

ACC NEWS - February 2009

Winter is a slow time of year for outdoor maintenance, but there are some things that are best done at this time of year.

It is the perfect time to prune and re-shape overgrown shrubbery. An overgrown bush can be cut half way to the ground and be given a natural rounded shape. Even if you cut back to bare limbs, an evergreen shrub will have new growth after pruning.

Freshen up your shrubbery islands and beds with new pine straw now, and it will look nice all through the coming warm seasons.

Lawns can be helped by an application of pre-emergent weed killer during February or early March. You will see a big reduction in weeds. If you missed the opportunity to over-seed Fescue grass, early March is also a good time to over-seed.

Don't forget to get your roof and gutters cleaned. Leaf and pine straw debris in gutters and valleys can cause leaks and expensive repairs.

Major maintenance is best managed by planning ahead. If your house has not been painted in more than 5 or 6 years, it probably needs it. If you have never replaced your roof, it is getting close to needing to be replaced as well. Our homes are 18 to 20 years old and the life expectancy of standard roof shingles is about 20 years. Exterior paint jobs and roof replacements can cost thousands of dollars, so you should shop around to get the best price. Generally, it's a good idea to get at least three bids before selecting a contractor. Some companies offer extended payment options, but you need to anticipate the costs of these major maintenance projects. And don't forget, ALL PAINT COLORS AND ROOFING MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ACC before the work is done. You can find the Modification Request Form on our website.

-The Country Walk ACC Committee

