Getting a Head Start on Preparing Your Lawn for Spring

Homeowners do not often identify February as being a month for working in the yard. During a normal year, Auburn usually has some of its coldest temperatures during February. So far, this February has been anything but normal in regards to the mild temperatures we have been experiencing. With the prospect of an early spring, it is particularly important to get a head start on a few things that will make your lawn and landscape stand out during spring and summer.

~Chris Montgomery

Creating Curb Appeal

Fertilize – This is the time to fertilize your lawn, trees, and shrubs. The reason for this is that it takes a little time for granular fertilizer to break down and work its way into the soil. Most of the time, fertilizer is broken down by rain water or water from irrigation. It may take several rains or irrigation cycles to completely dissolve the fertilizer and help it work into the soil. By putting fertilizer out now, it has time to dissolve and work its way down to the plant roots prior to spring plant growth. For fertilizing trees and shrubs, a good general purpose fertilizer is all that you will need. The most common one on the market is triple thirteen granular (13-13-13). This product is inexpensive, safe and easy to apply. For trees and shrubs, you simply need to broadcast the fertilizer underneath the entire canopy of the plant. Fertilizer application rates are almost always printed on the bags in which they are sold. This same fertilizer can be used on lawns, but it is typically not recommended over specialty fertilizers which are formulated for specific needs of certain types of grasses. Specialty turf fertilizers cost a little more, but the results are usually worth it. Turf fertilizer is applied using a spreader which can be purchased for $50 for a rolling type or $20 for a handheld.

Pre-emergent Weed Control – This year’s warm winter has already caused a number of seed types that were laying close to the surface to germinate. However, not all types of surface seeds or seeds deeper in the soil have germinated. So, it is not too late to down pre-emergent. You can also be a product like Weed and Feed which is a pre-emergent and turf fertilizer mixed together. Pre-emergent is also applied using a spreader. Like fertilizer, pre-emergent needs rain or irrigation to work its way into the soil. There are a number of brands that are readily available at hardware and farm stores. I will tell you now, just because you use a pre-emergent does not mean that you will not have any weeds all season. Weed seed are carried by the wind, water runoff, animals, humans, etc. You will have seeds that migrate into your yard no matter what you do. Pre-emergent only helps with the seeds that are already there.

Questions?

Contact: Tony Cook, HOA Board Member
Address: 1743 Stone Pointe Drive, Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334-728-0027
E-mail: cookjki@auburn.edu

Contact: Carol Elrod (Conner Brothers)
Address: 739 Opleika Road, Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334-821-1470
Fax: 334-821-8534
E-mail: carol@connerbros.com

Newsletter Submissions
Leanne Greene
Address: 1762 Piedmont Drive, Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334-750-9711
E-mail: woffojl@gmail.com

Current Board Members:
Tony Cook
Christina Dean
Jason Forbus

Proposed Additional Board Members:
Jay Conner
Melinda Henderson
Dave Fischer
Sarah Imperio
Lucas Hunter

findthoughts...

Listed to the right are the names of current Camden Ridge board members as well as five residents who have volunteered to serve in the future. All HOA members will receive a web page link that will allow each member to vote acceptable or not acceptable for each candidate when the method of voting has been approved. Be on the lookout, as links to the voting site will be e-mailed to all registered members of the HOA and will be posted on the HOA website.

Bimonthly Insights into the Camden Ridge Community and Homeowners Association
HOA Membership

What’s In It For Me?

March is “Membership Month” in Camden Ridge, when we make a special effort to reach residents who are not yet members of the Camden Ridge Homeowners Association. You might be asking yourself, “What’s in it for me?” We not only want to answer that question here, but we hope to show you your association dues at work in a big way in the coming months.

Communication

One of the biggest benefits of HOA membership is access to essential information pertinent to life in Camden Ridge. The HOA gives voice to each member household and allows us to better serve the community in resolving issues important to you and your family. From the creation of a community newsletter and exciting events for the children, to meetings and safety concerns, your HOA hopes to generate neighborly communications, new friendships and an overall feeling of satisfaction with life at Camden Ridge.

Neighborhood Safety

As we form committees and increase our communication with local law enforcement, Camden Ridge will ultimately become a safer neighborhood for all. We hope to organize “block captains” and to pursue other deterrents that will ultimately protect the safety of all residents.

Neighborhood Improvements

Member dues also fund the maintenance of the gateway medians into Camden Ridge, including ongoing renovation and improvements, new plantings and seasonal color. Maintaining these areas in a professional, attractive and environmentally responsible way directly enhances the property value for all homeowners.

Community Programs and Events

Along with the awesome Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Conner Brothers, we hope to plan and organize additional seasonal events such as a Fall Fest/Trunk or a community newsletter and exciting events for the children, to meetings and safety concerns, your HOA hopes to generate neighborly communications, new friendships and an overall feeling of satisfaction with life at Camden Ridge.

Committee members meet with Sergeant Sloan Maddox

Recently members of the Neighborhood Watch and Safety Committee met with Sergeant Sloan Maddox of the Auburn Police Department regarding safety issues brought forth by concerned neighbors. Below is a brief description of what was discussed:

1) Speed calming devices - In order to install these devices, it must be decided by 2/3 majority or approximately 60% of the residents of Camden Ridge.

2) A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to improve the neighborhood watch effort. This should take place after committees are finalized and “block captains” are chosen for all sections that is how the HOA chooses to proceed.

3) A city ordinance is in place and can be enforced for utility vehicles/trailers that are blocking one or both lanes without cones present or someone directing traffic. Tickets can also be issued for parking in the street, blocking fire hydrants, driveways or utility vehicles obstructing views.

