

# BLUE RIDGE SHADOWS

Quarterly Insight into your Community

## President's Corner

Spring is around the corner. The new board is working out well, and new tasks are on our to-do-list. We have requested from DR Horton an update on the turn-over of the roads and outstanding list items. As you may have noticed, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) did a better job clearing snow off Shadows Drive up to John Hopkins No. than DR Horton's contractor did throughout the entire community.

The Blue Ridge Shadows Golf Club asks BRS residents not to sled on the golf course when it is covered in snow, for two reasons; liability, and damage to the course. In addition, avoid walking across frozen grass which damages the grass blades, killing the grass. It is private property.

In the coming months, golf club management wants to partner with our community do hold joint events. Sheila Asbury, at-large Board member, has volunteered to head a committee to work with Brian, the club manager. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lisa at Coventry Management Group.

The Board is looking into lowering the speed limit on SR 522 as it crosses Shadows Drive. It will involve conducting a traffic study before VDOT will consider speed reduction. We are working on this issue with the Warren County Sheriff, and the County Zoning Departments. In addition, we have the agreement from our County Board representative, Delores Oats. Several homeowners have agreed to compile signatures of companies supporting a reduction of the speed limit down to 45-mph from Fairgrounds Road south and eliminating the use of jake brakes by the tractor trailers. We are looking to you, our community, in helping collect signatures from local businesses. If interested, please email [blueridgeshadowsnews@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgeshadowsnews@gmail.com).

Scott Kersjes

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## Know before you dig!

### DIAL 811

If you are planning any type of digging project, you are required to Dial 811. Dialing 811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number. It is the LAW. Utilities, such as electricity, gas lines, and cable lines, are buried very close to the surface. There is no cost to the homeowner for this 811 service and protection.

#### WHAT?

Dial 811 to submit a single address ticket to request markings on your property.

Once a single ticket is requested and processed, crews are dispatched to the address to mark utility lines with environmentally friendly, color-coded lines and flags to indicate location of underground utilities.

#### WHEN?

Allow at least three business days (excluding weekends and legal holidays) before beginning any digging project. Most reputable contractors know to make this request prior to beginning a project, whether installing a fence, a deck, a patio, a pool, a hot tub, or planting trees or shrubs. Remember to ask your contractor, if they are going to submit a request for you.

Once the request is submitted, markings will be completed in approximately three business days.

For ALL excavation work ANYWHERE in Virginia! Call 811 or 1-800-552-7001.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



## Private Gun Club

Excerpt from Winter 2020 letter

Dear Neighbors,

Blue Ridge Shadows is surrounded by a 50-year-old family hunt club that is active during the hunting season on a secured range on over 800 acres of privately-owned property. All hunt club members are responsible and the youngest member of the club has been a member for over 20 years.

Some of the Blue Ridge Shadows lots are adjacent to gullies and we are all situated within a valley. These geographical features amplify the sound of the hunt club's activities. However, all activity occurs on private property in accordance with local, state and federal laws.

Thank you.

Dave and Debbie Seekford

## Meet your Board members

### **Scott Kersjes**

*Board President*

Resident since 2018

I was voted in as a BRS board member in 2019. I started as Vice President and transitioned to President in July of that year.

I graduated from Indiana University with a BS from School of Public and Environmental Affairs. After college, I served in the U.S. Army as an Infantry Officer in both the U.S. and Germany, medically retired in 1988. I completed my military service in the U.S. Army Reserves until I retired in 1995.

I have worked several years for commercial real estate management companies in Asset Management, Property Management, and Construction Management.

I represent the North River District of Warren County as Planning Commissioner. My vision for BRS is to be part of a Board that is fair and consistent while keeping fiduciary responsibilities in mind to protect the value of the homes in BRS. I live in the Highlands with my Irish Wolfhound, Keeva.

### **Stephen Horvath**

*Vice President*

*Term: 2024*

Resident since September 2017

I've been a full-time firefighter since 1998. I also work as part-time green's keeper at Blue Ridge Shadows Golf Course on my days off since September of 2017.

### **Thomas Galloway**

*Treasurer*

*Term: 2022*

Resident since January 2017

My hope is to resolve issues within our community, as a whole, but even more specifically within the townhome community, where I am a homeowner.

### **Kara Kohl**

*Secretary*

*Term: 2022*

Resident since February 2017

I want to bring more amenities or options to the neighborhood for residents with children of all ages and abilities.

