

# CHRONICLE

Library 909.794.0327  
Senior Center 909.794.5280  
<http://www.sbcounty.gov/library>

*Latest updates on the new Senior Center & Library for Mentone!*

## Mentone Senior Center & Library GRAND OPENING AUGUST 11 9:00 AM



## Mentone Senior Center and Library: Joint Planning, Joint Use

The Mentone Branch Library officially joined the San Bernardino County Library system in 1939. It is one of our older branch libraries. In 1974 the branch moved to the 1870 Mentone Blvd. location where it continued to serve the community for 33 years. During that time, however, Mentone and nearby Redlands grew and it had been apparent for some time that the 1,310-square-foot leased location was far too small to serve its growing community.

Funding for new libraries is never easy to obtain, and it took an atypical, more creative approach to secure the money that made this new branch possible. Discussions with the office of Third District San Bernardino County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger revealed that not only did the library need a new home, the growing numbers of Mentone-area seniors also needed an activity center. By the fall of 2002, a proposed joint-use Senior Center/Branch Library facility concept had taken root. From 2002 until 2006, a steering committee of both community and county representatives began meeting on a monthly basis. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss the direction and progress of this exciting project. The steering committee provided invaluable feedback that assisted greatly in the planning of the Senior Center and Library.

As a result of the concerted efforts of county officials, library administration, and the concerned citizens of Mentone, the Mentone Senior Center and Library opens for business on August 11 at the corner of Mentone Blvd. and Opal Ave. The buildings sits on a 5.6 acre parcel that is being leased from the Metropolitan Water District for \$1 per year. Part of the property has already been landscaped, and additional work will result in a fully landscaped park with measured walking trails, a small grove of orange trees representing Mentone's citrus history, a connection to the Rails to Trails Project and an equestrian area on the northern-most part of the park.

### Project Details

The project consists of a new Senior Center, Library and Community Park at the northwest corner of Opal Avenue and Mentone Blvd. in Mentone. The senior center/library building is 7,443 square feet.

The community park and trail system will utilize 3.38 acres of land that is part of a 50-year lease agreement with Metropolitan Water District. The park and trail portion of the project will include



*From dream, to architect's rendering, to groundbreaking. Among those who made the project possible are Third District Supervisor Dennis Hansberger, Congressman Jerry Lewis and County Librarian Ed Kieczukowski.*

limited turf areas, shade structures, picnic areas, parking, a bridle trail and an equestrian staging area. Also featured will be a commemorative citrus grove honoring the local citrus grower heritage.

The trail system will connect to the City of Redlands Trails. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to construct the senior center and related site improvements. Neighborhood Initiative Program Funds (NIPF), County Library and General funds were used to construct the library, community park, trails and related site improvements.

Third District CDBG funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) were combined with \$1,925,600 from NIPF, \$82,000 of County Library funds and \$1,600,000 of General funds. The total project cost is \$4,600,000. CDBG funds for this project were allocated by Third District Supervisor Dennis Hansberger.

## Meet the Mentone People

Judy Steppins, Senior Specialist. Entrepreneur, volunteer, K-12 teacher and San Bernardino County Library veteran (who retired in 2002) Judy Steppins brings a rich history of people-centered, action-oriented leadership to her new position as Senior Specialist for the new Mentone Senior Center and Library.

Steppins holds a BA in Fine Art with dual minors in Psychology and Art History from Washington

University, as well as certificates in Fundraising from UC Riverside and in Non-Profit Management from Cal Poly Pomona.

Renee Lovato, Librarian II. Renee has been with the San Bernardino County Library for 30 years. She started as Children's Librarian at the Chino branch and also served in the Administrative Office and the Bloomington and Rialto branches before becoming Fontana manager, where she served 10 years before taking over as manager for the new Mentone

Senior Center and Library. She has a BA in Literature from Claremont Scripps College and did postgraduate studies in library science at USC and in public administration at Cal State San Bernardino.

**Margaret Griffith, Librarian I.** Margaret started with the County Library in 1989 as a part-time assistant. In 1997 she was appointed manager for the Mentone branch library, a position she held until Renee Lovato came on board this year. Margaret continues to serve the Mentone operation with enthusiasm and her ongoing love of reading. She has a BA in social sciences from St. Francis College in Ft. Wayne, IN.

