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President's Message

LEA NIGON

This time of year reminds us of the importance of family, friends and community. We at the Nigon household feel very fortunate to have found a great community here to raise a family and nurture long-lasting friendships. Whether you are new to Seneca Ridge or are an 'original', on behalf of the Board may I wish you and yours the very best during this holiday season and into the New Year.

Neighbors Making a Difference

BRANDON HENRY

Kathy Coleman and Troy Wingard held a supply drive on September 22, 2013 to support individuals and families in need for the Good Shepard Alliance (www.goodshepherdalliance.org). They were able to collect various items such as cleaning supplies, food items, diapers, toilet paper, and other donated items. "This was the first year I have done anything with GSA and I plan to have [semi]annual drives - one in the spring and one in the fall."

The Good Shepard Alliance is a non-profit organization that provides help to the homeless and needy through housing and outreach services.

30 Year Celebration Follow-up

ZELESTE AGOSTO HENRY

Dear Neighbors, our 30 year celebration was a complete success! Without you it couldn't have happened. We had well over 60 residents partaking in the activities. We met new and old neighbors and took time to get know it each other a bit better. We ate burgers, enjoyed home-made side dishes, and the kids loved the bouncy house.

Once again, we want to thank the volunteers and offer all a sincere thank you for coming out and making this event such a great one!



Troy Wingard and Kathy Coleman gathering donations at their residence

Do you have an interesting story you would like to share with your neighbors?
Send your ideas to
SRHOANewsletter@gmail.com

Save the Dates!

- SRHOA annual assessment due January 1, 2014

Inclement Weather Preparedness

LEA NIGON

Whether we like it or not we all know that ice and snow are part of living in Loudoun County. Here are some handy tips and resources to help you.

- **During power outages:** Be sure you have a battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio (and extra batteries). Get one with the NOAA Weather Radio band so you can hear winter weather reports directly from the National Weather Service as well as local radio stations. These are available at electronics, discount and sporting goods stores, and online from many retail outlets. Models are available for those with special needs.
- **Don't use candles** during power outages: Many home fires in winter are caused by candles. Flashlights are much safer. Be sure to have plenty of extra batteries.
- **Remove cars** from street or park on odd numbered side of street. To make the snow removal process easier, VDOT recommends that residents avoid parking on the street, but if you have to park your car on the street, park on the odd numbered side of the street. The more cars are parked on the street, the less amount of snow is able to be plowed.

What your dues do for you

VICKI RUNDQUIST

As you can see from the enclosed dues letter, the Board has frozen the 2014 dues amount at the 2013 level. So what does your money pay for? One big expense is associated with the HOA's common areas. You may not have realized that Seneca Ridge's property goes all the way back to—and in some cases across—Sugarland Run behind the houses on Seneca Ridge and Potomac Ridge.

We also have several smaller common areas interspersed on each street. All this area requires insurance coverage and the smaller areas must be maintained. The Board renegotiated the maintenance contract this year, saving several thousand dollars. We must also occasionally make repairs to the paths in the common areas.

Another expense this year is legal fees. The Board has hired an attorney for the first time in many years. The goal is to review our 30-year-old governing documents and assist us in updating them; help the Board draft policies for enforcing covenants, and in general, assist the Board in governing the Association in the best manner possible.

There are much smaller costs associated with sending out dues notices, newsletters, and architectural review letters. We also budget small amounts for celebrations such as the annual Halloween Parade and Community Yard Sale.

Any left over funds are saved for unforeseen expenses. Having a reserve of funds would hopefully spare the Board from levying a special assessment in such a situation. So as you pay your \$83.75—which is less than \$7 per month—please remember that these funds are used judiciously to keep Seneca Ridge a wonderful community in which to live.

Important numbers:

VA Power: 1-888-667-3000

Emergency shelters: 2-1-1

Loudoun County Office of Emergency Management:

703-777-0333

For snow removal information:

<http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/snow.asp>

To see the status of plowing in your neighborhood:

<http://novasnowplowing.virginia.gov>.

Please note that the website only is only active when two or more inches of snow have fallen.

For real-time traffic updates and road conditions:

<http://www.511virginia.org/>

Reporting unplowed roads or hazardous conditions:

email novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov

or call

1-800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623)

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