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CITY MAGAZINE 2026



The Mentor History Trail

Exploring the landmarks, people and stories that shaped the city

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On behalf of the Mentor City Council and our dedicated administrative staff, I am delighted to present the 2026 Mentor City Magazine. Inside, you'll find valuable information about city services and resources to serve as a reference throughout the year.

Mentor is a great place to live, work, and visit, thanks to the strong foundation laid by our predecessors as well as the thoughtful leadership of city councils past and present. We take our responsibilities seriously, and endeavor to constantly find ways to provide for a better Mentor today and in the future.

I hope the stories in this edition offer insight into the people and places that make our city a special place to call home. To our visitors, we wish you a pleasant stay!

To our residents, thank you for your support. It is a pleasure to serve you.

Best Regards,
Kenneth J. Filipiak | Mentor City Manager



Pictured above: Mentor City Hall
Pictured right (top to bottom): Mentor Civic Amphitheater, home to the Mentor Rocks summer concert series; Mentor's industrial corridor; Mentor Senior Center

Mentor City Council

Seated: (L–R) Ray Kirchner – Vice-President of Council, Councilperson At-Large; Janet A. Dowling – President of Council, Councilperson At-Large; John A. Krueger – Ward 4 Councilperson

Standing: Matthew E. Donovan – Ward 2 Councilperson; Brian G. Cook – Councilperson At-Large; Sean P. Blake – Ward 1 Councilperson; Charles E. Pinkerman – Ward 3 Councilperson

Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday at 7 PM at the Mentor Municipal Center. Meetings are open to the public. To reach a member of city council call (440) 974-5755 or email citycouncil@cityofmentor.com.



MENTOR

CITY MAGAZINE 2026

The official magazine of the city of Mentor.

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Mentor Summer Camp

Pictured above: The Mentor Community Recreation Center pickleball courts.

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Fueling Business Growth in Mentor

MEACO is helping entrepreneurs turn opportunity into success across Lake County

There is no doubt that business is booming in Mentor—and one organization is working behind the scenes to ensure ambitious entrepreneurs have every opportunity for success. MEACO, the Mentor Economic Assistance Corporation, provides financing opportunities for small-to-midsize businesses looking to start or expand in Mentor as well as the rest of Northeast Ohio.

Kelly Conrad, MEACO's executive director, employs a hands-on approach and has a host of programs and incentives available to support their clients' success. "My favorite part is giving them that extra tool that might have been their only barrier," says Conrad.

Founded in 1983 by the city of Mentor, MEACO was created to support local businesses and strengthen the economy—especially smaller companies with limited resources.

As a certified development company (CDC), MEACO is authorized through the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide 504 loans. These loans are structured as a partnership: a traditional bank funds 50 percent, MEACO provides 40 percent through the SBA program, and the business contributes the remaining 10 percent (or 15 percent for startups). "It's ideal for companies just starting out because they can preserve more working capital," says Conrad.

The 504 program also offers a streamlined application process, with the SBA and participating banks working closely together. Interest rates are competitive and there are no balloon payments. Still, Conrad emphasizes that MEACO's role is to guide, not push. "The SBA 504 program isn't for everybody," she says. "We always look out for the business's best interest and help them find the right fit." While MEACO works closely with the city, its services are available to business owners across Northeast Ohio.

Conrad's commitment to supporting



Kelly Conrad, executive director of MEACO (left) with Kim Gilmore, owner of RAW Roofing.

"My favorite part is giving businesses that extra tool that might have been their only barrier."

*— Kelly Conrad
MEACO's executive director*

local businesses also extends to partnerships within the community. MEACO is a proud sponsor of the Mentor Area Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business program, which brings together 75 to 100 professionals each quarter for networking and support.

For business owner Kim Gilmore, that support has been transformative. "My relationship with Kelly Conrad has been life-changing—both personally and professionally," she says. Gilmore credits Conrad's honest guidance as a turning point. "She didn't brush me off—she took the time to really look at my situation," Gilmore explains. "She told me, respectfully but honestly, that it was time to get a real bookkeeper and get my financials in order. That moment changed everything."

With MEACO's support, Gilmore was able to become a partner in RAW

Roofing, purchase her first semi-truck, and invest in a commercial building in Mentor. "I can't say enough about what Kelly, the city, and the MEACO program have done for me," she says. "She goes above and beyond—not just as a resource, but as someone who genuinely cares about helping you grow."

Today, MEACO is undergoing a rebranding effort aimed at increasing awareness of its services and expanding its reach. The goal remains the same: to foster strong, sustainable business growth in Mentor and beyond. "Bringing in reputable, solid businesses strengthens our local economy," says Conrad. "When businesses succeed, the whole community benefits."

And for business owners like Gilmore, that impact is personal. "They believe so much in me," she says. "It really is better in Mentor."

For more information visit meaco.us or contact Kelly Conrad, executive director at (440) 974-5740 or conrad@cityofmentor.com.

Article by Sophia Filipiak





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REVOLUTIONARY ROOTS

Seven patriots who made their way to Northeast Ohio, becoming part of Mentor's earliest history



Mentor's story is deeply rooted in the spirit of American independence. As part of the America250 commemoration, we honor seven Revolutionary War veterans who later made their way to the Western Reserve—trading muskets for plows and helping shape the community we know today. Their journeys from battlefield to frontier reflect the resilience and determination that built both a nation and a city.

BENJAMIN BLISH

Born in Connecticut in 1753, Benjamin Blish served multiple short enlistments during the Revolutionary War before eventually moving west with his family. In 1805, he, his wife, and their eight children made a difficult journey to the Western Reserve, facing illness, rough conditions, and scarce supplies along the way. The family initially lived together in a single-room log home before establishing what became known as the Blish farm. Blish died in 1825 and is buried in Blish Cemetery in Painesville Township.

GARRIT BRASS

Garrit Brass, born in New York City in 1766, served in the Massachusetts troops during the final years of the Revolutionary War and was present at the British evacuation of New York in

1783. He later settled in Mentor, where his family became founding members of the local Methodist church. His property once stretched along present-day Garfield Road. Brass died in 1837 and is buried in Mentor Municipal Cemetery.

ROGER ASCHAM CRAINE

Roger Craine enlisted as a teenager and served through much of the Revolutionary War, seeing action in several major campaigns. Family accounts place him at Valley Forge and involved in daring operations during the war. Afterward, he farmed in New York before eventually relocating to Northeast Ohio. Craine died in 1841, and his remains were later moved to Mentor Municipal Cemetery, where he rests today.

ISRAEL FOX

Israel Fox of Connecticut served in multiple enlistments during the Revolutionary War, including time with a regiment involved in early key battles. He also witnessed the execution of British officer Major John André, a moment tied to Benedict Arnold's infamous betrayal. Later a resident of Mentor, Fox applied for a pension in 1832. Though details of his death are unclear, he is buried at Mentor Municipal Cemetery.

JOHN REYNOLDS

John Reynolds enlisted at just 15 years old, serving as a musician—using drum and fife signals to communicate on the battlefield. He later became a sergeant and fought in several major engagements, sustaining injuries along the way. After the war, he built a life in New York before moving to Mentor in 1820. Reynolds died in 1840 and is buried today at Mentor Municipal Cemetery.

JACOB TYLER

Jacob Tyler served multiple enlistments during the later years of the Revolutionary War, eventually rising to the rank of sergeant. After the war, he lived in New York before settling near Little Mountain in the late 1830s. His life reflects the path of many veterans who helped push westward expansion. Tyler died in 1847 and is buried at Mentor Municipal Cemetery.

EBENEZER WILSON

Ebenezer Wilson answered the call during a 1776 military alarm in Rhode Island. After the war, he lived in New York before purchasing land and relocating to Mentor in 1812. Local lore connects his family to the origins of "Uncle Sam," adding a unique footnote to his story. Wilson died in 1829 and is buried in Mentor Municipal Cemetery.

Visit www.mentorhistory.com for expanded bios on these Revolutionary War veterans. Special markers have been placed at Mentor Municipal Cemetery so residents can reflect on the lives of those who helped shape both the nation — and Mentor itself.





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MENTOR HISTORY TRAIL

Exploring the landmarks, stories, and people that shaped the city



Gray-Coulton House

First founded in 1797, Lake County's largest city evolved from a quiet farming community to a vibrant city of 50,000 residents and 1,700 businesses. A lot has changed over the past 225+ years but the enduring spirit of our founders remains.

We've identified over a dozen landmarks throughout the city (with more to come) that help tell our story...what was and, in some instances, what could have been. Each stop reveals stories of pioneers, industrialists, and local heroes who shaped Mentor into what it is today. We invite you to explore local sites of interest including:

- ◆ The James A. Garfield National Historic Site, where the 20th president of the United States conducted his iconic front-porch campaign in 1880. The historical drama "Death by Lightning" which loosely chronicles Garfield's ascendance to the White House is now streaming on Netflix. Although it runs a bit loose with historical accuracy, it captures the spirit, drama, and aftermath of the 1880 election. Be forewarned that it is rated TV MA for certain language and content.
- ◆ Black Brook Golf Course, which was designed by Bertie Way - a renowned course designer in his day whose body of work also included the south course at Firestone Country Club, the Mayfield Country Club, and the Country Club of Detroit. He even designed the old Euclid Golf Club and taught the game to owner John D. Rockefeller.
- ◆ The Matchworks Building is Mentor's most prolific incubator! It was built shortly after the Civil War as home to the Hart Nut and Washer Company. A variety of other businesses have occupied the space since then including the Mentor Knitting Mills, the Columbia Match Company, and a little startup known as STERIS.

- ◆ Railroads made their way through Mentor as early as the 1850s. The passenger depot that still stands today was opened in 1890 by the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway and was the location of the infamous crash of the 20th Century Limited in 1905. The depot closed in 1948 and has housed a variety of businesses since then. It still stands and awaits the next chapter in its story.
- ◆ Old Council Hall was originally built in 1856 as the Disciples of Christ church. Mentor resident and President James A. Garfield - the only U.S. President to also be an ordained minister, was a member and occasionally preached here. The building was moved in 1912 and served as Mentor Township Hall

until 1963. The historic structure is owned by the city and still in use today.

- ◆ One of Mentor's oldest structures is the Gray-Coulton House located at the corner of Mentor Avenue and Maple Street. Originally built in 1868 by Martin Gray, it has served as a seed store, general store, grocery store, and dry goods. In recent years, the storefront has housed antique shops, photographers, and even a gun shop. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Learn more about these and other waypoints on the Mentor History Trail at mentorhistory.com.



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Over 200,000 people visit the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina each year. While most are Mentor residents, the preserve's unique character and rich biodiversity also draw nature lovers and birders from across the region.

Over the past several years, the city has made a variety of improvements to increase access and enhance the experience for everyone.

In 2023, a 442-foot ADA-accessible boardwalk and observation deck were added, offering scenic views of the Mentor Marsh. The boardwalk is conveniently located near the trailhead, just north of the parking area adjacent to the marina office.

In 2025, the city unveiled a new kayak rental and concession stand where visitors can rent kayaks, canoes, and pedal boats by the hour to explore the lagoons—or simply enjoy a snack at a picnic table with a wonderful waterfront view.

This year, construction is well underway on a new 90-foot observation tower that will provide commanding views of the Mentor Marsh, Mentor Lagoons Marina, and even Lake

Erie. Located approximately 500 feet north of the parking lot, the tower is scheduled for completion this fall. Visitors are advised that trail access may be limited periodically during construction.

Additional improvements have been made to the 450-acre Mentor Lagoons property since the city acquired it in the late 1990s, including the annual replacement of sections of century-old seawalls, reconstruction of the harbor inlet, and the installation of revetments along the water's edge to protect the harbor from the powerful waves of Lake Erie.

City Council is currently evaluating long-range plans to further protect the shoreline from ongoing erosion while improving access and amenities along the entire 1.5-mile stretch of shoreline. Stay tuned!



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TASTES OF MENTOR

Celebrating Mentor's culinary diversity one plate at a time

Mentor's culinary scene is as vibrant and varied as the people who call it home. From family-run spots serving generations-old recipes to modern kitchens blending global flavors, the local dining landscape offers something to satisfy even the pickiest of eaters!

