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## A Tough Year on Mirror Ridge Trees

By Landscaping Committee

The forces of nature -- windstorms and a hurricane -- took many community trees this year. Hardly any Bradford pear tree escaped damage. Major branches were broken out of many, and a maple and numerous Bradford pear trees were destroyed. Our landscape contractor removed 23 stumps. We still have a couple of large trees in the natural area and some large branches that are a "hanging" hazard that need to be removed, and we expect this to be done shortly.

Within the normal budget, the landscape committee planted nine trees this year (half before the storm damage) and a couple of small bushes. With help from a resident, we salvaged four small trees from the property now being developed between Twinridge and Silhouette Square. These trees were then transplanted in our community. We also saved daylilies and liriopse, which we planted at the middle playground. We then repaired and sodded the area around one of the storm drains.

In the spring, we do expect to start replanting along Mirror Ridge Place and elsewhere in the community. However, unless funds can be found outside the "normal" landscape budget - this will be an incremental process. We welcome any volunteers to join our committee and assist with our landscaping endeavors.

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## Holiday Trash Removal

As a reminder, there is no trash pickup on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year's Day. Trash or recycling will be picked up on the next scheduled collection day.

**Christmas Trees** will be picked up on 1/8/04 and 1/15/04. No special bundling is required. Just leave the trees on curbside for pickup.

**American Disposal Services**  
Customer Service: 703-368-0500

## Community Contacts

### Koger Management

- Diane Hartman: 703-771-3995

### HOA Association

- Ed Talhame, President: 703-433-9515
- Irv Chilcoat, Vice President: 703-430-8289
- Shelley Grandy, Treasurer: 703-421-9402
- Jeff Herbel, Secretary: 703-444-5849
- Neil Falcone, Member-at-Large: 703-421-8989
- John Monihan, ARC: 571-434-3997
- Dayle West, Landscaping: 703-444-9449

*Please go to our website:  
[www.mirror-ridge.org](http://www.mirror-ridge.org) to email us.*

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## HOA Meeting Dates

HOA meetings are held at 7 pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Cascades library. All homeowners are encouraged to attend these meetings. Next meeting dates: **December 11<sup>th</sup>**, **January 8<sup>th</sup>**, **February 12<sup>th</sup>**, **March 11<sup>th</sup>**, and **April 8<sup>th</sup>**.

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## Winter Safety Reminders

- **Lights** – *As a courtesy, please turn on your porch light during the dark evening hours. Many areas in Mirror Ridge are poorly lit.*
- **Snow** – *Please make sure you shovel the sidewalk in front of your home.*
- **Water** – *Turn off outside water supplies to avoid freezing and pipe bursting during the cold weather.*
- **Trash Cans** – *Mark your trashcans and lids with your house number for easy retrieval on gusty days.*



## Neighborhood Watch

By Neil Falcone

The Neighborhood Watch Program was started in Mirror Ridge about 10 years ago. Since then, a number of homeowners have left the area and are no longer with us. Consequently, the program has become inactive. In the last few years, dramatic changes in our population density have increased. Our homes and neighborhoods are supposed to be our safe havens and final refuge from outside threats.

Years ago, there was little need for a program which encouraged citizens to keep a watchful eye on their neighbor's property. In contrast, today criminals recognize that neighbors are less concerned about the security of the community.

We as a community can insure that our homes, automobiles and other property can be greatly protected by our own participation in a program of organized involvement. Prior to embarking on a large-scale neighborhood watch program, a small group of citizens and a volunteer representatives separate from the HOA board, should meet to plan the organization of the program.

There will be increased solicitation for this matter as we explore our options. Please feel free to respond to this article at future HOA meetings as we actively need your participation.

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## Graphics Designer needed

We are looking for someone in our community to volunteer and come up with a design or logo for Mirror Ridge. This design would be used in Mirror Ridge publications, such as the newsletter, and on the Mirror Ridge website. If you are interested in helping out, please email [treasurer@mirror-ridge.org](mailto:treasurer@mirror-ridge.org) or call Shelley Grandy at 703-421-9402.

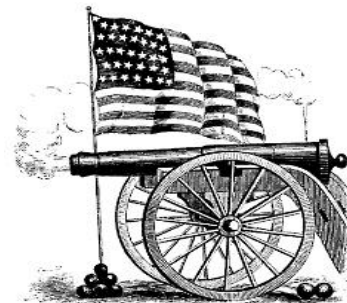
## A Brief History of Mirror Ridge

Lee's invasion of Maryland in 1862 would have been a complete surprise, except for the watchful vigilance of Lieutenant Miner of the Signal Corps, who occupied Sugarloaf, the highest point in Maryland. From this lofty station were visible the more important fords of the Potomac.

