

The Groundhog

TOP 10 LIST

"Mentone's Most Neighborly Neighbor"

1. Pick's up trash in yard and walks in front of his/her house so it doesn't blow into street or neighbors yards.
2. Parks in driveway or garage on a regular basis, not the street.
3. Observes neighborhood speed limits and doesn't tailgate; is aware of pedestrians, especially neighborhood children and pets.
4. Doesn't litter.
5. Doesn't post things on the mailbox, since this is unsightly and also a Federal offense; feels free to remove unwanted mailbox postings.
6. Picks up after his/her pets, especially if it's in a neighbors yard and keeps pets on leash.
7. Respects his/ her neighbors' privacy and property; doesn't walk through any neighbors yard without first having permission.
8. Removes garbage and recycling containers on collection day and asks a neighbor for the favor if planning to be out of town.
9. Maintains landscape to help keep Mentone property values high.
10. Smiles at his/ her neighbor since Mentone is such a GREAT neighborhood to live in !!

If you have a neighbor who has gone out of their way to be a "neighborly neighbor", please e-mail a brief description of his/ her act of kindness to mistysermons@bellsouth.net, for possible feature in the next newsletter.

December 2007

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Please remember if you change the appearance of your home, you will need the approval of the ARC Committee. Please contact Misty Sermons or Erika Rodgers at Florida Community Management to help you prepare your submission.

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

Remember to prepare for the Neighborhood Garage Sale on Saturday, April 12th from 8am to 12pm. Display your sale items in your driveway. We will place an ad in the Gainesville Sun the week prior to the sale.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

HOMEOWNERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE 6:00 PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD AT THE POOL PAVILION THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH. ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD IS AT 5:45 PM.

Holiday Lighting Contest If you want to volunteer to be a part of the Annual Mentone's Holiday Lighting Contest Committee, please e-mail your information to Mentone@cox.net. Please remember you cannot volunteer if you are participating in the Holiday Lighting Contest.

THE CATEGORIES ARE: BEST OVERALL ARTIST'S CHOICE CHILDREN'S CHOICE

ELEGANCE AWARD

INNOVATIONS

CLARK GRISWOLD AWARD

Make sure you have your light display on the night of Sunday December 16th from 6pm to 8 pm.

How do you know you're a WINNER ? The judges will place a sign in your yard indicating you're the winner for the award in that category. TO CLAIM YOUR AWARD, PLEASE RETURN YOUR SIGN TO FLORIDA COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT OFFICE.

KEN'S CORNER *For your Holiday Tips*

Just a few tips for the holiday season:



Christmas Trees

Remember to keep the trunk of your tree in water at all times. Check the level daily because Christmas trees drink water very quickly. Keeping your Christmas tree watered will help keep your trees branches from wilting and pine needles from taking over your living room. In addition, keeping your tree watered reduces the chance of a tree fire by keeping the branches moist. Another idea is to take a knife and shave a few areas of the trunk; this will help spread the lovely pine scent through out your home. Never leave your home unattended while your Christmas tree is still lit, this is the leading cause of house fires during the holidays.



Leaving for the Holidays

Have your newspaper stopped or have your neighbor pick it up for you daily. Leave your front porch light on or purchase a timer (very inexpensive) to turn a light on inside your home to show the appearance that someone is home. (The Holidays are the most common time of the year for home burglaries). For fire safety, leave all Christmas lights inside and out off while you are away.

Your Neighbor, *Ken*

Mentone Welcomes a New Year with our Management Company

Happy New Year! As the New Year begins , the Mentone Board of Directors is looking for New Board Members to fill some vacant positions. Remember to keep a look out, as Florida Community Management will be sending the First Notice of Election packet, this will include the date, time and place for the Annual Meeting. It will also include the candidate information sheet and the dates and time they will need to be turned in. This will insure your place on the ballot.

We are looking forward to a productive year here in Mentone. We have all settled into a comfortable routine with the New Management Company and are continuing to build the relationship and understanding in order to get things accomplished together!

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING: Will be held at the Pool Pavilion on January 17th at 6:00PM. SEE YOU THERE!

If you have any other ideas for ways to improve our community, please submit them to: Mentone Board c/o mistysermons@bellsouth.net or erika_rodgers@bellsouth.net.

Winter Lawn Tips

As the days cool off and much of the landscape beauty fades, it's easy to forget that put yards need preparation for Spring in the winter months. Until then, here are a few tips that can help you ready your yard for Spring.

Mowing: If you already put your lawnmower and edger away for the season, get them back out. You should continue mowing and edging a minimum of once a month during the winter here in North Florida. Your lawn is still growing—slowly but surely—most of the winter here.

Aerating: Aerating breaks down the thatch layer and offers the added benefit of reducing soil compaction. The holes open the channels within the soil so water and fertilizer can get in and gases that have been accumulating can get out.

Fertilizing: Many believe the most beneficial lawn fertilization is applied now, when the mean temperature is 50 degrees (i.e.: daytime high=60, nighttime low= 40) when leaf blades stop growing, but the roots are still active. A winterizer applied during this average temperature range will feed the roots only and insure hardiness over winter with plenty of reserve for Spring.

Watering: Keep watering your lawn at least once per week for 30 minutes. Even though it's cold outside and the lawn's grow is slowed, it still needs water. If you have an irrigation system, and there is an extended hard freeze, you may need to run your irrigation system to insure it does not freeze up or burst. Check for the manufacturer's recommendation before it gets to cold.

Beds & Gardens: This is the perfect time to cut back any spent annuals or perennials and completely weed all of your beds. Rapid changes in temperature can cause serious damage to plant material; to protect plants from the frost/ thaw cycle, mulch perennials, trees and shrubs well.

Killing Weeds & Pests: Liquid broadleaf weed control, or granular formula applied when the lawn is wet, should do the trick. There are specific types of weed control that can be used depending on your yard's needs. This is also the time to call your Lawn Pest Control Service to ensure your yard is pest-free for the spring.

Committee Volunteers Needed

Please email Stephanie Kolb at smkg8tor@yahoo.com if you would like to help participate in the playground committee. We will be purchasing a play structure in addition to the structures currently there to accommodate children ages 2-12 during the 2008 calendar year. We are also going to be getting additional benches and trash cans to place in the exterior playground area.