Whether you're craving rich spices from across the globe, comforting classics, or inventive fusion dishes, you'll find no shortage of delicious options. This is not a comprehensive guide to every great place to eat—we'd need a book for that. Instead, we are spotlighting four standout restaurants (plus short profiles of six more) that capture the spirit of our city's food culture. Each one offers not only exceptional meals but also a story worth sharing.

These are just a few of the many culinary gems waiting to be discovered. So grab your fork (or chopsticks), and let's explore some of the tastes that make our community unique.

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TJ's on the Avenue

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TJ's on the Avenue has been a staple of the Mentor community since the late 1980s. Owner Craig Pulling, who purchased the restaurant in 1992, has built on that strong foundation through personalized service and memorable homemade dishes.

Pulling previously worked as a restaurant manager before deciding to own a place of his own. When he discovered TJ's on the Avenue, the opportunity felt like the perfect fit. "We tried to build on what was already an established restaurant," says Pulling. "It had a good reputation. It had a really solid base." At the time, Pulling was living out of state, and his family helped support the purchase and early development of the restaurant.

More than three decades later, TJ's continues to earn loyal customers with its comfortable atmosphere and quality food. "I love my employees and my guests," Pulling says. "I'd call them my

friends more than my guests. That's how you are treated when you come in." While the dining room remains a local favorite, catering and carryout now account for nearly half of the restaurant's business, serving everything from corporate events to private parties.

Pulling works hard to keep prices reasonable while using high-quality ingredients in every dish. "It's a good value. It's quality food. I buy only the best," he explains. All spaghetti and pasta shells are made by hand, and the restaurant's signature Chicken Madison—a chicken cutlet sautéed in white wine with fresh mushrooms and topped with white wine sauce—has become a longtime customer favorite.

"It's something you just won't find anyplace else," says Pulling, who also receives rave reviews about his classic chicken parmigiana. Every entrée includes a fresh salad and homemade



Cameron and Craig Pulling

garlic bread baked daily.

TJ's on the Avenue will remain family-owned for the foreseeable future as Pulling begins passing the reins to his son, Cameron. Together, they hope to continue serving the Mentor community for years to come. "We were blessed that the restaurant was in Mentor," says Pulling. "We were really embraced by the community."

Article & photo by Sophia Filipiak

Verdi's Italian Market

8720 Mentor Avenue • (440) 266-8400

With the increasing costs of travel, Mentor residents will be happy to discover they do not need a passport to enjoy authentic Italian flavors. The moment customers walk into Verdi's Italian Market, they are greeted by the unmistakable aroma of fresh bread, simmering sauces, imported cheeses, and Italian specialties.

Founded in 2012 by Randy and Gerrie Verdi, the market was created as a community-focused destination where families could pick up high-quality ingredients for homemade Italian meals or grab prepared dishes to enjoy on the go. In 2019, the Verdis retired and sold the business to Dean Allison, a longtime restaurant professional who immediately recognized the market's potential.

"Sometimes opportunity meets desire. I had always wanted to own my own restaurant," says Allison, who previously worked for several local restaurant chains before leaving corporate life

behind to purchase Verdi's.

Rather than reinventing the business, Allison focused on preserving the traditions and neighborhood feel customers already loved. "They had a good foundation and we've just built on it," he explains. "Randy was very active in the community, and we wanted to continue that."

Designed like a classic Italian deli and market, Verdi's offers much more than carryout. Shelves are stocked with imported pasta, sauces, olive oils, seasonings, and specialty ingredients that make it easy to recreate authentic Italian dishes at home. Customers can also order lunch, dinner, desserts, or catering from the kitchen.

Popular menu items include the lasagna dinner for two, hearty pasta dishes, pizza pockets, and the Wiseguy sandwich, which layers spicy sauce, meatballs, and cold cuts into one over-the-top creation. Another customer favorite is the Calabrian, a spicy chick-



Dean Allison (center) along with employees (L-R) Alex, Anna and Chris

en sandwich topped with chili aioli that has quickly become one of the deli's best sellers. House-made desserts, gelato, cookies, and cheesecakes add to the authentic Italian experience.

Verdi's also remains deeply connected to the local community, donating raffle baskets to charitable causes throughout the area each month. Allison believes those relationships are part of what makes independent businesses so important.

"It's small, unique places like this that give the community its feel," he says.

Article & photo by Sophia Filipiak

Billy's - A Capelli Martini Bar

7338 Industrial Park Boulevard, Mentor • (440) 585-8815



Kelsey O'Brien

Whether you are looking for a quiet place to unwind with friends or a boisterous evening of dancing to live music, Billy's - A Capelli Martini Bar is an exciting place with the ability to accommodate everyone's individual needs. A picture of both sophistication and fun, Billy's is one of Mentor's most fascinating hidden gems.

Kelsey O'Brien is a third-generation restaurant owner who grew up in the business and took over Billy's in 2013, completely rebranding the space her parents originally opened a decade earlier. With grandparents who owned a bar during Prohibition, hospitality runs deep in her family history. "I could never imagine doing anything other than what I do," says O'Brien. "I love the fast-paced thrill of the service industry."

While Billy's is known for its martini menu, the food has developed a loyal following of its own. The Espresso

Martini is currently the top drink order, while the signature arancini risotto balls remain one of the kitchen's hottest sellers. "We roll 100 of them and they're gone in two days," O'Brien says. "We fly through them." The menu ranges from burgers to filet mignon, and Billy's also features 30 beers on tap with a strong focus on craft selections.

Billy's keeps guests engaged with a different atmosphere depending on the night of the week. Wednesdays tend to be more relaxed, while Thursdays feature live music, dancing, and a packed house. A recently expanded private lounge offers a quieter option for guests and is also available for special events. Complete with its own entrance, bar, and restroom, the space can accommodate up to 100 people.

Despite its upscale feel, Billy's maintains a welcoming neighborhood atmosphere that keeps customers coming back. O'Brien credits much of

that success to her staff. "Our restaurant really comes down to the people behind the bar," she explains. "My staff is absolutely phenomenal. They really do care about every person who walks through that door."

O'Brien remains grateful for the community support Billy's has received over the years. "The city is so great," she says. "It's enormous but you feel like you know everyone there."

Article by Sophia Filipiak

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Dynamite Dawgs

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Hot dogs are a classic summer staple present at nearly every backyard barbecue and Independence Day soirée. One Mentor restaurant in particular has taken this American favorite to another level, proudly becoming “Ohio’s fair food destination.”

In October of 2020, Kristin Bittner and Jason Salvatore took a leap and opened Dynamite Dawgs, a fun and flavorful spot serving creative carnival-themed menu items with a twist. Salvatore, Bittner’s fiancé and business partner, worked a traditional corporate job at a car dealership but always imagined doing something more creative. “I wanted to do something a little off the wall,” says Salvatore. “I can’t imagine ever going back to a corporate job. I like to be creative and carve out my own path with food.”

Salvatore always had a passion for cooking and was determined to make Dynamite Dawgs a unique experi-

ence for people of all ages. Despite not having formal culinary training, he believed his recipes would speak for themselves. “I just cooked from the heart,” he explains. “Some people paint. I like to cook. That’s my form of art.”

The diverse menu satisfies both picky eaters and adventurous food lovers alike. Half-pound burgers and giant hot dogs are stacked sky-high with toppings ranging from nacho cheese to mac and cheese. Their most popular item is the Dynamite Dawg, a 100% all-beef hot dog topped with house-made coney sauce, nacho cheese, diced onions, and grilled bacon. Another fan favorite is the Brutus Burger, piled high with bacon, cheddar cheese, fried eggs, and garlic butter.

“I painted all the murals on the walls. We tried to make it fun and kid-friendly,” explains Bittner, whose artistic touch helped create a vibrant,



Kristin Bittner and Jason Salvatore

colorful space where families gather and strangers often become friends.

Bittner and Salvatore say engaging with the community has been the most rewarding part of owning the restaurant. “For me, owning a restaurant is about connecting to the community and being creative with food,” says Salvatore. “This is where I grew up. Mentor is home. I want to serve home.”

Article by Sophia Filipiak

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TASTES OF MENTOR



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cocolocosmentor.com

Cocos Locos Mexican Cuisine serves up a wide range of Mexican favorites, from nachos, quesadillas, fajitas, and tacos to fresh salads and vegetarian options. The menu also features daily specials and lunch offerings. Behind the bar, guests can choose from classic and organic margaritas, mojitos, cocktails, and a selection of beers—making it a go-to spot for both casual meals and drinks.



Arctic Blast Bites

9179 Mentor Avenue, Mentor
(440) 290-0016
www.arcticblastbites.com

Arctic Blast Bites is a family-owned candy company born from a young entrepreneur's curiosity and drive. What started as a kitchen experiment quickly grew into a passion for perfecting freeze-dried treats through trial, error, and plenty of taste-testing. Today, they create light, crunchy versions of classic candies, offering a fun, flavorful twist that has quickly gained a local following.



Golden Crust Bakery

8893 Mentor Avenue, Mentor
(440) 205-0601
www.goldencrustbakery.net

Since 2012, this family-owned bakery has been dedicated to serving fresh, delicious baked goods made from scratch daily.

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The Indian Kitchen

9552 Mentor Avenue, Mentor
(440) 650-0060

theindiankitchenmentor.com

Known for its exceptional Indian cuisine, The Indian Kitchen pairs bold flavors with warm, attentive service in a lively atmosphere. Each dish is prepared fresh using high-quality ingredients and vibrant vegetables, creating a dining experience that blends rich taste with genuine care. Enjoy a lunch buffet, dinner service, or convenient on-line ordering and takeout.



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Public Safety Forces Memorial

The Public Safety Forces Memorial is located at the Mentor Civic Center campus. It was dedicated on June 24, 2021 on the third anniversary of the death of Officer Mathew Mazany. The memorial is a fitting place of remembrance for our community to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Funding for the memorial was donated by the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home and Cremation Center.



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Nature Finds Its Balance

From returning wildflowers to thriving bird populations, local conservation efforts are reshaping the city’s natural landscape

The Mentor Natural Resources Department is dedicated to the preservation and research of Mentor’s local flora and fauna. Naturalist Joel Throckmorton is excited about the positive changes being observed in the city’s parks.

The Mentor Lagoons is currently experiencing increased bird activity and an abundance of new plant life. “We’re seeing a lot of good recovery of the understory,” says Throckmorton. Much of this forest regeneration and regrowth can be attributed to a lower white-tailed deer population. Trillium and Jack-in-the-pulpit—two plant species native to Northeast Ohio—have made a major comeback in 2026, with some of the strongest growth reported in years. “It’s good to see

these species when the deer population is at a healthier level,” Throckmorton notes. Invasive plant species are also being actively removed and replaced with native flora to help restore the Mentor Lagoons to its natural state. As invasives are cleared, native species are able to take root without competing for space or resources.

For the past five seasons, the Mentor Natural Resources Department has also participated in bird banding in conjunction with the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the USGS Bird Banding Lab. Each band contains a unique identifying number that allows scientists to track a bird’s migratory patterns, mating behavior, and overall longevity. “It’s been very helpful contributing to global data sets,” says



Naturalist Joel Throckmorton showing off one of the birds that the city bands to track migratory patterns and longevity.

Throckmorton. “It’s cool that Mentor is contributing to science like this.” He also encourages community members to attend live bird banding sessions to learn more about how they can support wild bird populations.

How can residents participate in efforts to protect Mentor’s natural resources? Throckmorton suggests starting with small changes at home. “Improve your yard to support bird populations through native plantings so your yard is not just a monoculture of one species,” he says. Through the combined efforts of naturalists, scientists, and the community, meaningful steps can be taken to ensure Mentor remains a healthy, natural environment for generations to come.

Article by Sophia Filipiak

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Mentor Launches Citizens Police Academy

New program gives residents a behind-the-scenes look at policing, including hands-on learning and officer ride-alongs

Most people take intentional measures to avoid ending up in the back of a squad car. Fifteen Mentor residents, however, were eager to spend a few hours with one and experience life from a police officer's perspective.

