

# Apalachee Plantation

## Homeowners' Association Newsletter

### Water Restrictions Continue

**W**ATERING of existing landscape may be done for no more than 25 minutes between midnight and 10 a.m., on an odd-even address schedule. Watering may only be done by one person at a time at an address, using one garden hose with an automatic shut off when released. Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday are for even-numbered addresses, and odd-numbered addresses are allowed Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. No one is allowed to water on Friday.

Sprinklers of any kind, whether manual or automatic, are not allowed. Persons using rain water or gray water may water at any time; however, please keep in mind that early morning is better for plants as less water evaporates.

For residents with newly installed landscaping, additional watering is allowed for ten weeks, but only after completing the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program. The program is available online at [www.urbanagcouncil.com](http://www.urbanagcouncil.com). You may also contact the Gwinnett County extension office for further information.

People who successfully complete an Outdoor Water Use Registration Program be allowed to water newly installed landscape up to three days a week following the odd-even schedule for a period of ten weeks following planting. Registrants learn proper watering techniques and the importance of water conservation. The Outdoor Water Use Registration Program is available online. Citizens can also contact their county extension agents for information about the registration.

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### Parents, Are Your Kids Street Smart?

**O**UR CHILDREN are home for the summer and need things to keep them busy and entertained. Playing and bike riding outdoors is certainly better for them than vegetating in front of the TV, or playing video games. Playing or bike riding in the streets, however, is dangerous. A child injured, or killed, does not only devastate the grieving family, it can destroy the driver and driver's family. Parents, please make sure that your children do not put their lives in danger due to ignorance of basic safety rules or from lack of respect for adults and cars. No matter how slowly and carefully a driver may navigate through a group of children, they may not see a child dart in their path until too late. Drivers, keep in mind that children are impulsive and unpredictable. Drive at **NO FASTER THAN 25 MPH**. Let's all do our part to avoid a tragedy none of us wants.

#### Rules of the Road

Below are some of the rules applying to bike riding in our neighborhood. A skateboard is under similar restrictions as they are considered vehicles. For the complete list of rules, go to: <http://www.gohs.state.ga.us/gabikelaws.html>

- A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto and shall allow no person to ride upon the handlebars.
- No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- No person riding upon any bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled, or toy vehicle shall attach the same or himself to any vehicle upon a roadway. *continued on page 2*

### Water Savings Tips from Conserve Water Georgia

**A**S WE continue to suffer from a prolonged drought, we can all play a part in helping to conserve water. Here are a few tips that are easy to do, take little or no time, and can save you money.

**Reuse clean household water.** Collect all the water that is wasted while waiting for the hot water to reach your faucet or shower head. Use this to water your houseplants or outdoor planters. Do the same with water that is used to boil eggs or steam vegetables. If you keep a clean, gallon container by the tub, you can run a gallon into it before turning on your shower. The water will warm up faster, you will have a gallon for your garden, and you lose less time waiting for the shower to warm up.

**Cut back annuals and perennials during dry spells.** They'll need less water, and will recover when it rains.

**Collect water from your air conditioner and downspouts.** Place a bucket or bowl under your air conditioner drip pipe. On hot days, you may find it overflows. Rain barrels can fill up in as little as one good rain. That's 55-75 free gallons of water that would have just run off down the street.

**Prioritize plants.** Practice garden triage, or "treeage." Give water to food gardens, and plants most difficult or expensive to replace, such as trees and shrubs, then perennials. Annuals can easily be replaced.

**Mulch.** Cover the entire area from the trunk to the ends of the branches with pine straw, bark chips or shredded hardwood mulch. Use newspapers underneath the mulch to help the soil retain moisture.

**Set your lawnmower blade higher, and keep your blade sharp.** Longer grass blades provide shade and help hold in moisture longer. Mow lawns as little as *continued on page 2*

## Air Conditioner TLC

**W**ITHOUT proper maintenance, an air conditioner loses about 5% efficiency every year. As this will be reflected in electric bills, and in replacement costs, it just makes sense to keep our air conditioners in good repair. Especially so, when, with good maintenance, an air conditioner should last about 15 years. Here are a few tips:

- Check all hose connections for leaks, and make sure the condensate tube is draining freely.
- Change or clean the furnace filter monthly.
- Allow at least a foot of open space in all directions around the unit to allow adequate airflow.
- Clean registers and air vents regularly, and make sure they are not blocked or covered by drapes or furniture.
- Have your air conditioning system inspected by a service technician. A \$50-\$100 annual tune-up can reduce your cooling costs by five percent.

