

Contact Information

Check out our website:
www.AshleyRidgeHOA.org

Sequoia Management Company:
Phone: 703-803-9641

Ashley Ridge Community Newsletter

Nokesville, Virginia

Fall 2011



Recent Facebook Postings

How to join Facebook:

Search Ashley Ridge HOA, Select it, Click on "Ask to Join Group"

Oct 7th: Found: young male bulldog, no tags, prong collar, fawn color. will be taken to the shelter today.

Sept 16th: Just a reminder. Community Yard Sale tomorrow, Saturday September 17 from 7am to noon. Good luck!

Sept 9th: Heard on WTOP this morning that there is a boil water alert for Prince William County as a precaution due to the flooding. The alert is through Monday..

Sept 9th: Heads up. PWCS have cancelled the fourth day of school due to the rain and flooding of yesterday. No school today, Friday Sept 9th.

Sept 4th: Heads up, neighbors. There is a sick (likely rabid) raccoon walking around the neighborhood. I last saw him stumble into the woods at the corner of Rain Slicker and Pouring Rain. I watched him walk up onto several front porches and into flower beds around houses. He's fairly small and black is wandering around the neighborhood with no apparent concern for being seen. I called animal control but they may not come out. And if they do, they may not be able to do anything. Please be careful and pass this along to your neighbors.

From the Board of Directors....

Over the past year, the board has worked hard to beautify our community and to host events to bring the community together to meet each other, socialize, and come together as a community. Some of these efforts have been very successful, some less so. But what stands out is how successful we are as a community when people just like you volunteer to help and participate. Many of your neighbors are very active, always there to pitch in and help. And others may have work or family situations that just don't allow a lot of participation. And there are others, maybe you, who are willing to help, but don't know when, where, or how. But who does and who doesn't volunteer isn't the point here. The point is that the more people who do help then the more things we can do that benefit all of us and the better our

community becomes. We want to talk about what you can do to help.

At this time, our community has an Architectural Review Board (ARB -- the committee to whom you submit your requests to build fences, decks and make various other changes to your home) and the ARB has an opening. We also have a pretty new but increasingly active Communications Committee (who is bringing you this newsletter) which would also welcome additional volunteers, and an "as required" Landscape and Open Spaces Committee that occasionally needs help with projects. What we do not have is a Social Committee. We've had lots of great ideas for community events, but very few people to make the ideas reality—the Social Committee is an excellent opportunity to get involved and have fun at the same time!

So as you can see, there

are a number of volunteer opportunities on the committees, all of which exist to make our community a better place to live. Now you may be asking, do I have to belong to one of the committees? No, you don't, mostly you just need to be willing to pitch in and help make an event or project happen whether in helping to plan, prepare, set up, help during and pitch in to clean up after. So even if you are not able to be on a committee, at least let the people who are (or the Board of Directors) know that you'd like to help and they'll make sure you're included in what they do.

This is our community and it is a good community, but becoming a great community depends on individuals coming together to make it a great community. Come and help us make Ashley Ridge into a great community! If you have time to give, contact us at ashleyridge-BOD@sequoiamgmt.com

Seasonal Family Events

Looking for something fun to do with the family? Check out these events:

Applefest—Stribling Orchard - August through November. Exit 18 West on Rt 66 in Markham, Va.
<http://striblingorchard.com>

Pumpkinville— Sept 24th—Nov 8th—Leesburg Animal Park 19270 James Monroe Highway. Hay rides, hill slides, hay mazes, pumpkins and more. <http://www.pumpkinfestleesburg.com>

Cows-N-Corn—Pumpkin Picking, Un-Haunted Hayrides and the Corn Maze at 5225 Catlett Road. Saturdays, 10:00 am -9:00 pm; Sundays, 12:30 pm-7:00 pm.
www.cows-n-corn.com

Burke Lake Ghost Train Rides— Oct 22 - 30, Burke Lake Park

Midland Apple Fest—November 5, 10-3pm, Midland Church of Brethren, 10434 Old Carolina Road, Midland Va <http://www.midlandbrethren.org/id19.html>

Bull Run Festival of Lights—Bull Run Regional Park 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, Virginia

Holly's Tacky Christmas Lights—Fairfax, Va



Help Keep our Ponds Clean

Ashley Ridge has four beautiful ponds that many of our residents enjoy each day. We have two large storm water retention ponds and two natural ponds. The two larger ponds can be accessed from Aqua View Court and Pouring Rain Place. Our two natural ponds are hidden in the common areas, one at the corner of Rain Slicker and Pouring Rain Place. The other is nestled in the common area off of Rain Slicker on the left past Breezeway Drive. If you haven't visited these natural beauties, this is a great time of year to do so. You may see any of the abundance of wildlife that flourishes in and around the pond like ducks, geese, turtles, frogs, blue and green herons, red winged blackbirds, hawks and then there are the bass and sunfish that you can see when you fish at our catch and release ponds.

Our ponds need some tender loving care to keep them free of pollutants and flourishing with natural wildlife. Our ponds can suffer when the pond water quality changes. The water can be too green or too brown, or polluted. The best pond quality is having the right balance. Water quality problems can be prevented by everyone by keeping sediment, nutrients, and pollutants out of our ponds. The storm water drains throughout the community (the ones at the curbs) drain into the ponds of which trash, fertilizers and pollutants enter the ponds. This article is to build an awareness of how we can all work to keep our ponds clean. We all know, like anything that we value, it is easier and less costly to complete preventive maintenance, rather than wait until there is a problem. This summer one of our ponds did accumulate an over abundance of algae that could have compromised the living conditions of the ponds. Our community will be here for many years and many children and grandchildren will enjoy our ponds.