To make our neighborhood appealing with features that best other communities in Warren County.

### **Sheila Asbury**

*Member-at-large*

*Term: 2024*

Resident since July 2020

Being a Blue Ridge Shadows Board Member affords me the opportunity to see our community, to continue to develop positive relationships through "live, work, and play" as a community is defined. With my background in educational and community research, I have spearheaded social events within schools and communities which led to relationships being strengthened and encouraged a healthy living environment for all regardless of age or gender. My goal is to advocate for decisions and recommendations that will serve and benefit our community as a whole.

## New HOA Portal

Only 45% of homeowners have registered in the new HOA portal.

Please take the time to set up your account. Register on owner access portal through the [ComWeb](#):

Owner Access Portal:

- Check your account balance and make payments
- Update your profile
- Check on open and pending compliance items
- Access meeting minutes and budgets
- Contact your association manager
- View announcements and alerts
- And much more...

## Safety Committee

### Please keep off the Blue Ridge Shadows Golf Course.

It is private property. It is important that all residents keep off the golf course at **ALL** times. The paved trails and grass areas are for golfers use only and not for BRS residents. The golf course is not part of our community nor paid by your HOA assessment. Please stay off the grass and trails as golfing season picks up. The speed of golf balls have been clocked at soaring through the air at upwards of 147 mph. For the safety of our children, pets and residents, do not walk, jog or ride bikes on any part of the golf course property. Please respect private property. You are trespassing and can be at risk of being hit by a golf ball.

Safety committee members wanted: If you would like to be a part of the BRS Safety Committee, please let us know! We will continue to meet on-line via Skype for 2022. If you have a concern throughout the year, please notify our Community Manager, Lisa, at [LNokes@coventrygrp.com](mailto:LNokes@coventrygrp.com).

A special THANKS to all the dedicated homeowners who have participated in the Safety meetings these last two years! It's OUR community and we care!



## Call for Committee Members

Our community is only stronger and better with the help of its volunteers.

- Architectural Review Committee (ARC)
- By-Laws Review Advisory Committee
- Communications
- Activities
- Safety

If any of these committees are appealing to you, have a talent and desire to be part of your community, please reach out to Lisa Nokes at [LNokes@coventrygrp.com](mailto:LNokes@coventrygrp.com).

## ARC Spring Inspection

As Spring and Summer 2022 approaches, it is time to look at the condition of your home. Homeowners need to do their part to maintain Blue Ridge Shadows pleasant appearance as well as hold property values. In March and April all lots will be inspected for compliance. Management will not enter any property to conduct their inspections.

A friendly reminder will be sent to each homeowner noting the items that need attention. It is NOT a violation letter but a friendly reminder that some items on your lot may need attention and potential repairs. Please don't hesitate to contact Community Manager, Lisa, at 540-327-9628; [LNokes@coventrygrp.com](mailto:LNokes@coventrygrp.com) to let her know of potential violations and how to correct them.

The main items to focus on are:

- Painting: What is the conditions of your exterior doors, trim around the doors, and windows? Are they peeling or cracked?
- Gutters: Are the gutters and downspouts in order and not damaged or missing?
- Garage Doors: Is your garage door(s) in good working order, not damaged or dented?
- ARC Compliance: Have all alterations to the lot been approved and are all colors in compliance with the ARC Guidelines and Procedures?
- Roof: Is the roof missing any shingles, or are lose shingles coming up and need to be nailed down?
- Landscaping: Are the beds free of weeds? Are the bushes and trees pruned?
- Siding: Is the siding in good repair? Does the siding have mildew or stains and need power washing?
- Clutter: Is the front porch and other areas of the yard clear of unsightly clutter, debris and trash?





# Community Events

## Graduating Seniors

We know it's been a tough couple of years for our community, especially our children who see-sawed between virtual and in-person learning. Thank you parents and teachers for being the support system our kids needed in a tough learning environment. Virtual learning has been a frustrating and often times difficult process to navigate. Let's recognize our seniors that didn't give up and completed the task of learning, studying and graduating under these circumstances.

