

## Why keep trees on your property

- “The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams.” -USDA Forest Service
  - A fully grown tree may lose several hundred gallons of water through its leaves on a hot, dry day. About 90% of the water that enters a plant’s roots is used for this process.
  - It [transpiration from trees] allows for exploitation of soil water at greater depths compared to evaporation from the soil surface. This results in relatively high evaporative losses, even when soils have dried considerably. <http://www.css.cornell.edu/faculty/hmv1/watrshed/Seasons.htm>
  - Under forests, water losses from transpiration are 2 - 6 times higher than evaporative losses from the soil surface. <http://www.css.cornell.edu/faculty/hmv1/watrshed/Seasons.htm>
- Well-established, deeply rooted plants more fully use the soil’s hydrologic buffering capacity. This allows the soil to take in more water before the onset of leaching or runoff. <http://www.css.cornell.edu/faculty/hmv1/watrshed/Seasons.htm>
  - “Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating.” -USDA Forest Service
  - “In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension.” -Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University
  - “Shade from trees could save up to \$175 per year (per structure) in air conditioning costs.” -Dr. Lowell Ponte

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October 2005

# Apalachee Plantation Homeowners’ Association Newsletter

## October 29—Clean-up Day

SET aside *October 29* from *9 a.m. to noon* to do your part in keeping our common areas presentable. This year we are attacking the kudzu along Fort Daniels Drive. Bring your weed-eaters, cutting blades, and any other tools that you think you might need to attack the kudzu. Also, be sure to wear closed toe shoes, long pants and maybe even a long sleeve shirt, and have leather gloves for protection and safety.

We will also be planting bulbs at the entrance area. If you aren’t up to the kudzu, bring your digging and planting tools.

Meet at the drive into Fort Daniel Elementary School on Fort Daniels Drive at 9 a.m.

## HOA Board Members

- **Association website:** [www.apalacheeplantation.com](http://www.apalacheeplantation.com)
- **HOA E-mail:** [apalacheeplantation@yahoo.com](mailto:apalacheeplantation@yahoo.com)
- **President:** *Lee Adkins*
- **Vice President:** *vacant*
- **Secretary:** *Travis Nolan*
- **Treasurer:** *Madeline Andrade*
- **Member-at-large:** *Mary Farmer*
  
- **Contact information is on-line at** [www.apalacheeplantation.com](http://www.apalacheeplantation.com)
- **Lee Adkins can be reached at: 404-432-6878**

## Cutting Your Tree? Think Twice

A NUMBER of large trees have been cut down recently in our subdivision. Please remember that trees are protected by our county and by our neighborhood covenant. Before cutting any tree, first make sure that it is on your property. Cutting a tree on the common areas, or on state or county land is a crime.

Our neighborhood covenant does allow for tree removal on your property. However, before cutting any tree above 4 feet tall or with a diameter of 6 inches, you must obtain permission from the Architectural Control Committee. See page x for a few additional reasons for keeping trees on your property.

## Liens To Be Placed on Properties

THE HOA will be placing liens on the properties of any home owners who have not paid their HOA dues. Please note, that when a lien has been placed on your property, your home cannot be sold until the lien has been removed.

## Neighborhood Safety

- *Speeding through the neighborhood.* There are many blind curves and hills in our neighborhood. If you drive faster than 25 mph, it may only be a matter of time before you hit and/or injure, an animal or child. Please observe the law.
- *Children should not play in the street.* Even a slow driver may not notice a child. Our yards and driveways offer plenty of space for even the most energetic child.
- *Bike riding.* Please observe caution at all times. Bike riders: don’t assume drivers see you. Ride defensively.
- *Stop signs are not optional.* You must stop before proceeding

## Halloween Observed on Monday, October 31

IF YOU plan to celebrate Halloween with your children, we suggest you do so on Monday, October 31 between 6 and 9 P.M. Parents, please be with your children, and only go to houses with the front porch light on. If the front porch light is off, please respect the wishes of the home owner and skip that house.

## Respect Property Rights

PLEASE, always clean up after your animals. No one should have to pick up after your pet, or worse yet, step in their waste. Letting your animal defecate on private or common property and leaving it there is rude, lazy, and illegal. Always carry bags when walking your animal. We appreciate the considerate pet owners who take responsibility for their pets and clean up after them.

## Home Checklist for Fall

FALL is almost here – a time when changes in temperature and moisture levels can adversely affect your home. Follow these tips to see how a small investment of your time and money could end up saving you a lot of time and money later.

### On the exterior:

- Inspect roof. Doing a thorough inspection now could prevent expensive emergency repairs later. Look for damaged or loose shingles, gaps in the flashing and damaged mortar around the chimney and have any problems repaired by a professional.
- Inspect exterior walls. Repair any cracks and damaged mortar, loose siding and trim, and cracked or decaying windowsills. Stairs can become more treacherous in inclement weather – so make sure you fix any broken steps or banisters.
- Clean and repair gutters. Removing debris from your gutters will prevent possible damage to your landscaping, foundation and basement from overflowing water. You may also want to consider installing gutter guard screens to prevent debris from building up. When standing water in clogged gutters freezes, it can cause cracks and other damage.
- Trim trees. Inclement weather can cause damaged or weak trees to break. Inspect your trees for rotted wood, mushrooms growing at the base, cracks or splits in trunks, or trees with leaves of unusual color or size. Call a professional to remove any dead or rotting branches or trees.