## Mentone Senior Programs

Mentone Senior Center and Library has drafted preliminary schedules for August and September. This is an evolving process and will be adjusted in response to community surveys and sign-ups for specific groups and classes. Focus for offerings will be on education, health, arts and crafts, mental stimulation, social functions and fun! Community volunteers will play key roles in the development and character of Mentone Senior Center programming and a cadre of trained volunteers will assist in program delivery.

A nutrition program is being developed by the Department of Aging and Social services. The nature of this program is still to be determined, and the target date for beginning the program is for later this fall.



*The children's corner of the new library sports a colorful mural six feet high by nearly 20 feet wide!*

# Mentone Senior Center COMING EVENTS

## Senior Center Hours:<sup>1</sup>

Monday through Thursday.....9 am - 5 pm  
 Friday.....10 am - 5 pm  
 Saturday .....9 am - 5 pm

### Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS):

A representative of DAAS is available to meet with senior adults on an appointment basis Monday thru Friday. Speak with the DAAS representative on site or check with the Mentone Senior Center Coordinator for more information.

**<sup>1</sup>Trained volunteer will be present at all times when Senior Center is open.**

**NOTE:** Evening hours as scheduled for special events.

**NOTE: Sign-up sheets are available for possible activities, classes and groups.** Please let us know what is of interest to you and what day and time you prefer. Programs will be scheduled in October based on your responses. THANK YOU.

### August

#### ***Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays***

August 13 through August 30

9 am until closing /  
 GOOD MORNING MENTONE / Coffee & conversation  
 "Mousercize" / Computer stations available for sign-up  
 9 am - 1 pm / Come and meet staff and discuss future activities planning  
 10 am / GAMES GALORE / Board games, cards, puzzles  
 12 pm / "Lunch-in-it" BYO brown bag lunch and meet your friends; beverages provided

***Fridays***, August 17, 24, 31, 10 am until closing /  
 OPEN ACTIVITIES

***Saturdays***, August 18, 25, 9 am until closing /  
 OPEN ACTIVITIES

### September

#### ***Mondays***, September 3, 10, 17, 24

September 3, LABOR DAY holiday - **Senior Center and Library closed**

9 am until closing /  
 GOOD MORNING MENTONE / Coffee & conversation  
 "Mousercize" / Computer stations available for sign-up  
 9 am - 1 pm / Come and meet staff and discuss future activities planning

***Tuesdays***, September 4, 11, 18, 25, 9 am until closing /  
 GOOD MORNING MENTONE / Coffee & conversation  
 "Mousercize" / Computer stations available for sign-up

## San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

1st District Brad Mitzelfelt  
 2nd District Paul Biane  
 3rd District Dennis Hansberger  
 4th District Gary Ovitt  
 5th District Josie Gonzales



9 am - 12 pm / Fine art with Ferne "Hummingbird" Sorois\*  
 10 am / GAMES GALORE / Board games, cards, puzzles

#### ***Wednesdays***, September 5, 12, 19, 26

September 19, Branch Mgr meeting - **Senior Ctr. closed**  
 9 am until closing /  
 GOOD MORNING MENTONE / Coffee & conversation  
 "Mousercize" / Computer stations available for sign-up  
 9 am - 10 am / Exercise\*  
 9 am - 1 pm / Come and meet staff and discuss future activities planning  
 10 am / GAMES GALORE / Board games, cards, puzzles  
 12 pm / "Lunch-in-it" BYO brown bag lunch and meet your friends; beverages provided

#### ***Thursdays***, September 6, 13, 20, 27, 9 am until closing /

GOOD MORNING MENTONE / Coffee & conversation  
 "Mousercize" / Computer stations available for sign-up  
 9 am - 12 pm / Fine art glass\*  
 10 am / GAMES GALORE / Board games, cards, puzzles

#### ***Fridays***, September 7, 14, 27, 10 am until closing /

GOOD MORNING MENTONE / Coffee & conversation  
 "Mousercize" / Computer stations available for sign-up  
 OPEN ACTIVITIES

#### ***Saturdays***, September 8, 15, 28, 9 am until closing /

GOOD MORNING MENTONE / Coffee & conversation  
 "Mousercize" / Computer stations available for sign-up  
 OPEN ACTIVITIES

\* Register at Redlands Adult School on line or in person.