This past fall, the Mentor Police Department hosted its first-ever Citizens Police Academy, a program designed for adults interested in learning more about local law enforcement. "We were really happy with how it turned out," says Mentor Police Chief Kenneth Gunsch. Participants attended weekly two-hour evening sessions covering a wide range of topics, including routine traffic stops, K-9 units, hostage negotiation, crime scene processing, special-

ized equipment use, drone operation, and more. Guest speakers—including members of the SWAT team—offered additional insight into specialized areas of policing. The program concluded with a powerful and emotional presentation from a fallen officer's widow.

Run through the department's Crime Prevention Unit, the Citizens Police Academy is designed "to expose citizens to what we do as police officers in the police department," explains Gunsch. Following the course, participants were also given the opportunity to join officers on ride-alongs, observing real calls in real time. These ride-alongs are open



Sgt. Mike Danzey demonstrates Accutrans, a forensic tool that helps investigators collect fingerprints and forensic evidence from textured and curved surfaces.

to any interested resident or business owner, and are especially encouraged for those considering a career in law enforcement. Together, the programs reflect the department's ongoing commitment to community engagement and transparency.

Due to overwhelmingly positive feedback from both participants and officers, the Citizens Police Academy will return in 2026. "We weren't sure how it was going to be, but it ended up being really successful," says Gunsch. "We enjoyed it and we think the citizens really enjoyed it too." Participants must be at least 18 years old and either a Mentor resident or business owner.

Chief Gunsch also wants residents to know they should never hesitate to call the police when needed. "We're always there to respond. A lot of people feel guilty calling us," he says. "Please call us when you see things happening. It's always better for us to respond when things are going on rather than after the fact." Mentor's police force remains committed to serving, protecting, and educating its community.

Article by Sophia Filipiak



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Building the Future of Fire Safety in Mentor

New Station 3 will bring expanded training, faster response times, and upgraded resources for firefighters

From checking in on elderly residents to battling dangerous fires, Mentor firefighters are trained to handle every situation with precision and care. As the department continues to evolve, new resources and training opportunities are helping them serve the community at an even higher level.

Fire Chief Ron Zak is especially excited about the department's continued growth, much of which is centered around the construction of a new Station 3. The new facility will be built on 2.7 acres at the northeast corner of Johnnycake Ridge Road and Plaza Boulevard, a site chosen to better serve nearby residents and businesses while replacing the current 60-year-old station on Mentor Avenue near Eleanor B. Garfield Park. Work on the site is already underway with construction slated to start later this year.

The station itself will feature five bays and a cutting-edge, four-story training center designed for hands-on learning in rope rescue, confined space rescue, and other critical disciplines, along with a dedicated classroom for traditional instruction. "We don't have anything like it around," says Zak. "All the disciplines within it make it more unique." The new station is expected to be in service by the end of 2027 and will help ensure Mentor's first responders are prepared for any situation.

The department has also enhanced



Rendering of Mentor's new Fire Station 3 to be located at the former Sears Automotive site.

its emergency response capabilities with the addition of a 22-foot rigid inflatable rescue boat, now docked at the Mentor Lagoons Marina. In the past, crews needed extra time to transport and launch a boat before responding to emergencies on the water. Precious minutes can make the difference, more so in consideration of the staffing changes at the Coast Guard station in Fairport. "Now we can jump on and go—it will save a lot of time," adds Zak.

Interest in joining the department has grown over the past two years, and expanded training opportunities are helping prepare the next generation of first responders. Live fire training is now available through Auburn Career Center, giving students valuable hands-on experience. In addition, the Cleveland Clinic has partnered with the city of Mentor to provide monthly

training sessions tailored specifically to Mentor paramedics. "It's all specific to us," Zak explains. "The training has been exciting—it's great to see more people getting involved."

Article by Sophia Filipiak

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Resident Training

The Mentor Fire Department offers CPR classes year-round. These sessions are led by a trained public education specialist and can be tailored to various skill levels.

- ◆ **Cost:** \$35 for residents
- ◆ **Registration:** Contact the Fire Department administration

Upcoming Events

Meet the department and view live equipment demonstrations:

- ◆ **Safety Forces Open House:** August 1, 2026 • 11 am–2 pm
- ◆ **Mentor CityFest:** August 14–15

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A Decade of Harmony

The Mentor Civic Amphitheater celebrates ten seasons of music, community and summer nights under the stars

This year, Mentor is celebrating the tenth season of music at the Mentor Civic Amphitheater.

But what concertgoers see today, took root almost a half-century ago.

The original gazebo was built at Civic Center Park in the late 1970s. In 1988, the city began hosting regular summer concerts in the park, featuring a variety of musical genres. For nearly 40 years, music lovers have enjoyed free concerts in the park at Mentor, and what started as a small gathering has evolved into a weekly spectacle.

In 2015, the series was rebranded as Mentor Rocks, with an emphasis on booking top tribute bands in the rock and pop spectrum. Food trucks were

introduced that same year, and beverage sales were added in 2016.

“That was the third leg of the stool,” says Ante Logarusic, Mentor’s communications officer. “Is there a better way to spend a beautiful summer night than watching a great band with family and friends, and enjoying some great food and a beverage or two?”

During those two seasons, attendance accelerated from a few hundred to a few thousand people per performance. That surge encouraged city officials to move ahead with construction of a new amphitheater. The gazebo was demolished and work on the state-of-the-art facility got underway. The goal was to create a welcom-



The original pavilion was built in the '70s.

ing space for the public to gather and enjoy performances they might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience - all for free.

The amphitheater was dedicated on July 4, 2017, with a performance by alt-rock legends Soul Asylum. Since then, more than 100 performances have been held, including renowned recording artists the likes of LeAnn Rimes, Gin Blossoms, Lita Ford, Gavin DeGraw, Everclear, and many more.

But free to attend does not mean free to present.

“The artists are certainly paid. The technical staff is paid. No one works for free,” adds Logarusic. “The entertainment budget is based entirely on what we raise through sponsorships, beverage sales, and food vendor fees.”

Despite the series’ success, organizers are not resting on their laurels. The team regularly meets to find ways to improve the concert experience. Additional parking was added last year as part of phased improvements to Civic Center Park, which among other things, created 150 new parking spaces. Next year, ten additional restroom facilities will be added as well.

Since its opening, the Amp has drawn more than 700,000 attendees and organizers are excited to present the sounds of summer for decades to come.

Pictured top left: Alt-rock legends Soul Asylum open the amphitheater in 2017. Photo credit: Maribeth Joeright

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A Monumental Enterprise

Renowned sculptor commissioned to create statue of James A. Garfield

This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, but another milestone is also being reached. 2026 marks 150 years since James A. Garfield purchased the Dickey farm and settled with his family in Mentor. Four years later, more than 17,000 people descended on our tiny village of 400, hoping to hear and see Garfield during what became known as the first "front porch campaign."

Garfield's inspirational journey carried him from a log cabin to the White House. He made his mark as a college president, abolitionist, Union general, and nine-term congressman before reaching the nation's highest office. His life was tragically cut short by an assassin's bullet, leaving many to wonder what might have been.

In early 2026, the city of Mentor commissioned sculptor Alan Cottrill



Alan Cottrill working on the Garfield statue that will be unveiled on July 3, 2026.

to create a statue in honor of Mentor's favorite son. Cottrill remarked that Garfield's story deeply resonated with him as he conducted his research.

A self-proclaimed "country boy," Cottrill was raised in the Appalachian region of Ohio and was the first in his family to graduate from high school. He built a successful career as an international entrepreneur and was invited by the U.S. Department of Commerce

to participate in trade missions around the world. Those travels gave him the opportunity to visit many of the world's great museums and ignited his passion for art.

He first touched clay in 1990 and soon sold his business interests to pursue sculpture full-time. Since then, he has created more than 400 pieces, including the statue of Thomas Edison that stands in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol.

The slightly larger-than-life statue will be unveiled on Friday, July 3, 2026, at 6 PM in front of the Mentor Municipal Center, located at 8500 Civic Center Boulevard. Progress on the statue has been documented, and a video will be shown that evening during the free community picnic following the ceremony.

Learn more about the artist at www.alancottrill.com.

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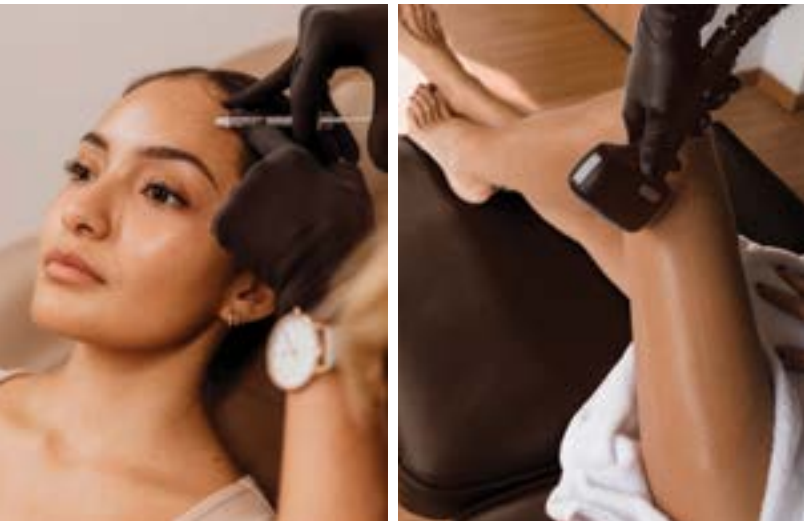
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Mega Makeovers at Mentor Parks!

Landmark projects will bring new life to Civic Center and Garfield parks

Over the past several years, major improvements have been taking place at Mentor Civic Center Park. In 2025, the city added three new pickleball courts (bringing the total to 22), two new basketball courts, and more than 150 parking spaces.

This year, construction is underway to completely transform the pool complex with the addition of a dramatic 44-foot-tall, three-chute waterslide, an expanded spray pad with multiple play features, new restrooms and locker facilities, a concessions stand to serve both the pool area and the pickleball courts, a new concrete deck, and new decorative fencing.

The pool was originally constructed in 1980, and this project marks the most dramatic change at this location in more than 45 years.

In addition, construction is underway to add a spray park complex at Eleanor B. Garfield Park where the old pool once stood. This new facility will include a variety of fun and exciting water features, a new restroom and storage building, shaded areas for parents and caregivers, and gated entry to keep the little ones safe while they play.

The pool at Garfield Park dated back to the early 1960s and was closed several years ago due to the condition of the infrastructure. After careful consideration, the decision was made



to build a new spray park instead of rebuilding the pool.

City leaders are excited to cut the ribbon on both of these new landmark facilities in June 2027 so they can serve Mentor residents for decades to come.



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Headlands Birding Festival Returns in September

The 2026 Headlands Birding Festival will take place from September 18 – 20, 2026, at Headlands Beach State Park and other select locations. The event celebrates fall migration as birds travel thousands of miles to their wintering grounds, as far away as South America.

The Headlands/Mentor Marsh region hosts some of the highest diversity and volume of migratory birds in the state, with 352 species documented in Lake County. This event is for birders and nature enthusiasts of all ages and experience levels.

A welcome reception will be held on Friday evening at the Springbrook Gardenhouse, featuring keynote speaker Peter Kaestner, who became the first person in history to observe 10,000 species of birds.

Activities include a birding boat trip along the Lake Erie coast and guided bird walks at Headlands, Lake Erie Bluffs, Mentor Marsh State Nature



Birders scan the skies along the Lake Erie shoreline during fall migration, when thousands of birds pass through the Headlands region on their journey south.

Preserve, Mentor Lagoons, Chagrin River Park, The Holden Arboretum, and other locations.

Afternoon expert presentations will cover topics such as bird identification, habitat restoration, and the use of technology in birding. Nature-themed

vendors, non-profits, and food trucks will be on-site at Headlands from noon–4 PM.

The event will conclude on Sunday with a flight watch at Lake Erie Bluffs, bird walks at Headlands and nearby parks, bird-banding demonstrations, and additional activities.