If you have a senior graduating from high school or college in 2022, BRS would like to honor your senior in our June newsletter. Please send an email to: [blueridgeshadowsnews@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgeshadowsnews@gmail.com) by May 15, 2022 with the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School graduating from \_\_\_\_\_

continuing on to a trade, or continuing education \_\_\_\_\_

Order your **FREE** at-home COVID-19 tests. Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order up to 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them. Order through the United States Post Office [www.special.usps.com/testkits](http://www.special.usps.com/testkits)



[Order Free at-home tests](#)

## Adopt-A-Highway

Spring is the time to clean up our roads. If you are interested in participating in trash clean up of our VDOT sponsored roads in BRS, please email [brscleanup@gmail.com](mailto:brscleanup@gmail.com) and details will be sent to you with the date and time of the next Spring Clean-Up.



Front Royal's own Shenandoah National Park is seeing some significant changes in 2022. Check out [Discover Front Royal](#) with some upcoming changes at Shenandoah National Park.

The biggest change Shenandoah National Park visitors will experience is a ticketing system designed to reduce crowds at Old Rag. One of the park's most popular hikes, Old Rag has begun to suffer from overcrowding during peak seasons of the year. Starting March 1, 2022 Old Rag hikers will need to pre-purchase a \$1 ticket to secure their spot on the mountain's famous trails. [Old Rag tickets](#) will not be available at the trailhead and must be purchased in advance.

Camping Fee Changes at Shenandoah National Park are expected to go up too. [Campground users will pay \\$30 per night, with the fee for group campsites going up to \\$75.](#) Check it out before you go!

# Community Events



The Rotary Club of Warren County is hosting the first annual RIDE WITH ROTARY fundraiser event benefitting two local charities:

Reaching Out Now and Cars Changing Lives.

### RIDE WITH ROTARY

Registration is now open

There are multiple routes to chose from, all routing through the beautiful and historic Shenandoah Valley

10 Mile - Casual Ride

24 Mile - Quarter Century Ride

50 Mile - Half Century Ride

64 Mile - Metric Century Ride



The Front Royal Thermal Shelter runs again this winter through April 2, 2022. It is dedicated to improving the lives of the homeless in our community. The cost of running the Thermal Shelter in the 2021/2022 Season averages \$2,000 a week. This increase was due to the need for additional staff. This past season the shelter served 93 individuals with close to 30 men and women each night.

The demand is high and they need help from the community to provide meals, if you can donate breakfast, lunch or dinner, visit [Thermal Shelter of Front Royal](#) for more information or find them on Facebook. Contact 540-892-6108.

If you cannot donate a meal, consider donating laundry detergent, fabric softener, paper products, cups, plates, bowls, coffee, sugar, and creamer.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

You don't have to be a member of a church to volunteer. Volunteers are always needed to help with laundry in the evenings, driving the van for evening pick up, or over night support. (No children allowed after the Shelter opens).

Come in for an hour or all evening. Play a board game or have a quiet discussion with our guests.

Monetary donations are always appreciated via PayPal, or mail a check to PO Box 454, Front Royal 22630. Food and clothing donations can be dropped off (socially distanced) in person, the shelter is located in the back side of the building (between the gym and Diversified Minds), 465 W. 15th St. Front Royal, VA 22630 after 6:30pm any evening.

If making a donation during the day, (M-F 9 am - 4:30 pm), please enter the front of the building. The Thermal Shelter staff thanks you in advance for your donations and support.

The logo for the Edward Jones 5K Race for Education. It features a stylized sun rising over a book, with a graduation cap in the center. Below the logo is the text 'Edward Jones 5K RACE FOR EDUCATION'.

Race for Education  
The Edward Jones 5k Run/Walk supports the College Access Network and Warren County & Skyline High School Cross Country teams

Saturday, March 12, 2022  
Warren County Middle School  
522 Heritage Drive Front Royal, VA 22630  
\$20 Registration Fee

LOG ON TO [EDWARDS JONES 5K](#)  
8:00 am - Registration opens  
9:00 am - Race begins  
9:45 am - Awards Presentation



The **95th** Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® returns on April 22 through May 1, 2022. This year promises the return of all fan-favorite events including parades, dancing (oldies, 80s, 90s and square dancing) get your dancing shoes on, see Queen Shenandoah royalty, popular celebrities, carnival games, golf classic, tennis tournament, wine and cider tastings, orchard tours, a country music party, apple pie baking contest, fire truck rodeo, delicious food at the midway, and marching bands filling the streets with joyful sounds that resonate the fond message that “Bloomin’ Good Times” are back. Check out the official [video](#).

