



Seneca Ridge

RUNNER

JANUARY 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE SENECA RIDGE
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.senecaridge.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LEA NIGON

Welcome to 2016! Another year has passed and your board has been working very hard for you. Some of its accomplishments in 2015 include a new path bridge near Trail Ridge Ct., securing funding for a traffic safety study and improvements near the entrance to our community, holding a town hall meeting to get your feedback regarding proposed changes to our governing documents, and sponsoring a spring community clean up, a community yard sale, and a Halloween parade. I am very proud of the work of the past board, and send kudos to our outgoing members, Steve Honard and Brandon Henry and a hearty welcome to our newest board members, Orest Swystun and Beth Baker. Your HOA board members volunteer their time and talents to help make our community the best it can be!

To the right you'll find a listing of your 2016 board of directors for your reference. Please note too that you can always see this info, as well as a calendar of events and home improvement application forms on our website, www.senecaridge.org.

YOUR NEW BOARD

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President

Lea Nigon

srhoaLN@gmail.com

Vice President

Orest Swystun (new member)

Secretary

Peggy Franklin

Assistant Secretary

Beth Baker (new member)

Treasurer

Vicki Rundquist

SRHOATreasurer@gmail.com

Architectural Review Chair

Stephen Mann

Vice Chair

Abul Tareque

Common Grounds

Greg Swiatocha

Newsletter

Open (your name could be here!)

SRHOANewsletter@gmail.com

Social Activities

Zeleste Agosto Henry

Webmaster

Jenny Le-Pettigrew

Board Member

KC Holland

UPDATE TO PROPOSED COVENANTS CHANGES

On April 20, 2016 you will have a chance at a special meeting of the association to consider and vote on proposed changes to the HOA's Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions. The Board has worked diligently with the community to develop the amendments to the Declaration. Each proposed amendment will require an affirmative vote of 2/3 of all households to pass. More information will be coming to you in your mailboxes next month along with your dues notice.

***Do you have an
interesting story you
would like to share
with your neighbors?***

**Send your ideas to
SRHOANewsletter@gmail.com**

WHERE IS MY DUES NOTICE?

VICKI RUNDQUIST, TREASURER

Those of you with nothing else to do during December may have noticed that we did not send out our annual dues notice last month. The board has decided to wait to send out the dues notice until February so we can include information about updates to the covenants in one package. We are optimistic that by linking the covenants issue to the dues letter, we will get a better response rate to the covenants questions, as homeowners will be able to return the covenants paperwork with their dues check. We will also save money by avoiding two separate mailings. For those of you not at the annual meeting, you'll be happy to know that dues for 2016 were frozen at the 2015 level of \$80 per year. Payments are due 1 April 2016 . So look for your covenants and dues envelope in the mail sometime next month!

Save the Dates!

**Annual Assessment due
April 1st**

**Special Meeting of the
Association April 20th**

HELP WANTED! NEWSLETTER EDITOR!

Have you ever published a newsletter or thought it would be fun to do so and would like to help your community at the same time? We are in need of a new newsletter editor so that we can continue reaching all homeowners in the year ahead. We write the articles and do all the printing and mailing. You simply assemble the articles into a newsletter format ☺

You do not need to be a board member nor attend meetings to perform this important function for our community. So please write to SRHOnewsletter@gmail.com if you have an interest. We appreciate your consideration ☺

PLEASE NOTE

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE HAS CHANGED

The Seneca Ridge Board of Directors has changed the day that we regularly meet from the second Wednesday of the month to the second Thursday of the month in order to accommodate the schedules of our board members. This change will begin with our next regular meeting in February as noted to the left. Monthly board meetings are open to all members and the dates, times and locations are posted on our community website, www.senecaridge.org. We welcome your attendance ☺

**Next Board Meeting is 7:00 PM
Thursday, February 11th at
Cascades Library**

CHORE CORP "FIX-IT" PROGRAM

Chore Corps is a "fix-it" program that provides handyperson-type repairs and chores in and around the house for older adults and adults with disabilities. Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers (LVC), a local nonprofit and Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, a local government agency, have partnered to offer this home chore/repair program to help older adults and adults with disability to maintain independence and quality of life. Chore Corps is not a replacement for professional, contracted work.

Repair and service options include, but are not limited to:

- Snow shoveling
- Plumbing
- Carpentry
- Home weatherization
- Minor electrical
- Lawn & yard maintenance

There is no fee for any service provided; however, recipients cover the cost of any needed materials.

For more information about Chore-Corps, call:

Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers 703.779.8617

Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging
703.777.0257

“PUT A FINGER ON IT” FREE SMOKE ALARM ASSESSMENTS

Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management is committed to preventing fires in the home and ensuring the survival of residents should a fire occur. Collectively, they are implementing a program to ensure all homes in Loudoun County are protected by working smoke alarms.

Members of the fire and rescue system are prepared and willing to visit your home to offer a free smoke alarm check. They will replace batteries and may provide or replace battery-operated smoke alarms if needed. To request a visit call their public education hotline at [703-737-8093](tel:703-737-8093) or complete the smoke alarm installation request form at www.loudoun.gov/smokealarms. Smoke alarms are an important safety feature that alerts homeowners when smoke is present from a fire. They are a relatively inexpensive investment, given their outstanding track record of success in saving lives over the last 30 years.

Smoke Alarm Safety Tips

- Test your smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button.
- Change the smoke alarm batteries according to the manufacturer’s instructions, usually once a year.
- Replace smoke alarms after 10 years or sooner if they do not respond properly. They may be purchased locally at most hardware and home improvement stores.
- Create and practice a home escape plan so that every family member knows what to do in the event of a home fire.

Include two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside.

HOME HEATING SAFETY

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.
- Before going to sleep, ensure the fire in your fireplace is completely extinguished. NEVER close the fireplace damper with hot ashes in the fireplace, this may force toxic carbon monoxide into your house.
- Always let ashes cool before putting them in a closed metal container. Keep the container outside, a safe distance away from your home.
- If you use an electric heater, do not overload the circuit. If you must use an extension cord, choose one that has a built in surge protector and that the cord is rated for the amps required.
- Always remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Keep children and combustibles at least three feet away from all heating equipment, stoves and fireplaces.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, colorless, odorless gas that is created when fossil fuels like gasoline, natural

gas, propane, and wood burn incompletely. In the home, cooking and heating appliances can be potential sources of CO. Vehicles and generators can also be sources of this "silent killer".