The Headlands Birding Festival is hosted by Headlands Beach State Park, Tour Lake County, Lake Metroparks, City of Mentor, Blackbrook Audubon Society, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Friends of Headlands Beach State Park, and Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

The event is sponsored by Verdantas, along with other local businesses.

Registration opens July 1, 2026.

Visit headlandsbirdingfestival.com to register. The festival website also has the latest up-to-date information and additional birding resources to help you begin your birding journey or to further your birding experience.



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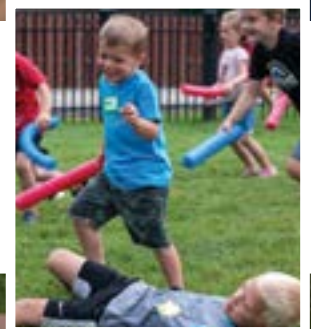
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Mentor offers rentals for your next event

While the city of Mentor serves its residents in traditional ways by providing law enforcement and administrative services, many do not realize that the city also offers beautiful rental spaces to host your special events. While many private rental venues exist within the city limits, citizens should be aware of other available options operated by the city of Mentor that are available for short-term event rentals.

Mentor's director of parks and recreation, Kenn Kaminski, explains why these rental spaces are a great value. "We offer some of the most competitive rental rates in the area, and residents can save even more — just show your ID and utility bill to unlock local pricing," says Kaminski.

The city offers six indoor venues, which can accommodate from 15 to 300 people. They also offer seven outdoor picnic pavilions for rent. "Our wide range of indoor and outdoor venues, from intimate spaces to large



Springbrook Gardenhouse

banquet-ready halls, gives renters the flexibility to host events exactly how they envision them," says Kaminski.

One of Mentor's most popular rental facilities, Wildwood Cultural Center, is a 1908 mansion located in the heart of a 34-acre forested estate. This charming, historic site is the perfect venue for weddings, bridal showers, or any special occasion that requires a sophisticated setting. The tranquil atmosphere of Wildwood, compounded with its rich, historic roots, makes for a unique and unforgettable experience. It can be booked year-round, has an

accessible patio, and features a large kitchen to simplify food service.

Built in 2023, Springbrook Gardenhouse is Mentor's newest event venue. Rustic timber trusses and a dramatic central fireplace give a rustic-chic vibe that is an elegant reflection of the surrounding park. "The crown jewel of our facilities, Springbrook Gardenhouse, offers a stunning natural setting that's ideal for elegant events and serene celebrations," says Kaminski.

These properties are designed with guest convenience in mind. Banquet tables, chairs, and parking are all available and are included in the rental cost. Kaminski explains that Mentor's rental spaces are beautifully maintained and full of character. "From picnics at Edward R. Walsh Park, to formal functions at Wildwood Cultural Center, our facilities combine affordability, quality, and unmatched variety."

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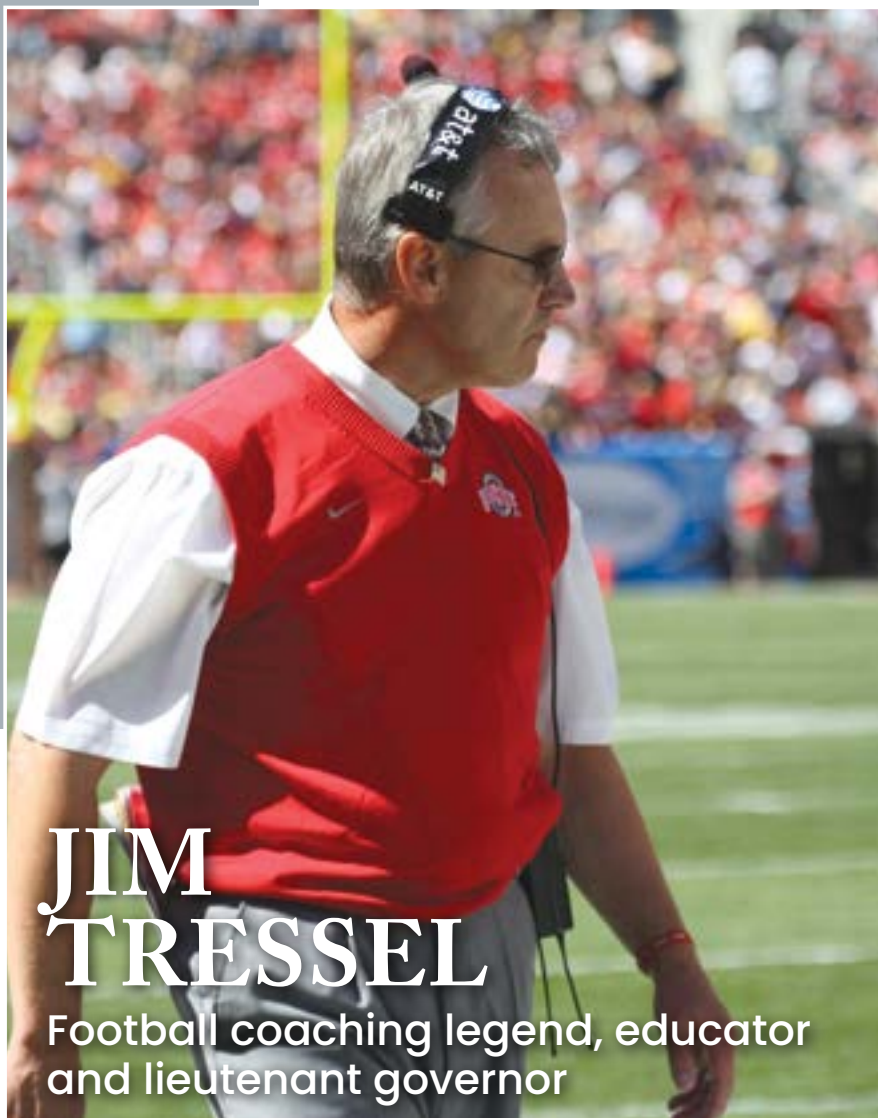


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JIM TRESSEL

Football coaching legend, educator and lieutenant governor

Long before Jim Tressel became a symbol of Ohio State football, his story had a local starting point. It didn't begin in Columbus, Youngstown, or across town in Berea. It began in Mentor, where the Tressel family first put down roots in Northeast Ohio.

Today, Ohio knows Tressel as its lieutenant governor. But for much of the last quarter-century, his name has been inseparable from the Horseshoe, synonymous with sweater vests, special teams, and a run that helped revive the state's most beloved program.

He is best known for leading Ohio State football to the 2002 national championship, returning to the title game two more times, and going 9–1 against archrival Michigan from 2001–2010. His Northeast Ohio ties

That lesson took root in Mentor, where Lee Tressel led the Mentor Cardinals and the family's Ohio story began.

run deep: he graduated from Baldwin Wallace and later led Youngstown State to four Division I-AA championships before heading back to Columbus.

But Tressel has long described his work on the sideline and off it as education, and he learned that approach by example. His father, Lee Tressel, treated coaching as teaching, with development as the point, not a byproduct. That lesson took root in Mentor, where Lee led the Cardinals and the family's Ohio story began.

Lee Tressel would go on to become

a Hall of Fame college football coach, compiling a 155-52-6 record and winning the 1978 Division III national title at Baldwin Wallace. Before reaching the college ranks, though, he led the Mentor High School football program from 1950–55, bringing his wife, Eloise, and young son, Dick, to Lake County. Two more boys would follow: Dave in 1951 and Jim in December 1952. And while the Tressels were raising a young family at home, the Cardinals' head coach was already leaving his imprint on the community.

At the time, Mentor was hardly the football power it is today; the city's population was roughly one-fifth of its current size. Students attended classes in the building we now know as Memorial Middle School. On the field just west of the school, Tressel's teams made history.

The Cardinals rattled off 34 straight wins from 1952–55, the longest such streak in program history. With Mentor still small, the schedule leaned heavily on nearby opponents, far different from the slate of perennial powerhouses the Cardinals face today. Even so, the run was remarkable, and Lee Tressel's success soon drew attention well beyond Lake County.

With the streak still intact, Tressel accepted the head coaching job at Massillon Washington (already a powerhouse), ending the family's time in Mentor after six years. Lee continued his success in Stark County before ultimately settling in Berea as head coach of his alma mater.

At Baldwin Wallace, the Tressels were provided a house next to the stadium, immersing Jim and his brothers in their father's professional world from an early age. Lee made it a priority to be home for dinner, but afterward his sons watched him return to his office to juggle his roles as head football coach, athletic director, and chair of the physical education department.

"It was much like the carpenter's son who gets to go into the shop every day and learn something as an apprentice," Jim wrote in his 2009 book *The Winners Manual: For the Game of Life*. "Being around sports and the coaching

profession... charged me up.”

Tressel played quarterback for his father and graduated from Baldwin Wallace in 1974 before beginning his own coaching career. Assistant stops at Akron, Miami (Ohio), and Syracuse led to his first job in Columbus in 1983. Three seasons later, he became head coach at Youngstown State, where he won 135 games, reached the I-AA playoffs 10 times in 15 seasons, and served as the school’s athletic director.

In 2000, Tressel returned to Columbus and quickly became one of college football’s most recognizable figures.

In 2011, Tressel briefly took a consulting role with the Indianapolis Colts before moving into higher education administration at the University of Akron.

Two years later, he returned to Youngstown State as university president. While still best known as a coach, his tenure from 2014–22 brought major institutional change: graduation rates rose from 35% to 49%, the Honors College expanded, student housing

increased, and more than \$150 million was raised.

After retiring from YSU, Tressel remained active in public life, hosting a podcast and appearing frequently with former players. When Jon Husted was appointed to the U.S. Senate, Governor Mike DeWine selected Tressel as Ohio’s lieutenant governor.

“I want someone who kind of shared my vision for the state of Ohio, and that is that we want everyone to live up to their God-given potential,” DeWine said. “I want someone who would focus on education.”

Whether leading Youngstown State, coaching the Buckeyes, or learning the craft in Mentor, Tressel’s life has centered on developing young people. That through-line traces back to Lake County, where Lee Tressel built something lasting—on the field and in the community—and set a standard that still echoes today..

*Article by Kyle Jones
Photo of Jim coaching courtesy
of Ohio State Football*



Jim and Lee Tressel at Baldwin Wallace in 1974. Courtesy of Baldwin Wallace.



Jim Tressel official statehouse photo as lieutenant governor of Ohio.