Our own Coventry Group Community Management will be hosting their popular Breakfast Walk on Thursday morning, April 28, 2022, from 8:00 to 10:00 am at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. Tickets are \$25.00/ea. The event includes a walk along the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley trails with views of pastures, wildlife, plants, and other natural elements, followed by a full breakfast outside, weather permitting, or under a tent.

All event tickets sell quickly, tickets can be purchased in person at Festival Headquarters, by phone at (540) 662-3863 or through their new online ticketing system at [The Bloom](#). Mark your calendar and be part of the 95th Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® this Spring.



## **We Plant Trees 5K Family Fun Run**

Sky Meadows State Park  
Sat, April 30, 2022  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Hit the trails of Sky Meadows State Park and aid the environment at the inaugural Family Fun Run hosted by local nonprofit, We Plant Trees. Time is on your side when you can walk the 5k course at your own pace and enjoy a fun-filled morning while supporting your local environment. This event is free and all ages are welcome to participate, leashed dogs are welcome too! All participants will receive multiple 1-gallon native Virginia trees (Eastern Redbud, Sycamore, White Oak, Red Maple, Serviceberry, Silky Dogwood, Willow Oak, American Beech, Tulip Poplar, and more) to plant when they get home. Be sure to share your plantings and race photos at [@weplanttreesorg](#) on social media!

Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m., with the Family Fun Run/Walk beginning at 10 a.m. from the Turner Pond Entrance. Although the race is free, pre-registration is strongly encouraged! This event is rain or shine.

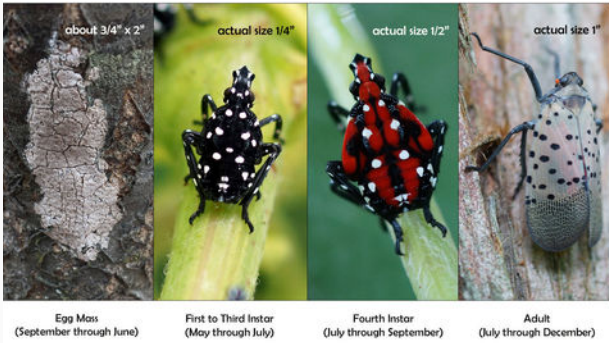
We Plant Trees is an organization working to help combat the buildup of carbon dioxide through carbon sequestration, assisting insect pollinators, improving water quality, and mitigating global climate change while enhancing the habitat and beauty of our region for a healthier, more sustainable environment. They have planted over 23,000 trees since the start-up of our organization in 2019, with a plan of planting many more to come! To learn more, please visit their [website](#).

Sky Meadows State Park  
11012 Edmonds Lane  
Delaplane, VA 20144  
[View Map](#)



# Spotted Lanternfly

## Spotted Lanternfly Life Cycle



They are colorful moths worthy of an Instagram post, but they are an invasive species that can wreak havoc on trees, plants and other landscapes, resulting in millions of dollars in damages to our Virginia grapes, peaches, hops and other crops.

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, was detected in Winchester (Frederick County) on January 10, 2018. SLF invaded Winchester and have made their way to Warren County. So many have been reported in Frederick County that reporting sightings are no longer necessary but the [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#) would like your cooperation in managing and controlling this pest in Warren County.

While most adult spotted lanternflies freeze in the winter, their eggs can survive over winter and are viable from about October through July. A single egg mass could hold 30 to 50 eggs. The eggs masses are covered in a light gray colored wax that looks like mud when it dries and can be found on trees and other objects around your house. The eggs hatch May through July.



egg masses



The invasive Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is the Spotted Lanternfly's preferred host tree. A host tree is a target tree that provides the insect with nourishment and support during all, or some, of its life stages. However, the egg masses have been found on outdoor furniture, pallets, cars and on houses. Become familiar with what they look like and destroy the egg masses before they hatch into nymphs in the Spring by scraping them off. After the eggs hatch, you will find emergence holes on the masses where the nymphs crawl out. They are black and white spotted and then turn to red and white spotted.



Tree of heaven

### hatching nymphs



Nymphs usually climb up trees to feed on softer growth. If you see an adult or eggs, remember to please; **SQUASH, STAMP, or SCRAPE** the insect/eggs away!

They are harmless to humans and animals. Adults are attractive with red on hind wings. Don't let them fool you, they are invasive to Virginia and a nuisance to our crops and our vineyards. Be on the look out, and destroy the SLF in whatever stage you find them.



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