



The Groundhog



A Note from the President:

Spring has sprung! Summer will be here before you know it! The approach of the warmer weather means the use of the pool and pavilion area will be on the rise! We are having some problems with vandalism as we do every season, but it has been a little more frequent than usual so far this year. Parents, please give your older children a **key to the pool area** if they are going to be playing on the basketball courts or will otherwise need access to the pool area. When young adults jump the fence to gain access to the bathrooms and water fountain it has the potential to seriously harm themselves and the fence as well as the electronic unit that controls key access. Both of these items are very expensive to repair, or replace. Also, please be sure to keep your younger children in **swim diapers** in the pool at all times. There are specific diapers that can be purchased for use in pools and these **must** be used. Unfortunately these young children do not have control over their bladders, and anytime urine or excrement winds up in the pool it must be shocked and closed for at least 24 hours which affects all of us. Please respect this rule. We also ask that you please notify the management company if you wish to hold a party or event at our pool or pavilion area. The Board will review all requests carefully. Please be mindful that we have a large community of residents that have equal access to these areas, and limited parking ability.

I want to thank all of those residents who have been showing up to the Board meetings over the past year now. We have several members of our community who have also stepped forward to help with our various committees. We thank you for your participation and support!

If you haven't done so already, please go online check out our website and register for the Mentone email list serve at <http://mentone.go.to/>

-Todd

March 2008

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Please remember if you change the appearance of your home, including your landscape, 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.

TIME CHANGE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS:

HOMEOWNERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE 6:30 PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD AT THE POOL PAVILION THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH. ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD IS AT 6:15 PM.

Year end financials are available for all to review. They are on our website at <http://mentone.go.to/> If you do not have computer access please contact Erika Rodgers at the management company if you wish to obtain a copy at 352-224-1518

Announcing the 2008-2009 Board of Directors:

Our Annual meeting was held on Thursday, January 17th and unfortunately we did not have enough residents present, or by proxy, to establish a quorum; therefore there was no election. The current Board of Directors will stand. Angela Lounds-Singleton was appointed to the Board at the February Board meeting. The 2008-2009 Board, and their officer duties are as follows:

President– Todd Fraser

Member at Large– Ken Castellani

Vice President– Stephanie Kolb

Member at Large– Barbara Cusumano

Treasurer– Pam Williams

Secretary– Angela Lounds-Singleton

KEN'S CORNER For Your Lawn Tips

Just a few tips for the Spring season:

Easter is here and so brings Spring! That means it's time to start looking at the 'ole lawn again and inspecting for new weeds and winter damage recovery. Now is also the time to fertilize and use pre-emergence weed control products. If you need tips on lawn care please go to the Mentone website at <http://mentone.go.to/> for more detailed information on year long lawn care. If you are into fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables then don't delay, plant them now or you risk the heat killing them before they bear fruit. All your local home improvement stores are over-flowing with annuals right now. Why not plant some annuals in your yard this year and give yourself and your neighbors something nice to look at!

Spring is a good time to maintain your lawnmower as well. Lawn mower preparation should include sharpening the blade, changing the oil (and filter if applicable), cleaning the air cleaner, checking tire air pressure, and any other maintenance recommended in the owner's manual.

Lastly, run the zones on your irrigation system, one by one, to observe if all the sprinklers are operating properly and can reach over shrubs that may have overgrown during winter months.

We hope everyone enjoyed your Easter and let's all give us lawns Mentone can be proud of and enjoy!

Your Neighbor, *Ken*

Some friendly reminders for the upcoming Summer season:

Please remember as summer is growing near that we all need to work **together** to maintain our pool and recreation area. Here are some things you can do to keep our park area beautiful:

1. Please do not smoke in or around the pool area.
2. Please do not bring glass bottles or containers into the pool or pavilion area at any time. This creates a hazard for adults and children alike.
3. Please clean up after yourself. Place trash in proper receptacles, and be sure bathrooms are neat and orderly when you leave them.
4. Please notify the management company if you plan to host an event at the pavilion or pool area.
5. Please do not leave the gate open to the pool area at any time! The pool area must remain fully enclosed at all times for liability reasons. We do not want anyone to be harmed.
6. Please call the non-emergency number for the Sheriff's Office, 955-1818, if you see anyone vandalizing or trespassing in the pool or pavilion area immediately!
7. Young children **MUST WEAR APPROPRIATE SWIM DIAPERS**

General Housekeeping

We want to thank the residents for being patient as we work through our pool problems. We have hired a new company to maintain our pool and will be regulating them carefully.

There will be some landscape changes to the pool area in the coming weeks. We are removing the crape myrtles from the surrounding area to eliminate the flowering season from affecting the pool and filters. We will also be trimming up the palms surrounding the area in an effort to beautify the area.

We have established our committees for the current year so stay tuned for upcoming neighborhood social events, potential playground improvements, increased pool security, and careful landscape guidelines to be posted in our newsletter.

Please be sure to fill out the insert with this newsletter if you wish to have your newsletter sent to you electronically from this point forward. The management company must have a signature on file for each electronic request. This will save postage and perhaps enable us to increase the frequency of newsletters in the future as a valuable communication tool.

PLEASE NOTE: Starting in April the lawn violations will be enforced once again. We are mindful that some lawns may still be in the stages of winter recovery, however, lawns are a vital component to making this neighborhood be as beautiful as it can be. If you plan to leave for any length of time during the peak growing season, please make provisions to have a service, or individual, service your lawn while you are away to avoid warning letters.

Also- we are still receiving complaints regarding cars speeding in our family community. We have children at play often in the afternoons as the weather grows warmer. Please keep in mind that the speed limit **throughout Mentone is 25 MPH.**

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.

Don't forget for information regarding our beautiful neighborhood you can visit Mentone's website at <http://mentone.go.to/>