

# The Groundhog



A Newsletter for and about Mentone

June, 2011

## Summer Changes

### Into the Wilds

#### Our Singing Neighbors

I don't know if you agree, but it seems to me that there have been many more birds around Mentone this spring. One of the reasons I love living in Mentone is the variety of birds living in all the trees we have. How lucky we are! In February, we noticed hummingbirds every day whizzing around our coral honeysuckle. Then a pair of cardinals built a nest in our oak tree and we watched them digging in the mulch for worms, and insects. The bright red of the male cardinal always makes me catch my breath. Northern Cardinals are monogamous birds. The male, clearly raised well by a good mother, brings his female cardinal food while they are dating and often feeds her seeds beak-to-beak. Cardinals also enjoy grains, fruits, insects and sap. Cardinals have 2-4 sets of eggs, or broods, per year. Each brood consists of 3-4 light green or blue eggs with specks of purple or brown. Babies stay in the nest only for about 10 days. Both parents feed the baby birds, but the male cardinal will often take on this job while the female begins incubating their next brood. Listen to the mockingbirds! Their singing would rival the best jazz vocalist, with their infinite improvisation and clear, loud voice. Mockingbirds are territorial though, and may scare off other birds from your yard. Have

you ever seen them dive-bombing crows, which are twice as large as mockingbirds? This behavior is called "mobbing". If you grow blueberries, you know mockingbirds love them! But as long as they keep singing, they can be forgiven.

### Notes from the Board

#### New Board Member Irv Lampert

Welcome to the newest Board member at large: Irv Lampert. He is already making an impact by organizing a presentation for Mentonians on Florida Friendly landscaping. Read more about this event on the next page.

#### Have You Noticed the Improvements?

The Pool area now has new green umbrellas, new easier-to-use trash cans, and cleaning supplies to make it easier to clean up after events at the Pavilion. The palm trees by the pool are also trimmed. The roundabouts are now planted with drought tolerant Mexican Petunias (non invasive kind) and Lantana. Both attract butterflies.

#### Mentone Website: New, updated, Informative

Check out the new Mentone website: [www.Mentone.Go.To](http://www.Mentone.Go.To) You'll find everything you need to know. Dave Jenkins and our Webmaster, Ned Phillips, have worked hard to improve and update the site. It's great! Go see it! <http://mentone.go.to/>



## **Around the 'Hood'** **Young Entrepreneurs**

Neighborhood kids have fun and learn about business. What's better than a cup of cold lemonade on a hot summer day? And if you bought two cups, you got a free peach! Now that's real value!

**Family Fun Day:** In spite of a rain cancellation, and the event taking place on the next day, the annual Family Fun day was a huge success, with great food, field day events, and best of all, happy kids and parents. Kudos to Debra

Martinez and her great committee for organizing and following through. Next event will be an **Ice Cream Social**, August 6, 2-4pm. **Don't miss this one. Free ice cream for all!!**

## **Florida-Friendly Landscape Presentation Soon at Mentone!**

**Come and Listen, Ask and Learn how Florida-Friendly landscaping can save \$\$\$ and effort and water**

We are thrilled that Wendy Wilbur, the IFAS Extension Agent, will come to Mentone to tell us about the many advantages of making Florida-friendly changes to the landscaping in your yard. The talk will be Saturday, June 11, at 9:30am at the Pavilion. A Q&A session will follow the talk, and for those who wish, there will be a brief tour of some Mentone yards that use Florida-friendly principles. We'll provide coffee and munchies. There will be handouts to help you get started. If you have received letters from the Management about landscaping issues, this is a fabulous opportunity to learn how to improve your yard, and save money on watering. Questions? Call Patsy 352-377-0636.



## **Reminders: Please bring in your trash cans Monday night**

We all get busy. We all can forget. But who likes to look at trash containers? Remember to bring your barrels and recycling bins off the street Monday night or first thing Tuesday before going to work. If you're away, please ask your neighbor to do it for you.

If you are planning an event at the pool, please remember to fill out a form to request the date. This will avoid duplicate events at the same time. You can find the form on the website: [www.mentone.go.to](http://www.mentone.go.to), under the documents link. There will also be a posting of all the events scheduled to take place at the pavilion, to help you plan.

## **A Charming Mentone Garden**