### On the interior:

- Check heating system. Have your heating system serviced before the winter cold sets in. It is also a good time to change the filters in your heating and air conditioning systems and have your fireplace and chimney inspected by a certified chimney specialist. You should check your water heater for any leaks and test your smoke/fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Learn the plumbing system. Make sure you know where the main water shut-off is located and how to operate it. The quicker you turn off the water when the pipes freeze, the more likely you will be able to prevent them from bursting. Having well insulated pipes will also help prevent them from freezing.
- Check the insulation. A well-insulated home will reduce your heating costs. Generally, your attic should be five to ten degrees warmer than the outside air. If not, you may have a problem with your insulation. The insulation in the basement is important as well. It helps to prevent pipes from freezing. Other places where cold air can leak in are through damaged weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors. Also, look for windows with chipped or peeling paint or with glass that needs reglazing.

We trust you have found this information helpful as we head into the winter months. We are committed to helping you with your real estate needs and questions year-round. Please keep us in mind if you or if someone you know is looking to buy or sell.

*Carl and Brenda Wiley, Keller Williams Chattahoochee North*

*Carl: 404-402-8845, Brenda 404-754-2728, Website: wileyrealtygroup.com*

## Community Improvements

WE'RE sure everyone is happy with the greatly improved road condition of Fort Daniels Drive now that it has been repaved. We are working with the county to have other streets in our subdivision repaved.

The four-way stop at Fort Daniels Drive and Fort River has made that intersection much safer for everyone. Unfortunately, many drivers are running the stop sign and putting themselves and others at risk. Stop signs are not optional. You must stop before proceeding.

Road work continues on Mountain Fort Way.

The lights at our main entrance have been repaired after what appears to have been a lightning strike.

### Garden Checklist for Fall

*Over the next two months, Pike's suggests:*

- Apply a granular weed-preventer on yards and in established flower beds.
- Remove summer annuals and replace them with pansies, violas, dianthus, and snapdragons.
- Incorporate a new tree in your landscape (be sure to get ACC approval first).
- Drain irrigation systems before winter.
- Shred fall leaves with your lawn mower and use the shredded material as mulch under trees and shrubs.

*Information courtesy of Pike's Family Nurseries*

### Cats on the Loose

There are many apparently stray cats in our neighborhood. However, the number of homeless cats is increasing and becoming a nuisance and a safety and disease risk. Please keep your own animals inside. Animal Control will be patrolling our neighborhood.

## Fall, Finally

WELL it seems once again we have survived quite a Georgia summer. With the combination of extreme moisture and heat, I hope your yard has made it. Now is the time to repair some of summer's damaging affects. So get ready to get outside, enjoy, and take pride in your yard again.

Fall is the best time to repair any damage done to your lawn. Bermuda grasses will begin to slow down their growth while fescue seems to find new life. This is attributed to cooler temperatures along with adequate amounts of precipitation (hopefully). Now is the time to apply a good winterizer to prepare for colder weather. Aeration and over-seeding will help your fescue revitalize and repair any 'bare spots.' Core or plug aeration will be more beneficial than using the spike variety. Apply a thin layer of wheat straw to cover any large area after aeration and over-seeding to retain moisture. Also check for any drainage or run-off issues affecting your fescue. This is the easiest time to repair them.

Fall also is the best time to plant or transplant. Plant a tree for a special occasion. This will hold fond memories while also adding beauty to your property along with all the benefits trees bring. Trees and shrubs have a better chance for a more productive cycle, due again to the on-sit of cooler temperatures and rainfall. Water these new plants every other day for a few minutes only. Too much water can be just as harmful as not enough. Remember to condition the soil for planting using an organic mixture along with a good layer of mulch. Mulch, be it pine straw or bark, will act as an insulating layer for the cooler months.

Take advantage of Fall and all its glory because before you know it, you won't

want to go outside again for awhile.

*Tip by Jamie Burns, owner of Reliable Lawn Care, specialists in low maintenance and native gardening. 770-596-3042. Call for a free estimate.*

### Covenant Reminders:

- 6.15 Parking and Maintenance of Vehicles: Vehicles owned or used by Owners or Occupants of a Residence shall be parked only in a garage or on the driveway serving the Residence, and not on the streets of the Development. All vehicles parked outside of a garage must be properly licensed and in working order, and no vehicle maintenance should be conducted for extended periods of time outside of a garage.
- 6.16 Commercial and Recreational Vehicles and Trailers: In addition to the restrictions of Section 6.15, no commercial vehicle, house trailer, mobile home, motor home, recreational vehicle, camper, truck with camper top, boat, or boat trailer, or like equipment shall be permitted on any Lot or within the right-of-way of any street in the Development on a permanent basis, but shall be allowed on a temporary basis not to exceed twenty-four (24) consecutive hours. . . . any such vehicles or equipment may be stored on a Lot, provided such vehicle or equipment is kept in an enclosed space and is concealed from view from neighboring Residences and streets.

## Reliable Lawn Care

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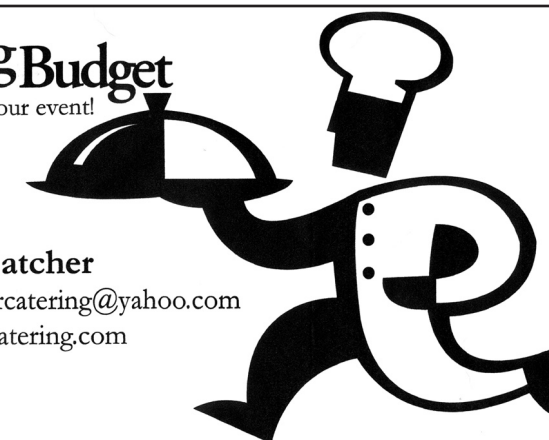
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