

# The Groundhog

## **“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 [mentone@mentonecommunity.net](mailto:mentone@mentonecommunity.net), for possible feature in the next newsletter.*

**October 2008**

### **ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS**

Please remember if you change the appearance of your home, you will need the approval the ARC Committee. Please contact Kelly Burch at Florida Community Management to help you prepare your submission.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE**

Remember to prepare for the Neighborhood Garage Sale on Saturday, November 8th 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 6:30 PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD AT THE POOL PAVILION THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH. ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD IS AT 6:15 PM.

\*Please note our next Groundhog publication will be the first part of Spring 2009.

## **HALLOWEEN**

Please remember with Halloween approaching to be watchful as you enter and drive through the neighborhood. We have unusually large amounts of children that come from all areas to trick-or-treat in our neighborhood on Halloween night. If you see any activity that could be considered harmful in any way, please contact the proper authorities.

*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@mentonecommunity.net](mailto:mentone@mentonecommunity.net). Please remember you cannot volunteer if you are participating in the Holiday Lighting Contest.

THE CATEGORIES ARE: **BEST OVERALL** **ARTIST’S CHOICE** **CHILDRENS CHOICE**  
**ELEGANCE AWARD** **INNOVATIONS** **CLARK GRISWOLD AWARD**

Make sure you have your light display on the night of Sunday December 14th 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.

**Note to Residents:** With the implementation of the new key system at our community pool, please remember to give your older kids use of the key fob if needed to enter the pool area. One of the biggest complaints we receive is older kids jumping the fence to access the water fountain. Please leave your key fob in an **accessible** place for your children's use! This will prevent potential expense on each homeowner's part to pay for repairs to the chairs they use as leverage to get over the fence. Please do not use your key-fob to allow people to enter into the pool / pavilion area. If they don't have a key-fob or theirs does not work, chances are they are not supposed to be there. We had a table and umbrella stolen from our pool area recently as well which we are working on replacing. **Please report any activity that looks suspicious.**

Please remember the newly passed rule that states: "Any homeowner who is in arrears thirty (30) days or more will have access to the pool / pavilion area suspended until their account is made current."

If you have not yet picked up and signed for your new key-fob, please call Kelly Burch at Florida Community Management to arrange picking one up at the management office.  
352-375-6666

## HOLIDAY TIPS

Just a few tips as we enter the holiday season:

### Christmas Trees



Remember to keep the trunk of your trees 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 home unattended while your Christmas tree is still lit, the leading cause of house fires during the holidays is Christmas tree light fires.

### 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.

## Tips on taking care of Your House & Yard by James "Nick" Nichols:

### First the House:

Leaves in the Valley of the Roof: Leaves have acid in them. Mainly pine straw that will eat the roof shingles and cause leaks.

Window sills with Peeling Paint: This is caused if the wood was green and not dried correctly or only one coat of paint was applied. To correct Pressure Wash, apply a Primer Coat, and Repaint.

Stain or Mold on the Fascia & Door: It unfortunately shows up really well on houses that have white trim or doors. We have tried many types of cleaners, but the best one so far is the Mr. Clean Eraser and elbow grease.

### Now for the Yard:

We would like to cite Wendy Wilber at the Alachua County Extension Office from her monthly newsletter for excellent maintenance tips. You can send for them from the University of Florida IFAS Extension by calling 352-955-2402 or 352-955-2406 or look online at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC\\_Lawn\\_and\\_Garden](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_Lawn_and_Garden)

### **-Trees & Shrubs -**

**Now** is the time to fertilize. Use a 3-1-2 ratio, such as a 12-4-8 slow release fertilizer, at a ¾ pound per 100 square foot.

### **- Lawns -**

St. Augustine and Bahia Grass is what most Florida lawns are planted in. **Now** is the time to fertilize. Use slow release nitrogen fertilizer. Use 15-0-15 ratio, at a 6.6 pounds per 1000 square foot.

If you had any cold damage last year apply Potassium one month before winter. Use 1.6 pounds of muriatic of potash or 2 pounds Potassium Sulfate per 100 square foot.

### **- Yard of the Month -**

We would like to congratulate all of you for keeping your lawns looking great. Also we have started awarding "Yard of the Month" to Homeowners whose yards and homes look outstanding. We hope it will get some of you on that competitive edge so we will have more lawns and houses to look at to judge who will be the next "Yard of the Month".

Last but not least if you see one of the Landscaping Committee members walking on your street, stop and talk to them. Ask about the criteria for judging and if you have time walk down your street with them and let the member show you exactly what they are looking for. Now with your new insight maybe you can help your neighbors fix up the area and keep Mentone sparkling.

**Happy Yardwork from Nick**