

The Mentonian



Summer 2015

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**The Homeowners
Association (HOA)
Board is made up of
community members
who volunteer their
time to make Mentone
a great place to live**

Irv Lampert,
President

Paul Chandler,
Vice President

Kim Stricklan,
Secretary

Jacob Robinson,
Treasurer

Mary Opel,
Director

Common Complaints

These are the most common complaints reported to property management, the HOA board, or posted on Facebook over the past year, in no particular order.

Pool and Pavilion Area:

1. A group of adults drinking alcohol on the pool deck (made other pool users uncomfortable, specific concerns regarding this behavior in the presence of small children).
2. People eating on the pool deck (resulted in food particles falling on the pool deck – concern that food would bring in insects).
3. Teenagers kicking the gate to the pool area to open it.
4. Teenagers jumping over the pool area fence.
5. Teenagers in the pool showing obvious public displays of affection (made other pool users uncomfortable).
6. Small children in the pool with diapers on (in one instance, a parent was in the pool with the child, stood the child on the pool deck beside the pool, removed the full diaper, set the diaper on the pool deck, and put the child back in the pool).
7. Children running on the pool deck.
8. Bringing pets into the pool area, and allowing pets in the pool (in this instance - resident told the pet owner that pets are not allowed in the pool area. Pet owner told resident to mind their own business. Later information confirmed the pet owner was not a Mentone resident).
9. People leaving trash around the basketball court and playground area.

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Coral Snakes



Although elusive, there have been some coral snake sightings in Mentone. This small, smooth, brightly colored snake has a slender body, small, blunt head and round pupils. The maximum length can be up to 50 inches, but more commonly it is about 30 inches. **The diagnostic feature is a black-tipped nose and a broad yellow band across the back of the head and neck.** Along the body narrow yellow bands separate wider bands of black and red.

The old saying **"Red touches yellow, kill a fellow"** can be used to separate the coral snake from its non-venomous mimics, the scarlet king snake and the scarlet snake. In the latter two species, the bands are similarly colored but red bands touch black bands. (**"Red touches black, friend of Jack"**).

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Common Complaints

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Parking in the Street:

1. People parking in the street, even when their driveway is available for parking.
2. People parking in the street on both sides – resulting in very little space to drive through the area (concern that emergency response vehicles cannot get through).
3. Street parking near the roundabouts making it extremely difficult to get through.

Pets:

1. People not picking up after their dogs (in one instance, a homeowner witnessed the dog defecating in their yard, brought it to the pet owner's attention and handed them a grocery bag to pick up the waste. Pet owner got angry and defensive toward homeowner for asking them to clean up after their dog).
2. People placing dog waste in other people's trashcans (this usually happens on trash pickup days when trashcans are next to the street).
3. People letting their pets roam the neighborhood (both dogs and cats have been reported).

If you recognize yourself, please take a minute to consider your neighbors. It only takes a moment to be considerate of others, pick up after yourself and/or your pet, and be a good neighbor. Mentone is a super community with great residents. Let's look out for each other and keep Mentone great!

Young Neighborhood Entrepreneurs!

Our new feature highlights young entrepreneurs in Mentone. In this newsletter, we feature **Cameron's Lawn Care**. Cameron is a high school student at Oak Hall School and a Mentone resident. He's saving to buy his first car. He offers mowing and edging services, and NO JOB IS TOO SMALL! He can be reached at 352-328-2524 or at CameronPhillips3@gmail.com.

Coral Snakes (continued from page 1)

Coral snakes are quite common in many habitats but are secretive. They are shy little burrowing snakes often found under flower pots or mulch in the garden. They are mainly diurnal in Florida, hunting in the early morning shortly after sunrise until about 9:00 am, most commonly seen on sunny mornings. Their diet is strictly reptiles, and they do not need a lot of cover, allowing them to live in subdivisions right under peoples' noses.

People are rarely bitten by this non-aggressive species. However, when pinned down or cornered, a coral snake will strike rapidly in a sideways motion (they aren't able to strike forward as readily as vipers can). Coral snakes have very short (3-5mm) fixed fangs, well forward in the mouth. Their **neurotoxic** venom is more virulent than the venom of other snakes in North America. The venom attacks the nervous system, primarily the respiratory center.

They are not able to bite through sturdy shoes or thick clothing, but can cause life threatening envenomation if picked up with bare hands. They do not need to chew or to bite you between the fingers to envenomate.

In Florida, coral snakes are seen most often in March-April and October-November.



What's Cooking?

Cherry Pineapple Smoothie

- 1 cup frozen cherries
- 1 cup frozen pineapple chunks
- 1 cup orange juice
- ½ medium banana
- ½ cup plain Greek yogurt

Put orange juice in a blender FIRST. Add other ingredients and blend until smooth. Pour into glasses and enjoy!

Add coconut and remove the banana for a pina colada smoothie. Change out the fruit for anything you love, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries. The sky is the limit!

Upcoming Events

June 18, July 16
Aug 20, & Sept 17
Monthly ARC and
HOA Board Meeting
(pool pavilion)

Aug 8
Ice Cream Social

Young Entrepreneurs – to be featured in the Mentone newsletter, please contact Kelly Burch at Guardian Association Management at 352-353-4812.