4) The city will assist in placing a speed limit trailer that is blocking one or both lanes without cones present or someone directing traffic. Tickets can also be issued for parking in the street, blocking fire hydrants, driveways or utility vehicles obstructing views.

5) Officers are available for $30 per hour for neighborhood events as long as we arrange 1-2 weeks in advance and as long as there are no other large city events occurring on the requested date.

6) Committee members were also provided with a presentation on establishing a Neighborhood Watch group. This can serve as a guideline for the Neighborhood Watch and Safety Committee as they move toward establishing this group.

Safety First

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www.camdenridge.hoaspace.com

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Committees

Thank you for the great response to the call for committee members. We truly appreciate your participation and look forward to working with each of you in the upcoming months. Anyone that has not signed up and wishes to may notify Leanne Greene at wolffjr@gmail.com. The information below is a good foundation for the guidelines and responsibilities of CR committees. This is only a start and all suggestions and additions are welcome*.

Architectural Review and Covenants

The Camden Ridge Board of Directors is the governing body put in place to oversee and regulate neighborhood compliance to the covenants. It is the responsibility of the board to notify residents when a compliance issue is recognized. The Architectural Review and Covenant Committee serves to ensure that Camden Ridge remains a beautiful and thriving community for all its residents, and to assist the board with issues of compliance. Issues of concern may be brought to the board by way of this committee and its chair. Members: Paul and Nancy Mitchell, Jolene Patterson, Dave Fischer

Beautification and Landscape

The Beautification and Landscape Committee is responsible for the care and planting of shrubs, trees and flowers in common areas to include the entrances, traffic islands, pool area and playground. This committee may also sponsor a quarterly “CR Yard of the Month” award. Members: Sarah Imperio, Natalie Parsons

Budget and Finance

This group is responsible for delinquent or pro-rated dues, entering new homeowner data or revising data for existing homes with new owner information, posting dues payments, committee budgets and any other financial issues that may arise including: donations, updating homeowner contact records, e-mail addresses, etc. Members: Tony Cook, April Harley, Ashley Miller

Communication & Events

The Communication and Events Committee exists to serve all residents in coordinating, planning and promoting community events and fostering communication and community awareness among members. This includes the distribution of a bimonthly newsletter, website maintenance, event flyers, invitations, signage, posters, banners, ads, etc. The committee will also assist all other committees in producing printed materials for events, neighborhood meetings, etc. Members: Leanne Greene, Chris Montgomery, Kelly Auxburger

Maintenance

This committee oversees the sprinkler system, pool and covered areas, playground, lights and fencing including all common areas of the Camden Ridge community. The committee will work through the board to track and schedule maintenance and needed repairs as reported by residents. Members: Sarah Imperio, Randy Greene, Paige Butler, Meg Meadows, Ginger Gary, Carrie Harris, Sarah Roberts, Erin Fischer

Neighborhood Watch and Safety

Members of the Neighborhood Watch and Safety Committee will facilitate and support neighborhood efforts to eliminate crime, create and organize block watches, encourage obedience to traffic regulations and work with local law enforcement to ensure that Camden Ridge is safe and secure for all residents. Members: Melissa Henderson, Scott Henderson, Angela Lewis, Robert Mann, Lori McLean, Catie Carter

Traffic and City Services

This committee serves to communicate with city officials regarding construction, traffic control and environmental issues resulting from city projects and rulings. Members: Dave Fisher, Peggy McElveen

Welcome and Membership

This committee will work closely with the Communication and Events Committee to welcome new homeowners to the neighborhood and encouraging participation in the HOA. Members organize and execute the creation and distribution of a “welcome basket,” a new neighbor information packet including contact numbers, website addresses, covenants and any other pertinent information for new homeowners. This committee will also notify new neighbors of their neighborhood watch representative (when appointed) and introduce them to the web portal and any other relevant neighborhood websites (FB, Flickr, etc.) Members: Lucas and Whitney Hunter, Jolene Patterson, Erin Fischer

*Committee information will be updated on the website (under Contacts) as soon as descriptions/responsibilities are finalized.
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The Beautification and Landscape Committee is responsible for the care and planting of shrubs, trees and flowers in common areas to include the entrances, traffic islands, pool area and playground. This committee may also sponsor a quarterly “CR Yard of the Month” award. Chris Montgomery, Members: Sarah Imperio, Natalie Parsons, Amanda Atkins

Architectural Review and Covenants

The Architectural Review Committee is responsible for ensuring that property improvements comply with the covenants and restrictions outlined in the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions of Camden Ridge. This committee may also assist the board with issues of compliance. Issues of concern may be brought to the board by way of this committee and its chair.

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Pruning – Winter is actually the best time to prune trees and shrubs. During January and February, trees and shrubs are dormant. Dormancy for a plant means that the plant is not actively growing and that the movement of sap through plant tissue is at a minimum. Pruning a plant during dormancy causes the least amount of stress to the plant. Also, pruning a plant causes the plant to set multiple buds near where each cut is made which, in turn, will develop into a new whirl of growth. This is a great way to thicken shrubbery and train growth habits. Making sure the plant has a good bud set just as spring begins helps to ensure maximum plant growth throughout the spring.

Pine Straw – This is a great time to go ahead and clean out the beds around your homes. At my home, I usually rake out any leaves that have blown in over the winter. But, I will leave a layer of the old pine straw. Then, I simply freshen the beds up with a layer of new straw. Leaving the older layer means that it takes less new material to cover bare spots. Pine straw or mulch around shrub beds and trees is one of the top ways to make homes and landscapes look sharp!

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