

# Over The Fence - January 2011 [www.countrywalk.org](http://www.countrywalk.org)

## COUNTRY WALK MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

From the HOA President-Shirley Paxon

### **FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

Many thanks go out to everyone who paid their HOA dues in full and to those who made the first installment on time. The due date for the payment was extended to January 21 to allow everyone a chance to get out after the winter storm. As a reminder, if you did not make the January payment or contact the NMS office to make payment arrangements, your account is now past due. For everyone that chose to pay on the installment plan, the second installment of the dues is due on or before March 15, 2011.

Once again we are receiving numerous complaints about dogs and cats running loose in the neighborhood. Please respect the leash laws! All pets must be kept on a leash when outdoors. Both the City of Powder Springs and Cobb County have ordinances regarding dogs. Dogs must be kept on a leash and owners must clean up after their pets.

At the January board meeting there was a good deal of discussion regarding getting volunteers involved to help save the association money. Many thanks go out to those who volunteered. We understand that there was a group ready to move in and tackle redoing the restrooms. We hope you will stand by while the board regroups and prioritizes the projects that need to be done this year.

Do you have a question for the board of directors? Beginning in this issue, the board will be answering homeowner's questions in the newsletter. Look for the new Question and Answer section. Your questions can be emailed to [boardmember@countrywalk.org](mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org).

Neighborhood Management Services is working on getting the 2011 ID cards ready for distribution. Watch your email, the website and the newsletter for the dates to pick up your new ID cards.



See Page 4 for the Q/A



# **Country Walk Gardening News**



**“Look into the garden,  
where the grass was green;  
covered by the snowflakes,  
not a blade is seen.**

**Now the bare black bushes  
all look soft and white.  
Every twig in laden- white  
such a pretty sight.**

Well, I hope you all have recovered from the great snowstorm by now. It was beautiful to see but oh how it shut us down! Many plants have suffered the extreme cold and I'm hoping that they will survive. But without some tender care we may lose some. So, our work is cut out for us.

It's time to prepare beds for bare-root roses that will be arriving in nurseries soon. Dig an area four feet wide and about twelve inches deep for each rose plant. Add plenty of soil conditioner to the soil. If there are any limbs that need to be cut from your trees, now is the time to ribbon them while they can be seen. Step back, take another look before cutting them off. Prune Buford holly, fig, apple, pear, and grape vines. Check the ground to see if it is dry, till the soil for a vegetable garden. This will eliminate lots of insects, weeds and nematodes.

Small leafless shrubs and trees can be transplanted easily now on a warm day if the ground is not frozen. Chop English ivy, bamboo, and kudzu to the ground, and prune pampas grass down to 12 inches tall. Make sure to use gloves to pull out the dead stems in the clumps. Remember to water window boxes, container plants, pansies, and your ornamental kale after a hard freeze. Plant pansies and English daisies in a sunny bed and larger pots to make an impact in your landscape.

If your houseplants have spider mites, etc. spray with insecticidal soap on the undersides of the leaves and remember to half turn them so they grow straight. Watch for brown edges on houseplant leaves. Mist leaves twice a day and keep away from drafty areas.

Happy gardening,

~ Ann Taylor

# ACC Committee News

## 1. Painting your House



The new paint color charts are here!! When painting your home, you will be required to choose your colors from the new book. These are the only colors that will be approved.

Please contact the ACC Committee or the NMS office to view the book.

If you are planning to paint your home this spring, contact Neighborhood Management Services and check out a book of approved paint colors. After choosing one of the approved color schemes, submit the Modification Form for approval by the ACC Committee.

## 2. Leaves and Debris

As winter drags on, please remember you must still maintain the outside of your home and your yard. Branches, pinecones, leaves etc should be cleaned up on a regular basis from the yard and gutters. Debris should also be cleaned of your roof, sidewalk and driveway to keep your home looking neat and maintained.

An advertisement for MFC Remodels. The background is dark with a red and orange flame-like graphic on the left. The text is white and yellow. At the bottom, there is a call to action with a phone number and website. A green brush is visible in the bottom right corner.

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## **BOARD Q/A**

Email your questions to the board at [boardmember@countrywalk.org](mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org). Look for your answers in the next newsletter.

