

# The Groundhog



A Newsletter for and about Mentone

March, 2011

## Finally, SPRING!

### Into the Wilds

#### St. Patrick's Day - Did you know?

In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. It is the Saint's feast day and anniversary of his death in the fifth century. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use St. Patrick's Day as an opportunity to drive tourism and showcase



Ireland to the rest of the world.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army. In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Chicago is famous for a somewhat peculiar annual event: dyeing the Chicago River green.

Green, however, was not the first color associated with St. Patrick's Day. A particular shade of blue was known as St. Patrick's blue, but with Ireland's green landscape (The Emerald Isle) and the tradition of picking a shamrock to put on your jacket, green has become the ubiquitous color of this celebration.

### Notes from the Board

#### New Elections of Board Members

In our annual meeting, Patsy Murray was elected President, Karen Ledee, Vice President, Dave Jenkins, Treasurer, and Al Tilly, Secretary. A new board member-at-large was appointed, Gil Murray. A Big thank-you to Angela Lounds-Singleton for all her past contributions to our community, as president, vice-president, Web designer, and many other capacities. Please come meet the Board at any board meeting, the third Thursday of every month.

#### What Makes a Good Neighbor?

If you have good neighbors, what makes them good neighbors? Are they friendly? Do they stop and chat with you from time to time? Do they bring in your trash barrels for you when you're away? Are they considerately quiet during evening hours or early mornings? Do they offer to help when they see you might need help? Do they know your name or the names of your children?

Now ask yourself: Are you a good neighbor?

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#### Sign Up for Email Notifications

If it's easier for you to receive communications from us by Email, or if you'd like to receive this newsletter (in color!) by email, please notify the Management Company. It's a good idea in case there are last minute changes like weather-related cancellations of the Field Day, or emergencies. Call Trend Management at 352-224-1505. Or download the form from [www.mentonecommunity.net](http://www.mentonecommunity.net) Our site will be updated soon!



## **Around the 'Hood'** **Pool Temperatures Ready for Swimming**

Yes! Pool time again! You'll soon see new Green umbrellas and a new Pool sign. We're all looking forward to a happy spring and summer of swimming. To make sure we all enjoy the pool, please follow the rules and be considerate of others. Make sure your babies and toddlers who are not yet trained wear swim diapers. Please keep the Pavilion clean, especially if you enjoy snacks or a meal there, so that others will find it clean, just as you would if you were dining at McDonalds. The pool is a great place to meet people and make new friends. Don't forget to post your information on the pool bulletin board, which is monitored by the Social Committee.

The pool is open for lap swimming only from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., and for general use from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If your pool key fob has stopped working, please contact Amanda or Kelly at Trend Management Solutions. Friendly Reminder: *The Association dues have gone up by \$5 each quarter. If you use an automatic electronic payment method, please ensure you adjust the amount with Trend Management. Otherwise you may find your key fob not working.*

**Easter Egg Hunt:** The annual Easter Egg hunt sponsored by Betsy Pepine will be April 9, 10 am. Come meet the Easter Bunny!

**Spring Yard Sale** will be **March 19**. One man's (or woman's) "junk" is another man's (or woman's) "treasure"!

## **Social Committee Update**

The Annual Field Day and pot luck event will be held in early May. Be on the lookout for signs and an email advertising the event. Kids, practice your running - both two legged and three-legged kind! Ribbons for all. sLater in the summer there will be another ice cream social.

## **Landscape Tips for Spring**

The drive-throughs are on the third Tuesday of the month. Now's a good time to clear off pine needles from your roof because they damage roofs. Wait until after the last freeze (March-April) to seed or sod new lawns. Rake lawns to remove fallen plant debris in preparation for next month's spring growth and subsequent fertilization. Use the debris under and around existing trees and shrubs as mulch.

If you had a problem with annual spring weeds like CRABGRASS you can apply a pre-emergence herbicide in late February or early March to stop these weeds as they germinate. More information is available from the Extension Office. Or go to the IFAS Extension website and click on this link:[http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/2010/more/lawn\\_chill.shtml](http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/2010/more/lawn_chill.shtml)

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## **Management Company Name Change**

The new name is Trend Management Solutions, 4121 NW 37th Place, Suite B, Gainesville, FL, 32606 (352) 224-1505. Amanda Armstrong will be our Manager while Kelly Burch is on maternity leave.

**Pet Corner** The two closest dog parks where dogs can socialize are: Dog Wood Dog Park, 5505 SW Archer Road, 352.335.1919. Dog Wood Park is a 15 acre private off-leash dog park in Gainesville where dogs can run to their hearts' content in a safe controlled environment. Doggie Daycare is available. Squirrel Ridge Park, 1603 SW Williston Road, just west of where Williston crosses SW 13th Street. Open sunrise to sunset. There is an off-leash area within this park's 17 acres; fenced, trees, parking, water, trash cans. No fees for use. Closed on Mondays.

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