The Mentone Senior Center and Library was designed to be an intergenerational facility that would provide meeting space for seniors, for the Library and for the community.

While the Senior Center and the Library have designated spaces, the building was designed to accommodate programs for all groups by sharing space. The facility is a county facility and as such operates under the County Policies for facility usage and meeting room usage.

## Meeting Room Usage Policy

If programs are sponsored by County agencies (there is no insurance or application needed) they would simply schedule a program subject to meeting room availability. If an outside agency or group wishes to use the facility, an application and proof of insurance is required by the County's risk management division. One-day insurance can be purchased through the County.

As a matter of practice the County Library, which has responsibility for operating both the Library and the Senior Center, does not allow outside groups to schedule and hold meetings on a regular weekly or monthly basis. However, groups may apply to use the meeting room when Library or Senior Center programs are not scheduled. The demand can be overwhelming in trying to accommodate all groups equally, leaving little time for library or senior programs.



On the left is the plot plan for the new senior center and library along with the park, trails and citrus grove. North portion still in progress.

On the right the map shows the new senior center and library at 1331 Opal Ave., just west and across the street from the old branch.



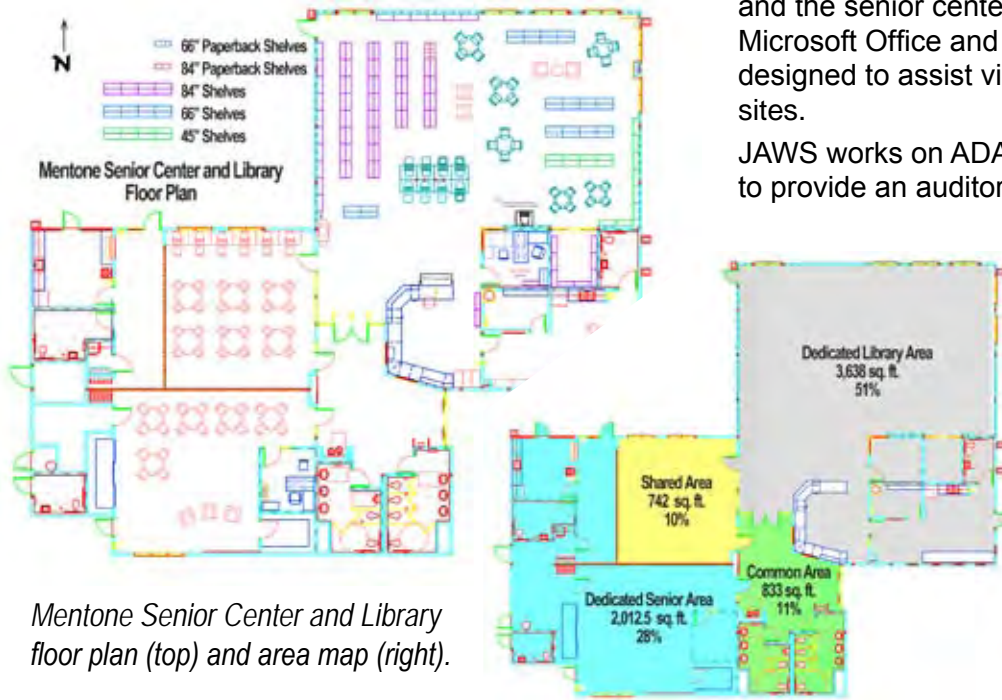
## Mentone Library

The Mentone Library will house approximately 19,000 items with special emphasis on subjects relating to senior populations in a variety of formats.

Public Accessible computers with Internet access are available both in the library and the senior center. These computers are equipped with Microsoft Office and JAWS software, a text-to-speech utility designed to assist vision impaired patrons to navigate web sites.

JAWS works on ADA compliant alt-text enabled Web pages to provide an auditory description of a link, image or button and assist the patron in navigating to find the information they seek.

Collections of all San Bernardino County Library and Riverside County Branches are available through the County's on-line catalog. In addition a number of electronic data bases such as full-text magazine articles can be accessed through the County Library's Web site.



Mentone Senior Center and Library floor plan (top) and area map (right).

San Bernardino County Library  
104 W. 4th St.  
San Bernardino, CA 92415