**Q: A few of you have asked about reviewing the end of the year Country Walk financial statement.**

*A: Every year the end of the year financial statement is available to the homeowners at the annual meeting. The annual meeting takes place in April every year. This year we will be going over the end of the year financial statement line item by line item with the homeowners.*

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**Q: Are the security officers paid by the City of Powder Springs and by Country Walk HOA for the hours that they patrol the neighborhood?**

*A: No. The officers that provide security patrol in Country Walk are off duty. Country Walk pays each officer individually for the hours that they work security. The checks are made payable to the officer, not to the City of Powder Springs Police Dept.*

**Q: What are the most common things the officers find when they patrol in Country Walk?**

*A: The officers frequently find kids in the amenities area that are out after curfew. Officers frequently run kids from other neighborhoods out of the amenities area. The kids turn on the amenities lights and ride their skateboards and bicycles on the tennis courts, damaging the court surfaces. The officers stop speeders and persons running the stop signs in the neighborhood. They have stopped persons for DUI and drug possession as well. Their patrolling has prevented and stopped much of the vandalism that was taking place. Please remind your children that the field and amenities area is closed at dark. Effective immediately, officers will be calling parents of any minor found in the amenities area after dark to come and pick up their child.*

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**Q: How do I reserve the community room?**

*A: Phyllis Britt handles the reservations for the Community Room. Email Phyllis at [keylargo4evr@yahoo.com](mailto:keylargo4evr@yahoo.com) or call her at 770-439-2975. Please remember your HOA dues must be current to reserve the room. Please keep in mind that Phyllis is a volunteer and works full time when trying to contact her.*

**Q: What do I do about the stray dog or cat that keeps coming around?**

*A: Cobb County and the City of Powder Springs both have ordinances regarding pets. All pets must be kept on a leash when outdoors and owners must clean up after their pets. Please contact Cobb County Animal Control regarding animals that are running loose. If you know who the animal belongs to, you may contact Neighborhood Management Services, they will be happy to send a notice out to the owner.*

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**Q: What can be done about my neighbor's dog that barks all night long?**

*A: Unfortunately, this is a common problem reported by many homeowners. This is a violation of the City Noise Ordinance and needs to be reported to the City of Powder Springs Code Enforcement. Please call 770-943-1666 and ask for code enforcement.*

## 2011 HOA BOARD MEMBERS

<u>BOARD POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
President	Shirley Paxon	<a href="mailto:president@countrywalk.org">president@countrywalk.org</a>
Vice-President	TBA	
Treasurer	Jim Galluzzo	<a href="mailto:treasurer@countrywalk.org">treasurer@countrywalk.org</a>
Secretary	Ann Taylor	<a href="mailto:secretary@countrywalk.org">secretary@countrywalk.org</a>
Board Member	Phyllis Britt	<a href="mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org">boardmember@countrywalk.org</a>
Board Member	Cindy Campbell	<a href="mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org">boardmember@countrywalk.org</a>
Board Member	Shelia Marshall	<a href="mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org">boardmember@countrywalk.org</a>
Board Member	Linda Patterson	<a href="mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org">boardmember@countrywalk.org</a>
Board Member	Billie "BJ" Williams	<a href="mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org">boardmember@countrywalk.org</a>

## 2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
ACC	Linda Patterson/ Ann Taylor/ BJ Williams	<a href="mailto:acc@countrywalk.org">acc@countrywalk.org</a>
COMMUNITY ROOM	Phyllis Britt	<a href="mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org">boardmember@countrywalk.org</a>
LANDSCAPE	Jim Galluzzo	<a href="mailto:treasurer@countrywalk.org">treasurer@countrywalk.org</a>
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH	TBA	
NEWSLETTER LIAISON	TBA	<a href="mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org">boardmember@countrywalk.org</a>
POOL LIASON	TBA	
SOCIAL LIASON	Carole Ellis	<a href="mailto:carole.j.ellis@gmail.com">carole.j.ellis@gmail.com</a>
TENNIS	Bob Johnson	<a href="mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org">boardmember@countrywalk.org</a>
WELCOME	Shelia Marshall	<a href="mailto:boardmember@countrywalk.org">boardmember@countrywalk.org</a>

