently damaged, in need of replacement, come springtime. To help deter deer, look for a tropical, all-natural foliar spray.



## Thank You!!

To all for your cooperation in the recent paving project!!

Megan Tomey for the enjoyable Halloween Ghoulympics.

## Easy Sugar Cookies

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour  
1 tsp baking soda  
1 ½ cups white sugar  
1 egg

½ tsp baking powder  
1 cup butter, softened  
1 tsp vanilla extract



Preheat oven to 375. In small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda and baking powder, set aside.

In large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in dry ingredients. Roll rounded teaspoons of dough into ball and place onto ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake 8-10 minutes in preheated oven or until golden brown. Let stand on cookie sheet two minutes before removing to cool on wire racks. Makes 4 dozen.

## Library Weather Closures

Libraries use the weather-closing schedule of Fairfax County **NOT** the School system.

## Loft Ridge Reminders

**Leave Your Porch  
Light On**



**DST - March 8**



**Watch for Children  
and Animals**



**ACC Inspections  
are scheduled in April**



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

Under Contract	TH Type	List Price		List Date
5605 Ridge View Dr	Int	\$470,000		10/22/19
Sold	TH Type	Sold Price	Seller Subsidy*	Sold Date
5723 Evergreen Knoll Ct	Int	\$430,000	\$ 0	09/29/19
5718 Gladden Ct	Int	\$490,000	\$ 0	08/13/19
5700 Ridge View Dr	End	\$495,000	\$ 0	08/30/19

Rentals	TH Type	Rental Rate
4322 Marjoram	Int	\$2,350

Rentals	TH Type	Rental Rate	Date Rented
5716 Gladden	Int	\$2,300	11/10/19

\* 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)

## Weather Memories

Happy Anniversary!! February 5-6, 2010 gave us **Snowmagedden** which dumped **17.8 inches** of snow tying for the 4<sup>th</sup> highest total snowfall.

December 18-19, 2018 produced 16.4 inches of snow.

January 12-13, 2019 produced 10.3 inches of snow. Snurlough was the 9<sup>th</sup> largest snowfall on record and generated the most snow since the January 2016 blizzard.

February 5, 2019 set a new high of 74 degrees beating the earlier record of 70 in 1991.

## Fairfax Alerts System



For those of you who like to be more connected about things like severe weather warnings, bad traffic, government closings, etc [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts) will allow you to customize which alerts you want to receive. You can set up locations you're most interested in getting alerts about (e.g. home, school, work) and you can indicate your method of communication (e.g. email, text). Set up is free and takes just a couple of minutes to customize.

## Memorable Anniversaries

**Crock Pot is 80!** Patent was issued in January 1940 as a slow cooker to cook a traditional stew eaten by Jews in Eastern Europe on the Sabbath. Since they were forbidden from cooking, they would bring pots of stew to a nearby bakery the day before and cook it slowly in the residual heat from the ovens.

In America its popularity was due to a marketing strategy directed at women and has been a fixture in many kitchens ever since.

**Iwo Jima Victory 75 years ago!** The operation to seize the island lasted just over a month and cost the lives of more than 5,000 Marines. On the morning of February 23, 1945, Marines reached the summit. Two Marines found a piece of Japanese drainage pipe while five others affixed the flag. About 10:20am, the first American flag went up. Ships offshore sounded their horns.

Another famous memory of our military keeping us safe!

## Forecast for 19-20 Season

Old Farmer's Almanac has coldest weather mid to late January and early to late February. Precipitation above normal, below average snow. Snowiest slated from mid-late January and early February.

## Toxic Holiday Plants

Holly berries, mistletoe, amaryllis and cyclamen are poisonous if digested, so keep them away from pets. Poinsettia, which many think is bad, is really not that toxic.



## Shoveling Courtesy

Don't throw snow into the street or push in front of islands. It will freeze, turn to ice and when the plow comes through again, the snow will end up behind vehicles again.

Ensure the mailman can get safely to the mailboxes, storm drains are open to allow faster exit of melting snow and fire hydrants need to be exposed. Don't forget access to the pet waste stations. And if those are full, please take your doggie bags home - - when the lid won't close due to overload, a health hazard is created and an attraction for some wild animals will exist.