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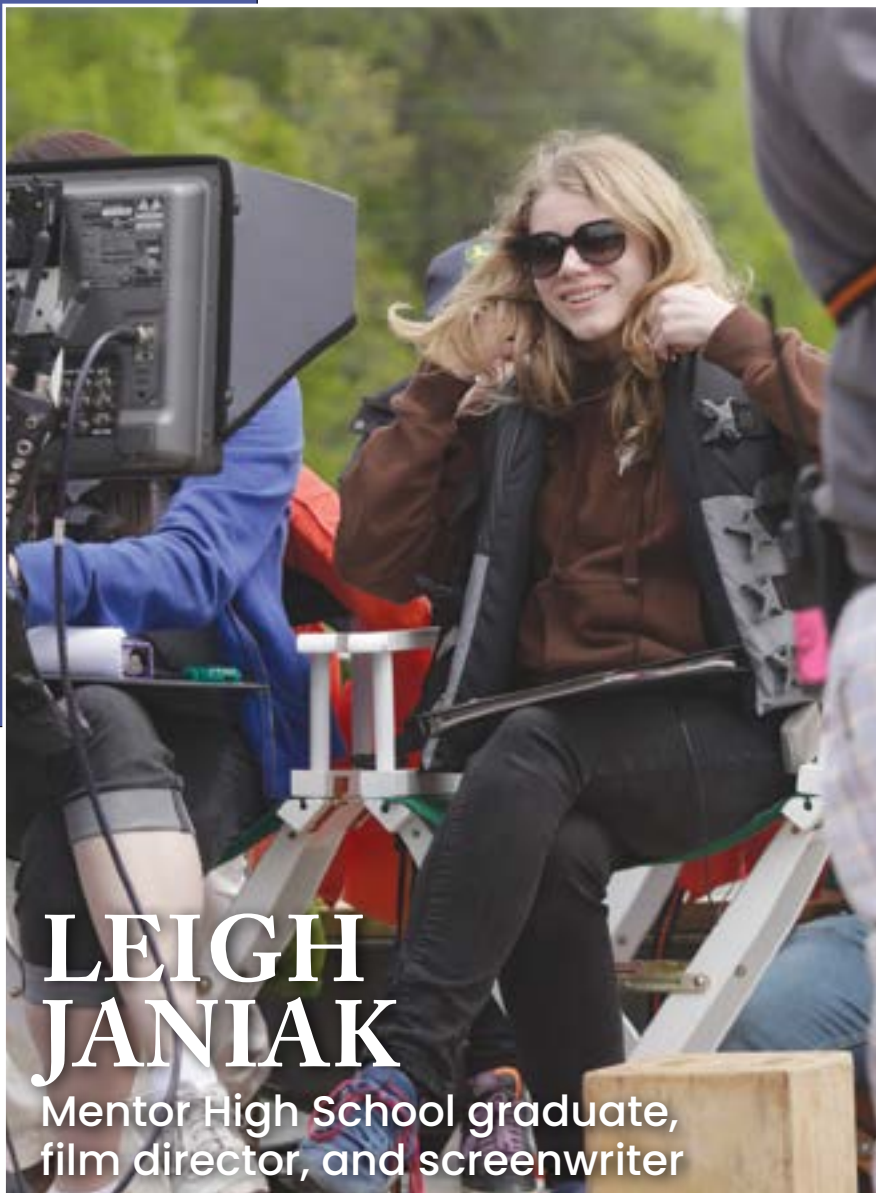
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LEIGH JANIAK

Mentor High School graduate,
film director, and screenwriter

Leigh Janiak, 46, is not short on life experiences. Her high school trips to London, Paris, Rome and Ireland, along with college studies in comparative religion and modern Jewish literature (despite not being Jewish, she notes with a laugh), and an early passion for theater all helped set the stage for her active career as a writer and director for television and film.

Oh, and there was also that stint working at Leo DiCaprio's production company.

Raised in a quiet, residential neighborhood near Munson Road, Janiak utilized the many opportunities open to her growing up in Mentor, and it paved the way for a future that continues to be creative, challeng-

"Even as a kid, I loved making up stories."

ing and productive. "Even as a kid, I loved making up stories," she says. "I especially loved playing the board game 'Clue' because I could make up a bunch of different stories every time I played."

She also made up skits as a child, even using her parents' camcorder to film short videos. "That was a lot of fun," she recalls. "I loved watching those '80s movies, too, like 'The Goonies,' and later, the show 'Dawson's Creek' elevated my interest because, as a teen, I could relate to it a lot."

Janiak also involved herself in two

school programs that would make a big impact on her future — Power of the Pen and Future Leaders of America. The former helped hone her writing skills; the latter allowed her to experience those travels that gave her a broader awareness of possibilities. "That certainly increased my wanderlust to go beyond my hometown," she says. "It piqued my interest to explore everything I was interested in."

By the time she entered Mentor High School in 1994, she knew exactly what she wanted to do and quickly immersed herself in the school's theater program. "I got involved in all the plays, and it helped me understand the process and all that goes into it," she says.

While she says her family was always supportive of her creativity and love for theater, "I pretty much came from a sports family. My dad was a longtime quarterbacks coach at Mentor High School."

Her father, Nes Janiak, was also a former teacher at Ridge Elementary School, while her mother, Karen, worked in the school system as well. Her younger brother, also named Nes, is currently a teacher in Madison.

"Mentor schools had some great teachers, two of whom really influenced my direction," she says. "They were Mrs. Geisler (Ellen), who taught English World Lit and always went beyond the basic stories in history, which I found fascinating, and Mr. Lorek (Joe) in theater, who really inspired me. I loved it when I became assistant stage manager. I soon discovered that I liked the behind-the-scenes work even better than acting."

After graduating from MHS in 1998, Janiak wasted no time heading to New York City to attend NYU and the Gallatin School of Individualized Study. From there, she went to graduate school at the University of Chicago until Hollywood came calling in 2005, when she was hired to work at Leonardo DiCaprio's production company, Appian Way.

"Working for Leo was my first real industry job," she says. "I worked as the assistant to the producer there. That was the era of 'The Departed' and

'Blood Diamond.' It was really fun and exciting."

She adds that although she didn't see Leo on a regular basis, he left a good impression. "He was kind and he was smart. It was a real dream for me because, of course, I'd seen 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Titanic' multiple times at the movie theater near Great Lakes Mall and thought he was great. (Still do!)"

Her breakout project as a director came in 2014. The horror film "Honeymoon," a psychological thriller, debuted at the South by Southwest Festival and received positive reviews. Directing for hit television series followed, including horror-based shows such as "Scream" and "Outcast," securing her standing in that genre. She went on to direct the original "Fear Street" trilogy, based on R.L. Stine's books, as well as other TV episodes, before returning to New York City in 2022 to pursue additional creative opportunities.

"I do enjoy telling these elevated stories and exploring the world of the outsider," she says. "I love the fantastical side of stories — where the ordinary meets the extraordinary."

Currently, Janiak is developing a thriller based on her own script about a female jockey in the 1980s for Amazon MGM's Orion Pictures. She will serve as director and executive producer.

With all this success, however, Janiak has not forgotten where she came from. "I have all kinds of memories growing up in Mentor, like going to Fairport and Headlands beaches, the mall and just hanging out with my friends. My parents are still in Mentor, so I come home whenever I can and love driving around town, seeing how it's changed. But my personal memories will never change."

Article by Deanna R. Adams • Photos courtesy of Leigh Janiak



Leigh Janiak was the director, co-writer, and executive producer for the critically acclaimed Fear Street horror trilogy for Netflix in 2021. She developed the three-part adaptation of R.L. Stine's books as a "hybrid" of film and TV, filming them simultaneously over 106 days.



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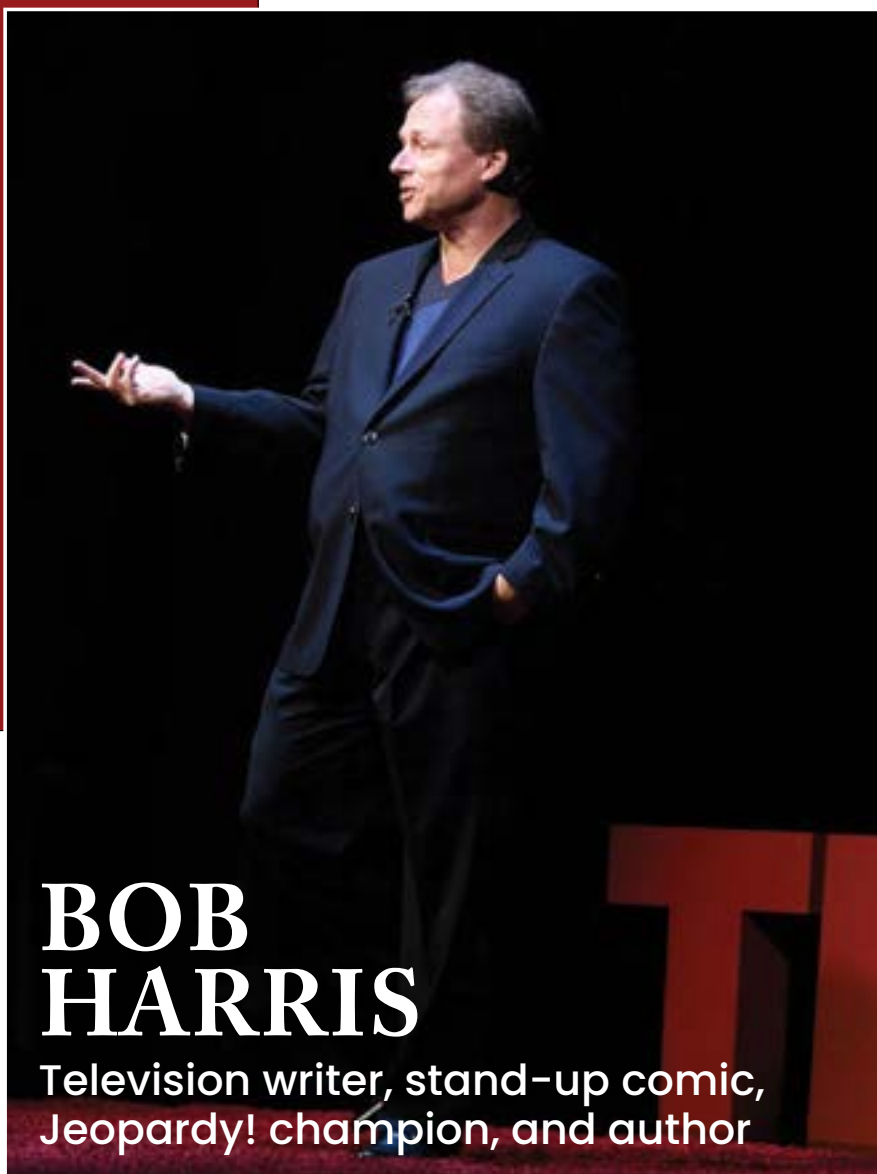


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BOB HARRIS

Television writer, stand-up comic, Jeopardy! champion, and author

Most communities have a few well-known names—people who made it big in sports, business, or entertainment. And then there are the ones you might not immediately recognize, but whose stories are so unexpected, so wide-ranging, that they may just be the most interesting of all.

Bob Harris is one of those people.

Before becoming a television writer, stand-up comedian, radio personality, author, and even a Jeopardy! champion, Harris was just a kid growing up in Mentor—spending his days much like any other child in Northeast Ohio.

“I lived in Mentor all the way from birth until I went to college,” he says. “My favorite childhood memories are of playing in Little League games at

“1985 was the year when I went from no clear direction to someone who knew he could make people laugh.”

the old Memorial Junior High school, launching model rockets from the schoolyard, going to Mentor Cardinals games, and...watching the Browns training camps at Lakeland Community College.”

Like many local kids, his summers revolved around baseball. Pickup games with friends filled long days, while occasional trips to Cleveland Municipal Stadium with his dad

became lasting memories. And like so many who grew up in the 1970s, one place stood at the center of it all.

“The Great Lakes Mall—when I was a kid, known only as ‘The Mall,’ because there was no other—was the center of the universe,” Harris says. “Your family would shop there, see movies, eat, sometimes even just walk around inside during harsh winters... To an extent young people likely cannot imagine now, it was The World.”

But Harris’ path wasn’t entirely typical. His first-grade teacher in Mentor, Mrs. Meier, recognized that he was reading well above grade level and arranged testing that led to a scholarship at University School. The daily commute and transition to a very different environment, he says, left him feeling like “a fish out of water”—an experience that would later shape his creativity.

After graduating college with a degree in electrical engineering and applied physics, Harris followed what seemed like a practical path into a stable career. It didn’t last long.

“The job was...so cog-in-a-machine that it felt like soul death,” he says. “I quit in spiritual self-defense.”

What followed was a period of uncertainty that would shape the rest of his life. At 20 years old, carrying significant debt, Harris found himself struggling to get by in Chicago—sometimes staying at the YMCA, other times sleeping at O’Hare Airport. It was there, in the middle of that instability, that he found his direction.

He enrolled in improv classes taught by legendary Second City co-founder Del Close.

“I could just barely afford the classes if I didn’t eat much,” he recalls. “I lost 30 pounds that year.”

But it was worth it.

“1985 was the year when I went from...no clear direction to...someone who knew he could make people laugh,” Harris says. “It was a start.”

From there, his career unfolded in ways few could have predicted. He worked in television writing, contributing to shows like CSI and Bones, performed stand-up comedy, worked

in radio, and became widely known for his appearances on Jeopardy!, where he competed multiple times over nearly two decades.

While many people recognize him for his time on the iconic quiz show, Harris says the most meaningful part wasn't what viewers saw on television.