### *Cooling without an air conditioner*

- Planting a tree to shade the house is the best move you can make. Plant your tree to shade the areas hit by the afternoon sun as this is the hottest time of the day. A mature shade tree can reduce air conditioning costs by 10-50%.
- Close your curtains and blinds. Keeping the sun out keeps the heat down.
- Turn off the light. Lights, even with energy efficient bulbs, produce heat.
- Cook outdoors or use low-heat appliances such as slow cookers to keep extra heat down.
- Use dishwashers and clothes dryers in the cooler parts of the day/night.
- Look into whole-house fans, and check attic ventilation for other cost-reducing measures.

## Street Smart from page 1

- Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, except when turning left or avoiding hazards to safe cycling, when the lane is too narrow to share safely with a motor vehicle, when traveling at the same speed as traffic, or while exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction; provided, however, that every person operating a bicycle away from the right side of the roadway shall exercise reasonable care and shall give due consideration to the other applicable rules of the road.
- Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
- No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or other article which prevents him from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.
- Every bicycle when in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a light on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of 300 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear of a type approved by the Department of Public Safety which shall be visible from a distance of 300 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlights on a motor vehicle. A light emitting a red light visible from a distance of 300 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.
- No person under the age of 16 years shall operate or be a passenger on a bicycle on a highway, bicycle path, or sidewalk under the jurisdiction or control of this state or any local political subdivision thereof without wearing a bicycle helmet of good fit, fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet.
- 40-6-297.
- It is a misdemeanor for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this part.
- The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit such child or ward to violate any of the provisions of this part.

## Dogs on the loose

**L**ATELY there have been a number of dogs running loose and challenging people walking down the street, and even coming onto a home owner's property and attacking or behaving threateningly. Pet owners—be aware that an animal in violation of county ordinances can land you in jail, and your pet impounded or even euthanized.

More info: <http://www.gwinnettcountry.com/cgi-bin/gwincity/egov/ep/gcbrowse.do?channelId=-22524&pageTypeId=536880236>

## Water saving tips from page 1

possible during droughts to avoid additional stress, and cut at the highest possible setting. Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade in one mowing. Allow mulched clippings to remain on the lawn to help cool the soil and retain moisture. Keep your blade sharp, as dull blades shred leaf tips, causing the turf to use more water than necessary.

**Keep off the grass.** Avoid walking on grass during periods of drought stress.

**Aerate your lawn.** Aeration improves the movement of water and nutrients into the soil, decreases run-off and encourages the roots of grass to grow deeply and to become drought tolerant.

For more WaterSmart tips, visit [www.ConserveWaterGeorgia.net](http://www.ConserveWaterGeorgia.net).

## Board Members and Contact Information

President: Lee Adkins

Vice President: Ren Burnette

Secretary: Carolyn Neira

Treasurer: Madeline Andrade

Member-at-large: Salvador Fuentes

E-mail: Contact Any HOA Board Member at: [apalacheeplantation@yahoo.com](mailto:apalacheeplantation@yahoo.com)

Mailing address: PO Box 923; Dacula, GA 30019

Website: [www.apalacheeplantation.com](http://www.apalacheeplantation.com)

Lee Adkins can be reached at: 404-432-6878

*Monthly Gardening Advice from  
the Gwinnett County Extension Service*

*July*

- Watch shrubs carefully for water stress. Apply adequate water but don't over water. Water shrubs under trees more often.
- Check ornamental plants for insects and control as necessary.
- Watch for Powdery Mildew on crape myrtle and apply fungicides where damage is severe.
- Remove old flowers from annuals and perennials to encourage more blooming.
- Fertilize annuals and roses monthly throughout the growing season.
- Now is also the time to prepare your fall garden plan.

*August*

- Do not prune azaleas now. This will reduce flowering in the coming spring. Old crape myrtle flowers should be removed as soon as their color fades.
- Continue to remove old flowers from annuals and perennials to encourage more blooming. Because summer can be hard on many perennial flowers they can also benefit from trimming back leggy growth.

*Quality of Life Maintained*

Home Owners, please remember that it is part of our covenants and the Gwinnett County Code that lawns be mowed, and that grass should not be allowed to grow onto, nor clippings left or blown onto the sidewalk or street.

Also, parking of cars, boats, trailers, etc., is not allowed in yards.