## National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day



Second Friday in January has been designated as a day to show appreciation for those who serve to protect us by wearing something blue. Consider saying something nice on Facebook or have your child design a card or write a letter and deliver it to your local police station.

## 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.

## 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 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!!



## 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](http://www.franconiamuseum.org))

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 14 – Wreaths Across America** at Arlington National Cemetery ([www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org))

**December 20-21 – Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon** ([www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org))

**New Year's Eve – First Night** is a non-alcoholic, family-oriented celebration in Old Town Alexandria from 7pm-midnight ([www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org)) or call 703-838-5005

**January 31-February 2 – PAW Patrol Live "Race to the Rescue"** at EagleBank Arena ([www.eaglebankarena.com](http://www.eaglebankarena.com))

**February 17 – Celebrate George Washington's Birthday on President's Day** ([www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org))

**Mar 14-15 – Trolls LIVE!** at EagleBank Arena ([www.eaglebankarena.com](http://www.eaglebankarena.com))

**March 20-21 – Harlem Globetrotters** at EagleBank Arena ([www.eaglebank.com](http://www.eaglebank.com))

**LOFT RIDGE BOARD****board@loftridge.com***President***Drew Lucio ('22)****703-795-1032 (cell) – [ddlucio.loftridge@gmail.com](mailto:ddlucio.loftridge@gmail.com)***Vice President***Chris Payne ('22)****202-203-0731 (cell) – [cpayne.loftridge@gmail.com](mailto:cpayne.loftridge@gmail.com)***Secretary***Erika Wheeler ('20)****703-329-0642 – [erika.loftridge@gmail.com](mailto:erika.loftridge@gmail.com)***Treasurer***Eric Naide ('21)****703-329-9391 – [eric.naide.loftridge@gmail.com](mailto:eric.naide.loftridge@gmail.com)***Grounds/Landscaping***Louise Whitt ('21)****703-960-0428 – [louise.loftridge@gmail.com](mailto:louise.loftridge@gmail.com)***Police Liaison***Lance Bunch ('21)****919-440-0967 (cell) – [lance.loftridge@zoho.com](mailto:lance.loftridge@zoho.com)***Webmaster***Nicolette Daleske ('20)****571-594-4072 (cell) – [nicolette.loftridge@gmail.com](mailto:nicolette.loftridge@gmail.com)***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](http://www.loftridge.com/news/newsletter)***Loft Ridge Parents Group***[groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/loftridgemoms/info](http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/loftridgemoms/info)***Sequoia Management***703-803-9641****[management@loftridge.com](mailto:management@loftridge.com)****Board Meetings – 7:00pm****Mark Twain Middle School****Tuesday, January 14****Tuesday, February 11****Tuesday, March 10****Tuesday, April 14****ACC Meetings – 7:30pm****Clermont Elementary School****Monday, January 13****Monday, February 10****Monday, March 9****Monday, April 13****[ACCChair@loftridge.com](mailto:ACCChair@loftridge.com)****LIMELIGHT STAFF****Communications Chair - Louise Whitt****[ComChair@loftridge.com](mailto:ComChair@loftridge.com)****Contributors****Louise Whitt****Renee Grebe****Maren Seubert****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*****Happy Leap Year 2020*****IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

<b>Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Non-Emergency (Police and Fire)</b>	<b>703-691-2131</b>
<b>Animal Control</b>	<b>703-830-1100</b>
<b>Poison Control</b>	<b>202-625-3333</b>
<b>Fairfax Connector</b>	<b>703-339-7200</b>
<b>Fairfax Water</b>	<b>703-698-5600</b>
<b>Dominion Virginia Power</b>	<b>866-366-4357</b>
<b>Fairfax County Trash</b>	<b>703-802-3322</b>
<b>Clermont Elementary School</b>	<b>703-971-2400</b>
<b>Mark Twain Middle School</b>	<b>703-313-3700</b>
<b>Edison High School</b>	<b>703-924-8000</b>
<b>Post Office - Franconia (22310)</b>	<b>703-971-1003</b>
<b>Post Office – Jefferson Manor (22303)</b>	<b>703-317-9286</b>
<b>John Marshall Library</b>	<b>703-971-0010</b>
<b>Voter Registration</b>	<b>703-222-0776</b>
<b>Washington Post</b>	<b>202-334-6100</b>
<b>Verizon</b>	<b>888-363-4498</b>