### **Do you have an amenity question?**

Denise and Scott Haney are the amenity managers. Please call them if you have any questions at 770.485.9349 or email [pool@countrywalk.org](mailto:pool@countrywalk.org)

# Guiding Good Choices

The Guiding Good Choices parenting program is a 3-week class for parents and caregivers of elementary and middle school children. Workshops cover:

- Developing clear family guidelines and expectations for behavior
- Teaching children the skills they need to stay out of trouble while still having fun
- Learning about the nature and extent of teenage drug use and how to prevent this within your own family
- Managing family conflict in a way that maintains and strengthens bonds
- Increasing children's involvement with the family in the teen years
- Creating a parent support network

**Tapp Middle School**

**3900 Macedonia Road in Powder Springs**

**Monday 6:00—8:00 PM**

**February 7th**

**Class and childcare provided FREE of charge**

**Space is limited to first 15 participants!!**

To pre-register, contact Stuart Bachman, LMSW

Stuart.Bachman@cobbk12.org or 678-736-9419



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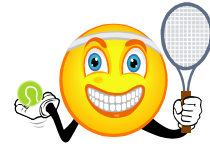
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## Courtside at Country Walk



*There are currently 3 teams playing out of Country Walk for this winter season, all of which are captained by Country Walk homeowners. There are two mixed ALTA teams playing on Sundays at 1:00, and a women's USTA team playing on Saturdays at 1:00. Each team is vying for a spot in playoffs which will begin in February for the USTA women's team, and in March for the ALTA teams. Spring season registration is currently underway so if anyone would like information on playing on a team at Country Walk, please contact Shelia Marshall.*

*Yes, it has been very cold to be playing tennis, but some, if not all of us, are true die hard tennis "nuts". Our largest obstacle this season, so far, has been our snow and ice the week of January 10<sup>th</sup>. It took several hours of man (and woman) power to dry our courts in order to play, but, with a lot of extra hands, we were able to get about 14 matches played during that week.*

*Bob Johnson serves as a tennis liaison on behalf of the teams playing at Country Walk. He keeps updated schedules posted at the courts for the teams scheduled practices and matches; and he makes sure the tennis areas, including courts, fixtures, are in proper working order to meet the regulations for match play; and serves as a general "go to" person with tennis related issues for our teams.*

*The info on the next page was posted to our website after our last newsletter had been distributed. Some of you may have seen it, and some of you may have missed it. We do know that some of you have read it because we have received positive feedback, and inquires from residents about playing on a team, and we also had a few neighbors visit the courts during match play.*

*Stay tuned for future tennis news and wish all of us good luck this season and earning a spot in playoffs.*



## Courtside at Country Walk

**Fall 2010.** *Country Walk was “home” to 3 Fall “ALTA” teams, a women’s C-7 team captained by resident Morgan Wagner, a B-5 women’s team captained by resident Patti Redding, and a B-3 men’s team captained by resident Matt Adams.*

**Winter 2010-2011.** *There will be a women’s USTA team which will be playing in November, December and January on Saturday’s at 1:00. There will also be two mixed ALTA teams playing on Sunday’s at 1:00 beginning in January.*

*ALTA (Atlanta Lawn & Tennis Association, [www.altatennis.org](http://www.altatennis.org)), is a recreational tennis league with over 80,000 members in the metro Atlanta area. There are also USTA (United States Tennis Association) teams that play out of Country Walk. In addition, the courts are also used by several residents who play on various leagues which feature singles and doubles type formats of play.*

*Each registered tennis player at Country Walk pays a yearly membership to play on an ALTA and USTA team, and our teams also collect money for the HOA from non-resident members for each season. Aside from the monetary advantage, another advantage is that the visibility of tennis players also serves as a deterrence to vandalism at the courts and other amenities areas. The captains and players adhere to the tennis guidelines imposed by the HOA. All residents of Country Walk are invited and encouraged to come out and support the teams at Country Walk. A tennis calendar is posted on a bulletin board outside the community room with team schedules .*