There are some easy ways that we can each prevent our ponds from being the dumping ground for pollutants and excessive nutrients. Small changes in our habits will help. Here are a few suggestions:

- Pick up after pets, always. Use the plastic bags and place their waste in the trash or flush down the toilet.
- Recycle your motor oil, paint and antifreeze at the local disposal facility. Never, never pour them down the storm drain.
- Compost your yard waste or bag it for our trash company to pick up.
- Put litter in the trash. Using trash cans to cut down on trash blowing away.
- Fertilize in the fall, if at all, to reduce the rapid increase of algae our ponds. Use an organic fertilizer. Chemical fertilizers can and do feed many of the soil microbes even in our pond, encouraging the growth of algae.

Use a "green" soap like Simple Green to wash your cars and other tools around the yard. Whether you live one block from a pond or five blocks from a pond in Ashley Ridge, pollutants and chemicals in your yards can make their way to the ponds when it rains, snows, or the wind blows which ultimately drains to Broad Run then makes its way to the Chesapeake Bay. Let's all work together to keep our ponds clean for everyone to enjoy.

Sequoia Management Company
13998 Parkeast Circle
Chantilly, VA 20151-9641

We're on the Web!!
www.AshleyRidgeHOA.com
We're on Facebook!!
 Ashley Ridge HOA

HOA Committee Updates

The Homeowners' Association has four committees that plan and provide activities and information to Ashley Ridge. Community members are welcome to be involved and contribute to the goals of each committee. These are the latest updates:

Architectural Review Board (ARB) - Reviewed several architectural applications in September. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Caribou Coffee in the Braemar Village Plaza. All applications need to be sent to Sequoia Management prior to the ARB's review.

Landscape Committee - The Landscape Committee is coordinating the planting of replacement trees along Vint Hill, adding trees along Linton Hall, and improving the turf around the Aqua View pond (the one with the fishing pier). To volunteer or help with these efforts contact the landscape committee at arlandscape@sequoiamgmt.com

Communications Committee - Published this newsletter. If you have an idea for an article or would like to contribute to help write articles please contact the committee at arcommunications@sequoiamgmt.com

Social/Event Committee - This committee needs community support. If you are interested in helping plan, support, or offer time to any event for our community contact arsocial@sequoiamgmt.com



Recycling your Trash with Charlie and Son Trash Service

Recycling is mandatory in Prince William County. Charlie and Son Trash Service only accepts a limited list of recyclable items compared to what is accepted by Prince William County recycling centers. Charlie and Son Trash is responsible for sorting the recycled items picked up, before taking them to local recycling centers. We must help our trash service with this task. Here are some helpful hints to assure that your recycled items make it to the recycle center.

- Acceptable Items by Charlie and Son:**
- Plastic #1 & 2 - remove caps and rinse
 - Clear and color glass bottles -remove caps and rinse
 - Aluminum and tin cans - rinsed
 - Mixed Paper: magazines, catalogs, phone books (placed in paper bag)
 - Newspapers ONLY (placed in paper bag)
 - Flattened cardboard (no plastic coating)

- Acceptable Items at Prince William Recycle Centers:**
- Plastic #1-7 - remove caps and rinse
 - Cans, glass bottles — remove caps and rinse
 - Junk mail, magazines, catalogs, newspapers, phone books
 - Food boxes
 - Wax coated paper (milk cartons)
 - Flattened cardboard
 - Foil Wrap and Pie Pans - cleaned

- Unacceptable items:**
- Light bulbs
 - Ceramic dishes
 - Cookware
 - Pizza boxes
 - Styrofoam
 - Packing materials
 - Plastic bags (can be recycled at Harris Teeter)

Trash Service: Charlie and Son Trash Service 703-670-9652 Pick up: Monday & Thursday Recycles: Monday Only

Board Meeting Schedule

November 8, 2011

7:00pm

[Victory Elementary School](#)

Our Board Members

President:
Dana Richard

Vice President:
Mike Barber

Secretary:
Trent Janda

Treasurer:
Jun Zou

Member At Large:
Charles Kapur

Board Meeting Topics (Past/Present)

September:

- Draft 2012 Budget
- Piedmont Landscape Proposal tree replacement and fertilization

- Community Landscape Plan

November:

- Finalize 2012 Budget
- Tree Replacement

Core Aerating – FALL the perfect time

Curb Appeal

Aerating is the process of removing small cores of soil from your lawn. It is one of the very best things you can do to give your cool-season lawn a boost and get it off to a healthy start. Aerating relieves soil compaction, improves water and nutrient movement in the soil, increases rooting, and prevents thatch accumulation. Lawns growing in heavy, clay soils and those subject to heavy foot or pet traffic should be aerated twice a year. Don't expect miracles from a single aeration, particularly on lawns growing on extremely poor soil. Lawns that receive this care will be healthier, more vigorous, and easier to maintain and have fewer pest problems than lawns that are neglected, as well as the reduction of thatch.

Bulb Planting Tips

Fall is the best time of year for planting bulbs, when they have time to establish roots and settle in for winter.

Choose wisely. The best bulbs to come back every year are daffodils, grape hyacinth and Spanish bluebells. All these plants naturalize well, come back year after year and are rarely bothered by squirrels or chipmunks.

Watch your depth. Most bulb packaging comes with a recommended range. The trick is planting to the deep end of the range, which helps insulate bulbs from early warm spells and keeps them from roasting in hot summers.

Select sun or shade. Full sun is best for many fall plantings, especially for tulips. Spanish bluebells will take more shade than most bulbs, and daffodils will bloom in partial shade but may not come back as vigorously year after year.

Prep the soil. Loose, well-drained soil is best. Amend hard soil with plenty of compost or soil conditioner. Bulbs will rot in a poorly drained soil, especially if it stays wet in the winter.