"It wasn't anything on the stage," he explains. "It was the green room, which was filled with smart, funny, curious, humble, open-hearted people...Some of my closest friends to this day, I met there."

Yet for all the accomplishments across entertainment and media, Harris points to a different chapter of his life as the most rewarding.

By far—the most rewarding work I've ever done was the charity work I did...that resulted in a book called *The International Bank of Bob*."

That project began with a simple idea: using his own money to fund small microloans—often as little as \$25—through the nonprofit Kiva. Instead of making one-time donations, Harris chose to invest in people, helping entrepreneurs around the world start or grow small businesses. As those loans were repaid, he reinvested the funds again and again, eventually supporting hundreds of individuals across dozens of countries.

What started online soon became something much more personal. Over the course of four years, Harris traveled to places like Rwanda, Nepal, Bosnia, and Cambodia to meet the very people behind the loans—farmers, shop owners, and tradespeople working to build better lives for themselves and their



Five-time Jeopardy champ Bob Harris performs the wedding ceremony for 1998 Tournament of Champions winner Dan Melia on the Jeopardy set. The vows were on the game board and they rang in to say their vows. Alex Trebek was on hand as the official witness.

families. The experience transformed not only his understanding of global poverty, but also his perspective on people and possibility.

"Every assumption and stereotype I ever had about the world blew up while I was actually, y'know, in it," he says. "Some of the most brilliant people I ever met are rural farmers in Kenya, small entrepreneurs in India—you name it."

Those experiences also deepened his understanding of his own roots.

Harris' parents had migrated north from a small Appalachian community in search of opportunity, eventually settling in Mentor, where his father worked at the General Motors plant in Euclid for nearly four decades.

"They found a good home in Mentor,

worked hard, and had a decent life," he says. "Our neighborhood was a genuine melting pot... That made an impression."

Today, Harris lives in Australia, drawn in part by a cultural value known as "mateship"—a sense of mutual support, equality, and community.

"It's the idea of treating everyone as an equal, helping your neighbor, pitching in during trouble," he explains. "It shows up constantly here."

Still, Mentor remains an important part of his story. A return visit in 2024 brought both familiarity and change.

"It was wonderful and strange," he says. "Some places are gone, others are completely new—but it looks like the town is doing well, which is wonderful."

Now, Harris continues to explore new creative paths, including writing his first novel, working on a screenplay, and composing music—much of which, he admits with a laugh, "nobody ever hears because I'm shy."

For young people in Mentor who may dream of creative careers, his advice is both simple and direct:

"Start. Now. Today. Stop reading this and go make something."

It's a message rooted in experience—one that reflects a journey that began in local ballfields and shopping malls, and eventually stretched across the globe.

And while many in Mentor may not yet know his name, Bob Harris' story is a reminder that sometimes the most interesting paths begin in the most familiar places.

Article by Dan Miller/Photos courtesy of Bob Harris



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Mentor ROCKS!

Mentor rocks each Tuesday night at 7 PM (and other select dates) at the Mentor Civic Amphitheater with awesome music, great food, and a ton of family fun! This year's amazing lineup features **Night Ranger** and **Phillip Phillips**, as well as North America's top tribute acts.

Mentor Rocks is an all-ages event which promotes a festival-like atmosphere. In addition to great music, attendees can enjoy a great selection of food and refreshments from the area's top food trucks.

Northeast Ohio's hottest summer concert series is brought to you by many great sponsors. Admission and parking are free! Lawn seating, so bring your own blankets or chairs. No coolers, outside alcohol, glass containers, food deliveries, or pets. The Mentor Civic Amphitheater is located at 8600 Munson Road in Mentor. The 2026 Mentor Rocks schedule is on page 41. Visit www.MentorRocks.info to learn more.



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June 2	Forever Seger	Bob Seger tribute
June 9	Tennessee Whiskey & Ultimate Eric Church	Chris Stapleton & Eric Church tributes
June 16	Fleetwood Gold	Fleetwood Mac tribute
June 23	Crazy Train	Ozzy Osbourne tribute
June 30	Phillip Phillips	National Recording Artist
July 4	Hotel California	Eagles tribute
July 7	New World Men	Rush tribute
July 14	Night Ranger	National Recording Artist
July 21	Red Not Chili Peppers	RHCP tribute
July 28	Creep & Hollow	Stone Temple Pilots & Alice in Chains tributes
August 4	REO Survivor	REO Speedwagon/ Survivor tribute
August 11	To Be Announced	National Recording Artist
August 14*	Just Like Pink	Pink tribute
August 15*	7 Summers	Morgan Wallen tribute
August 18	Abba Revisited	Abba tribute
August 25	E5C4P3	Journey tribute

*Mentor CityFest



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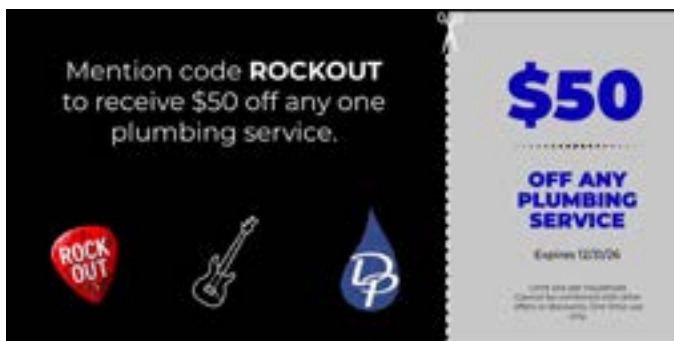


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There is always something to do in Mentor. The city is known for its wide array of recreation opportunities including programs, activities, and events.

In fact, the city hosts over 40 events each year for all ages and interests. Pages 44-45 highlight some of the most popular that you're going to want to circle on your calendar.

Schedules are subject to change. Additional information on these events and more can be found at www.cityofmentor.com/events.

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MENTOR ROCKS

The popular Mentor Rocks summer concert series is held Tuesday evenings, June 2 through August 25, from 7–9 PM at the Mentor Civic Amphitheater. This year’s schedule includes national recording artists Phillip Phillips, Night Ranger, and a rising country star (TBA late June), along with the nation’s best tribute bands.

Mentor Rocks is an all-ages event which promotes a festival-like atmosphere each week. In addition to great music, attendees can enjoy a great selection of food and refreshments from the area’s best food trucks. The venue features lawn seating, so bring your own blankets or chairs. Outside food is permitted. No coolers, outside alcohol, glass containers, food deliveries, or pets. Admission and parking are free of charge. Grounds open at 5 PM.

The Mentor Civic Amphitheater is located in Mentor Civic Center Park at 8600 Munson Road. See the full Mentor Rocks schedule on page 41.

More info at www.mentorrocks.info.

WILDWOOD ARTS & WINE FEST

Join us for the Wildwood Arts & Wine Fest on Saturday, June 20, from noon–5 PM on the scenic grounds of the Wildwood Cultural Center.

This outdoor festival features more than 65 gallery-style booths showcasing fine art, handcrafted goods, and specialty foods along the wooded estate paths. Guests can also enjoy wine tastings from several local wineries, live musical entertainment, and a variety of food trucks throughout the day. Admission is \$2 at the door.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Celebrate Independence Day at the amphitheater with a free concert by Hotel California followed by the BIGGEST fireworks display in Mentor’s history as we celebrate America’s 250th birthday! Grounds open at 5 PM. Music starts at 8 PM. Fireworks at 9:50 PM. Local food trucks will be serving their festival favorites. A selection of beers, wines, and sparkling beverages will also be available for sale. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. No coolers, outside alcohol, glass containers, food deliveries, or pets on amphitheater grounds.



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Phillip Phillips rose to fame after winning American Idol, earning multi-platinum success with hits like Home and captivating audiences with his soulful folk-rock sound.



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TUNES AT THE LAGOONS

The 2026 Tunes at the Lagoons concert series kicks off on Friday, June 12, 2026, at the Mentor Lagoons Marina. Now celebrating its fifth season, the series features a variety of popular local bands, including:

June 12 - Monica Robins and Ninja Cowboys

June 26 - Treble in CLE

July 10 - Abbey Rodeo

July 24 - Shadow of Doubt (Tom Petty Tribute)

August 7 - One (Tribute to U2)

August 21 - Pieces of Eight

Attendees can enjoy food and refreshments throughout the season from local food trucks. A selection of beers and sparkling beverages is available for those 21 and over. Food and beverage service starts at 6 PM.

All performances are held from 7–9 PM. Field seating only; bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Accessible parking is available. Parking attendants will be on site to direct traffic. Free admission and parking.

The Mentor Lagoons Marina is located at 8365 Harbor Drive in Mentor.

Learn more at www.tunesatthelagoons.com.



MENTOR CRUISE-IN

Mentor's annual car cruise was first held in 2002 and attracts upwards of 800 vehicles and 2,500 spectators each year. All cars are welcome, from classics, street racers, vintage RVs from the 1990s, to Scooby Doo's groovy van, and more! This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 8 from 10 AM– 2 PM at Mentor Civic Center Park. Pre-registration is not required. Free admission and parking. No dogs, alcohol, inline skates, or bicycles. Learn more at www.mentorcruisein.com.



MENTOR CITYFEST

There is always time for one last summer bash! Mentor CityFest returns to Mentor Civic Center Park on Friday, August 14, from 5–11 PM and Saturday, August 15, from noon–11 PM.

This two-day, family-friendly festival is packed with activities, games, entertainment, food and more!

Enjoy live music on the Mentor Civic Amphitheater stage Friday night with Just Like Pink (Pink Tribute) and Saturday night with 7 Summers (Morgan Wallen tribute).

The CityFest Kids Zone is bigger and better than before with giant inflatables and interactive games for kids of all ages. Civic Center grounds will be filled with bounce houses, giant slides, a warrior dash, 70' obstacle run, rock wall, zip line, an extreme trampoline, and a mobile ninja warrior course.

The Adult Zone features a beer trailer, cornhole and other party games as well as the return of axe throwing.

Mentor CityFest will feature all-day interactive entertainment and activities including strolling performers, the "Fest Money" game, plus community sponsored activities and games. Festivalgoers can also visit with a number of local businesses, service organizations, and nonprofits, that call Mentor home in the popular Main Street tent.

Be sure to come hungry! With over 20 food vendors on-site, we will have every type of festival food that your taste buds desire including favorites like sausage sandwiches, funnel cakes, and lemonade as well as unique sweet treats and everything in between.

Visit www.mentorcityfest.com to learn more.

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Shopping local in Mentor isn't just about convenience—it's about building a stronger, more resilient community. When you choose to buy from local businesses, you're making a meaningful economic impact.

Multiple economic studies on local spending multipliers consistently show that independently-owned businesses tend to recirculate a larger share of revenue within the community. While exact figures vary by methodology, estimates commonly suggest that about 50–70 cents of every dollar spent at a local business stays in the local economy, compared to roughly 30–40 cents at national chain retailers. The difference comes from local ownership, local hiring, and local purchasing of goods and services.

In a community like Mentor, that added circulation adds up quickly. Local businesses support jobs, contribute to the local tax base, and often reinvest in community improvements, youth programs, and civic events. Whether you're shopping at the Mentor Farmers Market, browsing boutiques along Mentor Avenue, or dining at a family-owned restaurant, your dollars help sustain everything from schools and parks to essential city services.

Shopping local also helps preserve Mentor's unique character. Small businesses offer one-of-a-kind products and personalized service that larger retailers typically can't match. They reflect the personality and diversity of the community and help maintain the hometown feel that residents value.

In Mentor, shopping local isn't just a feel-good choice—it's a smart, community-building one. Every dollar spent here helps strengthen the city's present and future.

Choose local. Choose Mentor!

On pages 47–49, we feature nine diverse Mentor businesses offering a wide range of products and services. Be sure to support them and please let them know you saw them in Mentor City Magazine!