*Tennis is a great form of exercise and team camaraderie. Each team and team member is representing Country Walk. Teams come to our neighborhood from all over the metro area and are delighted to see our facilities, our setup, our neighborhood and our “country store”. The tennis serves as a venue for new residents to become acquainted in the neighborhood, and with former residents to stay connected with their Country Walk neighbors.*

*A lot of positive publicity for our neighborhood comes from us hitting that little yellow fuzzy ball on the courts. So, come out and join us sometime - courtside - at Country Walk.*

*Anyone with any tennis related questions should contact Shelia Marshall, one of our Board Members, who is also an active player on our Country Walk teams.*

## **Social Committee News**

Now that the holiday season is over, we're all gearing up for a great 2011 in Country Walk. The social committee has been busy, and the Biggest Loser competition is already well underway with a *serious* pot up for grabs. (Thanks to Kim Howell for heading up this program for the second year in a row! We all can't wait to see our slim new selves...)

We have a lot coming up this Spring, so please check out our plans below:

*Friday Night Freedom* will begin again the last Friday in March and continue from that point forward. This special teens' night is a CW tradition that we're glad to see back. Stay tuned for more information on what to bring and expect. All teens welcome.

*Warm Up with Neighbors at the Country Walk Chili Cookoff* March 5, 2011 from 2:30-4pm. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we'll be able to have this event outside. However, if the chill is still in the air, we'll move indoors for this traditional competition. Please contact Carole at [carole.j.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:carole.j.ellis@gmail.com) if you want to compete, judge or help with set-up.

*Come see the bunny and hunt for eggs at the Country Walk Easter Celebration* on April 23, 2011. It will be fun for all ages as we enjoy hunting eggs and taking pictures with everyone's favorite seasonal rabbit. Times TBA.

Other plans:

We'll kick off summer and celebrate the end of school with a neighborhood-wide **pool party and potluck**, and of course, there is the **CW Independence Day Parade** to look forward to as well. We're getting set up for the **Spring Neighborhood Garage Sale**, and we'll email you all with dates when we get them. Keep an eye on your email for updates and please feel free to email Carole Ellis with any questions, suggestions or offers to help.

Have a great February!



## **St. Baldrick's**

Back in 2000, three Irish Americans decided to turn their office St. Patrick's Day party into a benefit for kids with cancer, by shaving their heads in solidarity with the children who often lose their hair while undergoing treatment. Now over 144,000 volunteers - including over 12,000 women while raising funds through donations from friends and family.

In a short number of years these brave volunteers, called Shavees - each one of them a walking billboard for the cause - have raised over \$87 million making St. Baldrick's the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising program for childhood cancer research.

Country Walk Resident Amanda Kunkel is going for it and shaving her head at Meehan's in Sandy Springs on Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>! If you would like to support Amanda (pictured w/ her 11 month old daughter, Kinley) and donate "on her head", please go to:

<http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/participantid/421254>





Country Walk HOA  
"Over The Fence" Newsletter  
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## OVER THE FENCE

***The deadline for electronic submission for articles, photos, ads, etc is the 25th of each month. Please submit your newsletter content to Pam Polk at [pamelapolk@bellsouth.net](mailto:pamelapolk@bellsouth.net)***

***Our advertising rates and ad agreement forms are on our website at [www.countrywalk.org](http://www.countrywalk.org). You will need to mail your ad agreement and check to the address on the agreement form. Checks are to be made payable to "CW HOA". Thank you to the advertisers for their support!***

## **February Events at Varner Elementary**

<b>2/1-2/4</b>	<b>Book Fair</b>
<b>2/2</b>	<b>Chick-Fil-A morning</b>
<b>2/2</b>	<b>Jump Rope For Heart</b>
<b>2/3</b>	<b>Cookie Dough Brochure sent home</b>
<b>2/3</b>	<b>PTA Meeting 6:30pm</b>
<b>2/8</b>	<b>Sparkles Skate Night 5:30-8:30pm</b>
<b>2/10</b>	<b>Spring Pictures</b>
<b>2/10</b>	<b>Principal's Breakfast ( invitation only)</b>
<b>2/16</b>	<b>Chick-fil-A morning</b>
<b>2/17</b>	<b>Cookie Orders Due</b>
<b>2/18</b>	<b>Spirit Day</b>
<b>2/21-2/25</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>