All violations will continue to be reported to the Gwinnett Quality of Life. To report violations go to: [www.gwinnettqualityoflife.com](http://www.gwinnettqualityoflife.com)

*Ads*

*Ads can be placed for \$15 per year for homeowners and \$25 per year for non-homeowners.*

*Contact the HOA*

- Fertilize your lawn. Lawn areas may need water during drought. Continue to watch for insect and disease problems in turf areas.
- Fertilize annuals and roses monthly throughout the growing season.

*September*

- Prune ornamental shrubs for shape only.
- Divide and transplant ornamental grasses such as liriopse. Now is also a good time to divide iris and daylilies.
- Fertilize roses early in the month; this is the last application until spring.

*New Liens Added*

WE HAVE taken action and began processing liens on homes where the owners have not paid their HOA dues. Keep in mind that a late fee is charged monthly for those owing dues. If you wish to work out a plan of payment, the HOA Board will be happy to work with you. Please email the board at: [www.apalacheeplantation.com](http://www.apalacheeplantation.com).

Total Burn Ban in Gwinnett County  
May 1-September 30



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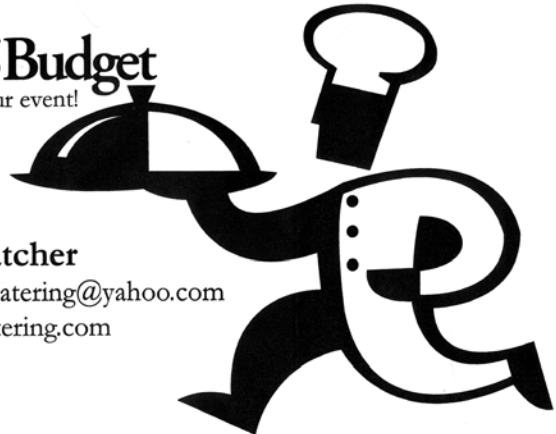
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Super Bowl Parties, Office Parties, etc.

## *Caring for Your Wooden Fence*

A NEW fence adds to the value of your home. It also provides a secure playing area for children and pets, along with privacy and beauty. Before installing a fence, remember that you must receive approval from our HOA, and receive a permit from the county.

While a new or well-maintained fence adds to a home's value, a poorly maintained, graying fence can detract from both the value and curb appeal of your home.

Sealing a fence helps preserve the natural color of a fence. Staining protects the wood while changing its color.

Painting also protects the wood and changes the color and hides the wood grain itself.

Sealing a wooden fence or deck minimizes damage that comes from expanding and contracting from water absorption, then drying. The sun damages its surface much as it damages ours, breaking down the wood cells. Mildew and algae on a fence are just plain ugly.

Wood waterproofing products are available that allow you to clean and seal your fence and deck on the same day. Cleaning will often require using a pressure washer, while sealing is best done using a garden sprayer on a small area, then brushing to reduce running.

Resealing needs to be done every two to six years depending on weather the wood is vertical or horizontal. To test if your wood needs to be resealed, splash water on it. If it soaks in, it's time to reseal.

For additional information, see:

[http://www.ronhazelton.com/tips/Waterproofing\\_Exterior\\_Wood.htm](http://www.ronhazelton.com/tips/Waterproofing_Exterior_Wood.htm)

<http://www.ronhazelton.com/projects/weather-proof-Deck.htm>

## *HOA Meeting Update and Election Results*

A NUMBER of concerned home owners attended our annual meeting in April. A major concern of all was maintaining the attractiveness of our neighborhood through enforcing our association covenants and county codes. Election of new officers was also held. Please see page 2 for the current officers and contact information. We hope to see even more owners next year.

To see past and present copies of our neighborhood newsletter, please go to our website at: <http://www.apalacheeplantation.com/newsletters.html>.

## *A Word of Thanks to Good Renters*

WE HAVE a number of rental properties in our neighborhood, and while many of those properties are made obvious by the lack of maintenance of the house and lawn. There are also a number of homes being given exceptional care. To those residents, we welcome you to our neighborhood and are proud to call you neighbor.

## *Thank you to Residents who went the extra mile*

DUETO a number of residents refusing to honor their legal obligation to pay the association fee, Apalachee Plantation was unable to continue its contract with our lawn maintenance company for a number of months and service was discontinued. Several of our home owners took it upon themselves to cut the lawn in common areas. We wish to express our appreciation for their efforts in keeping our neighborhood attractive and safe. *Thank you very much.*

## *July 4 Reminder*

Please make sure to clean up all residue from firecrackers in the street, grass, and driveways.

We appreciate your efforts to keep our neighborhood clean and attractive.