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	10:30–11:30 AM	Morning Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
	5:00–9:00 PM	Open Gym
	5:30–6:30 PM	Junior MMA
	6:30–7:30 PM	USA Boxing
T Tuesday	7:45–8:45 PM	Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
	5:30–8:30 PM	Open Gym
	6:00–7:00 PM	Muay Thai
W Wednesday	7:15–8:15 PM	Mixed Martial Arts
	10:00 AM–NOON	Open Gym
	10:30–11:30 AM	Morning Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
	5:00–9:00 PM	Open Gym
	5:30–6:30 PM	Junior MMA
T Thursday	6:30–7:30 PM	USA Boxing
	7:45–8:45 PM	Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
	5:30–8:30 PM	Open Gym
F Friday	6:00–7:00 PM	Muay Thai
	7:15–8:15 PM	Mixed Martial Arts
	4:00–8:00 PM	Open Gym
	4:30–5:30 PM	Fundamentals/Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
S Saturday	5:30–6:30 PM	Wrestling
	9:30 AM–2:30 PM	Open Gym
	10:00–11:00 AM	Junior MMA
	11 AM–NOON	Muay Thai
	NOON–1:00 PM	USA Boxing
	NOON–1:00 PM	Wrestling
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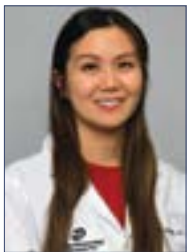
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Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance

Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance is dedicated to empowering youth in Northeast Ohio through meaningful, consistent relationships with caring adult mentors. Serving children and teens who have experienced adversity, including those in foster care, group homes, and underserved communities, Torchlight creates safe spaces where young people can grow, connect, and thrive.

Through a variety of mentoring programs, Torchlight matches trained volunteers with youth to build supportive, one-on-one relationships. These connections provide stability, encouragement, and guidance during critical stages of development. Whether meeting in the community, within schools, or in residential settings, mentors help youth build confidence, develop life skills, and feel seen and valued.

In addition to traditional mentoring, Torchlight offers group-based programming that fosters social connection, emotional growth, and positive peer interaction. Activities are designed to be engaging and purposeful, helping youth strengthen communication skills, manage challenges, and explore new interests in a supportive environment.

The organization also recognizes the importance of consistency and trust. By prioritizing long-term relationships and providing ongoing support to both mentors and mentees, Torchlight ensures that each match has the foundation needed to succeed.



Joy in motion: Torchlight youth and mentors toss the tie pillows they created together, capturing a moment of fun and friendship.

Community involvement plays a vital role in Torchlight's mission. Volunteers, donors, and local partners make it possible to expand services and reach more youth in need. As the demand for mentoring continues to grow, Torchlight remains committed to creating brighter futures, one relationship at a time.

To learn more about how to get involved or support Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance, follow them on social media or visit torchlightyouthmentoring.org.

Article and photo submitted by Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance

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Project Hope for the Homeless

Lake County's only homeless shelter

For 33 years, Project Hope for the Homeless has served as a trusted community leader in providing shelter, support, and pathways to stability for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The organization has been restoring hope and renewing lives through shelter, supportive services, individualized goal planning, and coordinated access to essential resources. This work is made possible through the dedication of staff, volunteers, and community partners who contribute to the organization's mission. With a 79% positive transition, Project Hope for the Homeless continues to demonstrate measurable impact while reflecting the longstanding commitment of the Lake County community.

Programs include adult, family, and senior shelter and support through the Aftercare Program and the Welcome Home Center, which provides household essentials moving into permanent



Join Project Hope for their 9th annual Jog With a Frog 5K Run/1 Mile Walk fundraiser on August 22 in Painesville Twp.

housing. In 2025, the organization served a total of 361 individuals including 54 children and 111 individuals through the Aftercare Program.

Housing instability often begins with an unexpected crisis, job loss, health challenge, or temporary hardship. The staff recognizes that long-term progress requires both practical resources

and the development of resilience. By combining structured support with compassionate, and often, faith-based guidance, the organization helps individuals overcome barriers and move toward sustainable independence.

The value of these services is reflected in the experiences of those served. One former guest shared, "I lost everything—my home, my car, my dog, everything... Project Hope was one call away. I had a roof over my head for 45 days...I got a job and am building my new life..."

Community tours are offered on the final Friday of each month from 10 AM–noon. Visit ProjectHopefortheHomeless.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities, partnership involvement, or ways to support this mission. If you or someone you know needs shelter assistance, contact 211 or call (440) 639-4420.

Article and photo submitted by Project Hope

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Mentor Public Schools

Inspiring students today to reach their potential tomorrow

Mentor Public Schools exemplify a commitment to academic excellence, career readiness, and holistic student development. Serving nearly 6,800 students, the district offers a comprehensive educational experience that prepares learners for success in college, careers, and beyond.

Academic excellence and innovation

Mentor High School offers a robust academic program, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses and the College Credit Plus initiative, allowing students to earn college credits early. The district's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs provide specialized training in fields such as allied health, fire academy, welding, and criminal investigation. These programs offer hands-on experience, industry-recognized credentials, and college credit, ensuring students are

well-prepared for future careers.

To further support career readiness, Mentor Schools have introduced Career Academies, including the Aviation Academy and Young Professionals Academy, blending practical skills with academic learning.



Support for gifted students and students with special needs

The district's Gifted Program offers a continuum of services, including differentiated instruction, honors classes, and specialized programming for students in grades 3–12, ensuring appropriate challenge and support.

Mentor CARES (Cardinal Autism Resource and Education School) serves students ages 6–22 with autism from ten districts, focusing on aca-

demics, behavior, communication, and independent living skills.

Arts, athletics, and extracurricular activities

The district offers a vibrant arts program, including choir, band, orchestra, and theater. The Fighting Cardinal Marching Band, with nearly 200 students, has earned superior ratings at state competitions and performed in events like the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Mentor High School competes in the Greater Cleveland Conference, offering 22 Division I sports and a history of success, including state championships in boys basketball and girls track and field.

A wide range of extracurricular activities further supports a well-rounded student experience.

Community engagement and student well-being

Mentor Public Schools prioritize student well-being through a variety of initiatives, detailed in the district's Quality Profile report. Students also participate in service efforts like Make a Difference Day and food distribution partnerships, fostering civic responsibility.

Technology integration

Recognized as part of the nationwide League of Innovative Schools, the district provides all K–12 students with personal learning devices to support individualized learning. Participation in Project Lead the Way enhances STEM education through hands-on experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Mentor Public Schools offer a forward-thinking, safe environment that supports academic achievement, personal growth, and community involvement.

For more information, please visit www.mentorschools.net or call (440) 255-4444.

Article submitted by Mentor Public Schools

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Laketrans

Laketrans continues to be a vital transportation resource for Mentor residents, offering reliable, affordable, and accessible travel options that connect the community to work, education, healthcare, shopping, and recreation.

Over the last year, Laketrans introduced several new services to better meet evolving needs. Rides on Demand now provides flexible, same-day transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities, combining rideshare-style convenience with the reliability of public transit. Seniors on the Go, launched in partnership with the Lake County Commissioners, offers fare-free Local Route transportation and free Dial-a-Ride trips to select locations such as senior centers, grocery stores, and social activities—helping older adults stay active and independent. After years of rider requests, Laketrans also launched Sunday Dial-a-Ride service, expanding transportation access to seven days a week.

For commuters, Laketrans now offers commuter express service from the Mentor Park-n-Ride to University Circle, connecting riders to one of Northeast Ohio’s largest employment, healthcare, and cultural hubs.

In 2025 alone, Dial-a-Ride provided more than 130,000 trips in Mentor, offering door-to-door service for seniors and people with disabilities traveling to appointments, shopping, and community destinations. Local Routes, with six bus lines centered at Great Lakes Mall, provide conve-



Laketrans adds daily service to University Circle from Mentor Park-n-Ride with Route 13.

nient travel throughout Lake County. Meanwhile, Park-n-Ride service from Mentor generates more than 70,000 trips annually, giving commuters and eventgoers a stress-free alternative to driving.

Laketrans also supports high school riders through the Cardinal GO program. In partnership with Mentor Public Schools, students ride Local Routes for free, with more than 1,700 trips taken last year to jobs, internships, and extracurricular activities.

Whether it’s getting to work, school, or a weekend outing, Laketrans remains committed to keeping Mentor residents connected—one ride at a time.

Article and photo submitted by Laketrans



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Lake County Department of Job and Family Services

The Lake County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) plays a vital role in supporting residents across the community through a wide range of programs designed to promote stability, self-sufficiency, and well-being. With a mission rooted in respecting individual rights and strengthening families, the agency offers services that help children, adults, and families maintain or improve their quality of life.

Among its core offerings are public assistance programs such as Ohio Works First cash assistance, SNAP (food assistance), childcare support, and a variety of medical coverage options. The agency also administers Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) funds, which provide short-term financial assistance to help families navigate unexpected challenges. Eligibility for these programs varies and is deter-

mined by state and federal guidelines.

Workforce development is another key focus. Through OhioMeansJobs Lake County, located within the JFS building, residents can access free services including resume assistance, interview preparation, job search support, and computer training. Employers also benefit from resources designed to connect them with qualified candidates and strengthen the local workforce.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency is dedicated to ensuring that children receive the financial support they need. By collecting and enforcing court-ordered child support, establishing paternity, and offering services such as interstate enforcement and parent location, the division helps promote family stability and economic security.

JFS also provides critical protective services through its Children and

Adult Services Division. This team works around the clock to respond to reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation involving children and vulnerable adults aged 60 and older. By partnering with families and individuals, the division aims to resolve safety concerns and create stable, supportive environments.

Additionally, the agency is actively seeking compassionate individuals and families to become foster parents. With a growing need for foster homes in Lake County, JFS offers training and certification for those interested in making a meaningful difference in a child's life.

Visit www.lakecountyohio.gov/jobs-family-services to discover additional services offered by JFS.

Pictured: Posey is the mascot for the Children Services Division. She represents a fun, carefree, happy child, which is the hope for all of the children in Lake County.

Submitted by LCDJFS



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Lake County Council on Aging

Established in 1972, the Lake County Council on Aging (LCCOA) is one of the most critically important organizations serving the community. For more than five decades, it has been the first voice and trusted resource for seniors in Lake County, as well as for their families and caregivers. When it comes to the needs of seniors, their families, and caregivers, the Lake County Council on Aging stands as Lake County's most trusted, knowledgeable, and dependable source of guidance and support.

The agency's mission is rooted in promoting independence, dignity, and peace of mind for residents aged 60 and older. As Lake County's designated Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), LCCOA also serves adults age 18 and over with disabilities by providing accurate, unbiased information, options counseling, benefits assistance, and connections to essential community services.

A team of licensed social workers conducts in-home visits to assess needs and help seniors develop personalized plans of care. These professionals connect individuals with service providers and resources, helping them remain safe and independent in their homes.

LCCOA's cornerstone programs address daily needs that make aging in place possible. Home-delivered meals, commonly known as Meals on Wheels, provide nutritious meals along with daily social interaction and reassurance.



The Council on Aging's Homemaker Program is a light housekeeping service committed to helping Lake County seniors sustain independent living by performing household chores they can no longer do or need assistance completing.

Congregate dining at lunch place cafés throughout the county offers healthy meals and meaningful social engagement. Additional services—including homemaker assistance, nonmedical in-home care, and the Health Equipment Lending Program—remove barriers to independent living.

Community involvement is also central to LCCOA's impact through volunteer opportunities and special events.

For information about services or to get help, call the Lake County Council on Aging at (440) 205-8111 or visit www.lcco.org.

Submitted by LCCOA

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Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood

When you or someone you love is diagnosed with a developmental disability, it can feel overwhelming. There are many questions that need answers—and answers that can create even more questions. You can take comfort in knowing that the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD)/Deepwood can guide you every step of the way.

As a first step in finding answers, the LCBDD's Service and Support Administration (SSA) team helps identify and review the services needed for a safe, healthy, and enriched life. The process begins with determining eligibility and assessing an individual's specific needs. The SSA team collects information to assist with completing assessments and identifying available resources.

Broadmoor School is the educational component of the LCBDD and provides services for children from birth to age 22. This includes early intervention, an integrated preschool program, and instruction for school-age students, with an option to attend



Andrew at his workspace alongside University Hospitals Clinical Nutrition Manager Crystal Seals.

the Lake Education and Employment Program for students ages 16–22. Starting services earlier can lead to significant improvements in development, setting students on a path toward a brighter future.