Mirror Ridge was one of the network signal stations referred to by A. W. Greely, Major-General, United States Army, in his memoirs of the Signal Corps. It was from Mirror Ridge that the Cavalry sent and received signals to and from Jed Hotchkiss, Engineer of Andrew Jackson's (then R. S. Ewell's) 2nd Corps at Sugar Loaf Mountain.

Signal messages were sent by flags, torches, lights, mirrors, and rockets of red, white, and green. To secure secrecy, important messages were enciphered by means of a cipher disk. The messages ran like this: "Fire one mile to the right. Fire low into the woods near the shore."

According to Greely, Signalmen would occupy high trees or lofty towers. The messages were discerned by high power telescopes.



This article is a summary relating to some Mirror Ridge history found at: <http://communities.microneil.com/sterling-va/fallsridge/history.html>

As time and further research efforts allow, we will continue to post Mirror Ridge-related history articles.



## A Word From our HOA President

*By: Ed Talhame*

As I wish you Happy Holidays in this last issue of our 2003 newsletter, on behalf of all the board members and myself, I would like to summarize last year in few words.

As we all know, Mother Nature hindered many of our projects and drained our HOA financial resources. However, we managed to finish the playgrounds and we still plan to complete repairs of the sidewalk expansion joints. The streets and the stripping will be done in the spring of 2004.

With this newsletter you'll receive a memo outlining the Mirror Ridge rental requirements, as per the Federal and local laws.

Finally, as a reminder - visitors' parking is for visitors and only for short time, not exceeding 48 hours. This includes the three additional visitor's parking at the end of Beacon Dr. Any homeowners parked in visitor's parking will be towed even if a tag is displayed.

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## HOA Board and ARC Changes

The current board and committee members would like to extend a warm thank you to both Len Weiser and Dave Mahaffey for their years of service and hard work to improve our Mirror Ridge community. Len most recently served as HOA treasurer. Dave most recently served as the Chairman of the ARC and had served previously as HOA president.

The board is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Herbel as interim HOA secretary and John Monihan as ARC Chairman.

Personal involvement in our community is what makes the difference. Our board and committees urge all homeowners to participate in positive community involvement, volunteer some time, and help improve our community.

## Community Upkeep

- **Please do not litter in our community.**
- **Note rules regarding trash/recycling:**
  - Trash is to be put out the night before at or after dusk (usually around 5 p.m.) and not the day before.
  - Trashcans are to be removed from the front of your home as soon as possible after trash has been collected. Trashcans are not to be stored in the front area of your home.
  - Do not pile your trash across the entire sidewalk. Leave room for those who need to walk on the sidewalk.
- **Bicycles, skateboards, and other items are to be taken in at night or stored in the back of your home.**
- **No double parking or blocking the path of other vehicles. Each home is allotted 2 parking spaces and if you park in another resident's space without his approval, or in visitor's parking - you will be towed!**

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## Playgrounds

Now that we have the new playground equipment, let's take care of it! It belongs to the Mirror Ridge Community and the Community should take an interest in caring for it. Please make sure your children are supervised and are using the equipment in a safe manner at all times. If you do see someone destroying property or misusing the equipment, please say something or contact Shelley Grandy at 703-421-9402. Thank you!

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## *New Town Home Development*

Chase Homes, Inc. is in the process of completing a new town home development off of Mirror Ridge Place. This new complex is independent from our Mirror Ridge community and details we have so far are as follows: 15 town homes will be built, starting at \$319,900 for interior units, and ready in June 2004. We will continue to keep the community updated as more information about the development becomes available.



Winter 2004

### ***Classified Advertisements***

*This service is free for Mirror Ridge residents without any endorsement or guarantees.  
Please email [treasurer@mirror-ridge.org](mailto:treasurer@mirror-ridge.org)*

## Real Estate

For sound advice on buying or selling homes in Mirror Ridge, contact :

**Faye Talhame**  
703-980-3170

[faye@1realtor4loudoun.com](mailto:faye@1realtor4loudoun.com)



## **Total Maintenance**

*"We do it all from A to Z"*

703-856-1234

703-705-9400

**Bob Frankel, Owner**

[mainttotalztoz@aol.com](mailto:mainttotalztoz@aol.com)



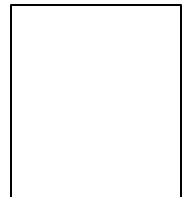
## Alterations Specialist Any Sewing Requirements



**Contact: Mrs. Ngu Yen**

**703-406-3913**

Mirror Ridge Homeowner's Association  
c/o Koger Management Company  
312 East Market St, Suite C  
Leesburg, VA 20176



# Reflections



### **EMAIL UPDATES:**

*If you would like to receive your Mirror Ridge Newsletter and other important updates via email, please send us an email to [president@mirror-ridge.org](mailto:president@mirror-ridge.org) and type subscribe in the subject line.*