

## PACC Rep—Mike Grubbs



Country Lakes is one of the largest single-family home neighborhoods in Palm Aire. It is the furthest northeast of the Palm Aire communities, northeast of Whitfield Avenue, and north of Old Farm Road (Mote Ranch). Country Lakes at Palm-Aire was incorporated in 1981. There are 156 properties in the neighborhood, and 155 homes.

All but one of the streets have "Country Lakes" at the beginning of the name; those with the most houses are on the "Drive" and the "Circle", with the others on the "Trail" and the "Lane". West Country Club would seem to be in the Carlyle neighborhood, but five houses on the east side (northeast of Whitfield) are part of the Country Lakes development.

Country Lakes Circle connects to West Country Club Lane and the Carlyle neighborhood, allowing walkers and bike riders to visit the other neighborhood without venturing on to Whitfield. Original plans seem to indicate that there was to be another connection to the area that became Carlyle, but the property at that planned connection was later sold. Prior to the development of Carlyle, Country Lakes residents were treated to the lowing of cattle, and alligators and other wildlife were much more prevalent.

Country Lakes is made up entirely of single-family homes, and all but one are one-story. There are three small lakes in the neighborhood. Over one-third of the homes are on a lake. A number of others back up to a wooded preserve shared with Mote Ranch or Carlyle. Almost all of the homes in Country Lakes have their own pool and screened lanai. While the neighborhood is not on either of the Palm Aire golf courses, they are a short golf cart ride away.

Country Lakes has an active homeowners' association. Since most homes have their own pool and there are no neighborhood tennis courts, annual dues are very reasonable compared to similar communities. Homes on the lakes pay a slightly higher annual fee since the lakes require regular maintenance.

The curving, connecting streets provide an inviting atmosphere for bike riding and dog walking. Many neighbors know the dogs' names but struggle with those of the owners. While the first phase of development is now forty years old, there are numerous long-term residents. It is a wonderful place to call home.

