

The Mentonian



Spring 2015

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**The Homeowners
Association Board are
community members
who volunteer their
time to make Mentone
a great place to live**

Irv Lampert,
President

Paul Chandler,
Vice President

Kim Stricklan,
Secretary

(open position),
Treasurer

Mary Opel,
Director

Alachua County Turf SWAP Program

Say goodbye to those problem spots in your yard! The Alachua County Dept. of Environmental Protection is sponsoring the Turf SWAP (Save Water, Add Plants) Program. This innovative program helps residents who want to swap out a portion of irrigated turf with water-conserving Florida-Friendly landscaping this spring and summer. Participants receive wholesale prices on 15 low maintenance plants that don't require a lot of water, care, or fertilizer, along with **25 FREE bags of mulch** (valued at over \$80) to assist in replacing 200 continuous square feet of irrigated turf. For plants, you can choose the sun package (plants requiring 6 hours of daily sun light) or the shade package (plants requiring less than 6 hours of daily sun light). New landscaping will save money on your water bill and reduce water use, which will help protect our local springs.

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Maintenance Matters



Turning on the air conditioner is just around the corner. It's a great time for a pre-season annual check-up of your Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system, before HVAC contractors get too busy. Do-it-yourself maintenance items to keep HVAC units running include regular filter changes, making sure the condenser is free from vines/plants, and making sure the condensate drains are clear.

Fallen leaves...they're everywhere! This is a great time to clean roofs, gutters, and yards of dead leaves. Clogged gutters result in water free flowing off the roof and during heavy rains, can erode the sandy soils around house foundations. Also, leaves in the valley of a roof and impede water flow to the gutters. During a heavy rain event, water can literally back up in the roof valley, above flashing and shingle seals, and result in a leak. A clean roof is a happy roof (not really, but you get the idea).

Finally, it's a good time to check sprinkler systems. Check the timers to ensure efficient watering, and sprinkler heads for leaks, and periodically check local water restrictions to confirm when/how often you can water the lawn. Don't wait to get a huge water bill to realize you have a leaking system.

Turf SWAP Program

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Here is just one example of what you can do as part of the Turf SWAP Program.

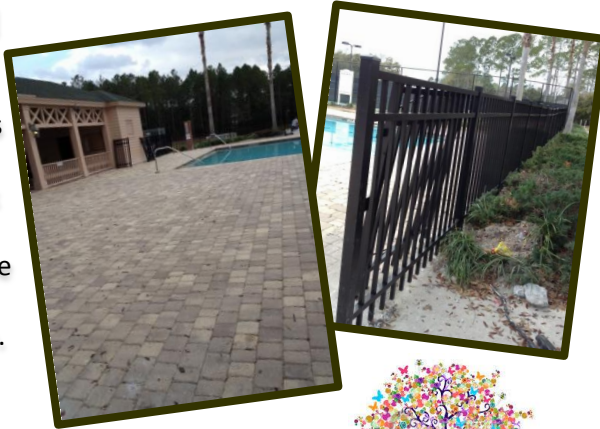


The program is limited to front and side yards, so remember to get ARC approval prior to starting.

Visit www.MyYardOurWater.org to learn more and to fill out the simple registration form. You may also call Stacie Greco at Alachua County Environmental Protection Department 352-264-6829 for additional details.

Neighborhood News

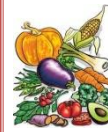
The Mentone pool has a new deck! The existing concrete deck was replaced with decorative pavers. The project also included refurbishing the fence. If you haven't seen it, stop by and check it out!



HOA Board Position Open

Michael Johnston, HOA treasurer, has left Gainesville. We thank Michael for his hard work and dedication to Mentone and wish him the best in future endeavors.

We're asking for a volunteer to replace Michael on the HOA board. It's a good way to get involved keeping Mentone as a great place to live. It only takes one evening a month and a little time responding to board emails. Please consider becoming an active member of the board. If interested, please contact Kelly Burch at 352-353-4812.



What's Cooking?

Easy Jambalaya (serves 4)

- Cajun/Creole seasoning
- 8 oz 31-40 count shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 8 oz thinly sliced precooked smoked sausage
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- ½ to 1 cup chopped onion
- ½ to 1 cup chopped red bell peppers
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 2 tsp each dried oregano & basil
- 4 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 4 tsp Chrystal hot sauce
- 3 ½ cups minute rice
- 3 ½ - 4 cups water

Mix shrimp and sausage in a bowl, sprinkle with Cajun/Creole seasoning to taste and set aside. In large skillet, sauté onions and peppers in olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic, oregano, and basil and sauté for another minute to blend flavors. Add Worcestershire and hot sauces, water, and rice. Bring to a boil, cover and reduce heat to cook rice. When rice is almost cooked (per package directions), add shrimp and sausage, then cook just until shrimp is done, only another few minutes. Bon Appetite!

Upcoming Events

April 18

Mentone Garage Sale

Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21

Monthly ARC/HOA Board Meeting (pool pavilion)

April 25

Family Fun Day