Individualized services focus on advancing social, leisure, employment, and independent living skills to help eligible individuals achieve desired outcomes. Whether it's a service supported by the County Board or provid-

ed by a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver provider partner, the goal is to promote choice and skill-building experiences.

The LCBDD's vision is to offer Lake County citizens the highest-quality, most inclusive, collaborative, and person-centered services and supports available within existing resources.

For example, by leveraging employment navigation supports from the LCBDD and receiving guidance from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), Andrew Vogt thrives as he coordinates menu orders from patients at University Hospitals.

"With the help of the County Board and my job coach Jamie, I was able to secure a customer service representative position at a hospital," said Andrew. "Their guidance and support enabled me to excel in my role and become a valuable member of the team."

To learn more, visit www.LakeBDD.org, connect on social media @DeepwoodLakeDD, or call (440) 350-5100.

Submitted by LCBDD/Deepwood

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Mentor Public Library

Beginning its next chapter

In spring 2026, the library broke ground on a long-planned renovation and expansion that will transform both the interior and exterior of its Main Branch.

When the multiyear project is complete, patrons will enjoy an expanded children’s play area, an upgraded makerspace, additional soundproofed study rooms, and more space for passport services—enhancements designed to better meet the needs of today’s library users.

A unifying theme throughout the project is nature. Many of the updates, both inside and out, incorporate natural elements that create a welcoming, calming environment for visitors of all ages.

Outside, a new shelter—featuring a roof shaped like a leaf—will allow the library’s popular outdoor programs to continue rain or shine. The surrounding grounds will also see significant enhancements, including a garden, an oak grove, and an updated storybook walk winding through the green space.

The pollinator garden, planted last autumn with support from a First Energy grant, is already taking root. This fall, local nonprofit Rooted in Trees will further enrich the landscape by planting eight oak trees, providing shade, beauty, and a habitat for native wildlife.

Inside, the children’s play area will take on a forest-inspired theme, creating an immersive space for young visitors. Additional updates include a



Mentor Public Library will be adding an outdoor shelter to its Main Branch as part of its long-planned expansion and renovation. Illustration courtesy of StudioTechné.

dedicated teen area, a larger story time and craft room, and a sensory room designed to support children with diverse needs.

The expansion also reflects how libraries have evolved over time. The Main Branch, originally built in the early 1960s and expanded in the late 1980s, was designed for a different era. Today’s libraries offer services that didn’t exist during the card catalog years—such as makerspaces and passport processing—both of which have outgrown their current, makeshift locations. The renovation will provide dedicated spaces for these increasingly

popular services.

Outdoors, additional improvements will include a new facilities garage with workspace for staff, a musical wishing well for children, and expanded areas for reading and relaxing.

While much will change, one thing remains constant: Mentor Public Library’s commitment to literacy and lifelong learning. The renovation will even add new shelving to better showcase the library’s growing collection.

For more info on the expansion and renovation, visit mentorpl.org/mainbranchmasterplanfaq.

Submitted by Mentor Public Library

Housekeeping services for Lake County seniors

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RESIDENTS GUIDE

A LIST OF NAMES, NUMBERS AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Stay up to Date

Visit the city of Mentor online at cityofmentor.com for comprehensive information including news and event schedules. Click on the connect tab for a complete listing of social media feeds and available app to stay up to date with the latest breaking news from the city.

Register for the Lake County Emergency Management Agency WENS System for text, voice, and/or email emergency notifications. Registration is free and takes less than 60 seconds. All Mentor residents are encouraged to sign up today at lakeohioalerts.com.

The special edition community newsletter is produced quarterly and mailed to all households in Mentor. It provides information about services, ordinances, public meetings, construction projects, and upcoming events. Additional copies

are available at the city buildings and the Mentor Library's main branch.

The Mentor Parks & Recreation Guide promotes more than 500 recreational and cultural programs offered by the city. The guide is mailed to residents three times a year. Additional copies are available at city buildings.

The Mentor Senior Center newsletter is mailed bimonthly to members.

The Mentor Channel features live coverage of city council and planning commission meetings as well as other content. Watch live on Spectrum Channel 1024, U-Verse Channel 99, thementorchannel.com, or on YouTube, ROKU, Apple, Android, or Fire app. Mentor Radio 1620 is a low-powered AM station which provides residents and travelers general information on the city.

Managing the City's Business

Mentor officially became a city on December 18, 1963. It has been operating under its own charter since January 1962, when voters adopted the council manager form of government.

Under this system, a seven-member council is elected by voters on a nonpartisan basis; three members serve at-large, the remaining four are ward representatives. Each council member serves a four-year term. Every two years, the council chooses one of its members to serve as president of council.

You can reach the city council office at 440-974-5755.

You can email ALL members of city council at citycouncil@cityofmentor.com.

Peter Ferrante, CFP®
Branch Manager
Managing Director – Investments
Discretionary Portfolio Management



Ted Rigo
Managing Director – Investments



Corey Sarosy, CFP®
Senior Vice President – Investments



Jim Duralia
Senior Vice President – Investments



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2024-0619 Exp. 03/31/27 Member SIPC

Mentor City Council Members

**At Large - Janet A. Dowling
President**

Term ends 1/1/30
(440) 669-5811
dowling@cityofmentor.com

**At Large - Ray Kirchner
Vice President**

Term ends 1/2/30
(216) 496-6213
kirchner@cityofmentor.com

At Large - Brian G. Cook

Term ends 1/3/30
(440) 477-7289
cookb@cityofmentor.com

Ward 1 - Sean P. Blake

Term ends 12/31/27
(440) 231-1646
blake@cityofmentor.com

Ward 2 - Matthew E. Donovan

Term ends 12/31/27
(440) 855-5581
donovan@cityofmentor.com

Ward 3 - Charles E. Pinkerman

Term ends 12/31/26
(440) 364-5771
pinkerman@cityofmentor.com

Ward 4 - John A. Krueger

Term ends 12/31/27
(440) 487-9009
krueger@cityofmentor.com
marn@cityofmentor.com

Mentor City Council Meetings

Council meetings are held at the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 PM at the Mentor Municipal Center; 8500 Civic Center Blvd. Meetings are open to the public. All regularly scheduled meetings are carried on Spectrum Channel 1024 and U Verse Channel 99 as well as TheMentorChannel.com, YouTube, ROKU, Apple, Android, or Fire app. Meeting agendas and archived meetings are posted on the website. Announcements regarding council work sessions and public hearings are posted in the local newspaper, on the website, and on the Mentor Channel.

Watch The Mentor Channel

Spectrum 1024 • U-Verse 99
ROKU • iTunes
Google Play • Amazon
www.TheMentorChannel.com



City Department Directory

Contact the city department or office by dialing the numbers listed below.

Assessments (Special City)
440-974-5770

Athletic Field Maintenance
440-974-5720

Black Brook Golf Course
440-951-0010

Blockwatch Program
440-974-5760

Building Permits and Fees
440-974-5785

City Council Office
440-974-5755

City Manager's Office
440-974-5790

Clerk of Council
440-974-5755

Code Enforcement
440-974-5792

Ditch Enclosures
440-974-5785

Drainage Assistance
440-974-5785

Economic Development
440-974-5740

Employment Inquiries
440-974-5795

Engineering & Building
440-974-5785

Finance
440-974-5770

Fire Nonemergency
440-255-1212

Fire Prevention
440-974-5768

Fire Public Education
440-974-5769

Human Resources
440-974-5795

Ice Arena
440-974-5730

International Trade Programs
440-205-3743

Keep Mentor Beautiful Program
440-974-5781

Law Director
440-974-5755

Mentor Cemetery
440-974-5733

Mentor Channel
440-974-5794

Mentor Community Recreation Center
440-205-3608

Mentor Lagoons Marina
440-205-3625

Municipal Court Civil Case
440-974-5745

Criminal & Traffic
440-974-5744

Planning & Development
440-974-5740

Police Nonemergency
440-255-1234

Prosecutor
440-974-5752

Public Information Office
440-974-5794

Public Works Department
440-974-5781

Recreation
440-974-5720

Recycling
440-974-5781

Road Resurfacing
440-974-5781

Senior Citizen Center
440-974-5725

Sign & Fence Permits
440-974-5740

Snow Plowing
440-974-5781

Storm Sewer Maintenance
440-974-5781

Stormwater Help Desk
440-974-5785

Street Lights
440-974-5781

Traffic Signals & Signs
440-974-5781

Wildwood Cultural Center
440-974-5735

Victim Assistance Program
440-205-2438

Yard Waste Program
440-974-5781

Zoning
440-974-5740

If you're uncertain which department you need, dial the Mentor Municipal Center's main number at 440-255-1100 for assistance.

RESIDENTS GUIDE

Important Service Numbers

24-hour Social Services Hotline
2-1-1

AIDS Hotline
800-332-2437

American Red Cross
216-431-3010

Bureau of Employment Services
877-644-6562

Cable Complaints –
Ohio Dept. of Commerce
877-207-2225

Child Abuse Hotline
440-350-4000, press 1

Crossroads Health
(Adolescent Counseling)
440-255-1700

Crossroads Health
(Adult Mental Health)
440-354-9924

Forbes House (Women’s Shelter)
440-357-1018

HEAP – Home Energy Assistance
440-350-9160

Lake County Crisis Hotline
440-953-TALK

Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers
Treatment for substance abuse/addiction
440-951-5357

Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center
440-256-1404, x2131

Missing Children’s Hotline
800-843-5678

National Runaway Switchboard
1-800-RUNAWAY

Premier Behavioral Health
Adolescents 13+ and adults
440-266-0770

Salvation Army
440-354-3774

Waste Management
866-797-9018

Other Useful Numbers

Attorney General’s Office
800-282-0515

Auto & Driver’s License Bureau
440-974-9000

Better Business Bureau
216-241-7678

Board of Education
440-255-4444

Board of Elections
440-350-2700

Dog Licenses
440-350-2534

Income Tax
800-860-RITA

James A. Garfield
National Historic Site
440-255-8722

Lake County Auditor
440-350-2532

Lake County Cooperative
Extension Service
440-853-2625

Lake County Council on Aging
440-205-8111

Lake County Department
of Job & Family Services
440-350-4000

Lake County Dog Shelter
440-350-2640

Lake County General Health District
440-350-2543

Lake County Landfill
440-350-2644

Lake County Title Bureau (Mentor)
440-350-2800

Lake County Visitor’s Bureau
440-975-1234

Lake Humane Society
440-951-6122

Lake Metroparks
440-639-7275

Laketran
440-354-6100

Marriage Licenses
440-350-2626

Mentor Area
Chamber of Commerce
440-255-1616

Mentor Monitor
440-946-2577

Mentor Post Office
440-255-2798

Mentor Public Library
Main Branch
440-255-8811
Headlands Branch
440-257-2000
Lake Branch
440-257-2512

The HUB @ Mentor High School
440-205-6011

Mosquito Spraying
440-350-2088

Ohio E-Check Hotline
800-CARTEST

Ohio Tourism
800-BUCKEYE

LAKETRAN SAME DAY SERVICE





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DEMAND

Book Today, Ride Today!



Download the App or call 440-354-6100

- \$14/one way
- \$3.50/one way for seniors, people with disabilities and veterans

Dial-a-Ride now operating Sundays
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Other Useful Numbers cont'd

Pools (Seasonal)
Civic Center Pool
440-974-5723

Morton Pool
440-257-5719

Social Security Office
800-772-1213

Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance
440-352-2526

Wildlife Officer – Game Warden
330-245-3034

Utilities

AT&T
800-331-0500

Aqua Ohio Water Co.
877-987-2782

Enbridge Gas Ohio
800-362-7557

First Energy
(The Illuminating Co.)
800-589-3101

Automated Outage Reporting
888-544-4877

Lake County Sanitary Sewer
440-350-2070

NOPEC
(Utility Consortium)
855-667-3201

Spectrum
855-366-7132

Emergency

For help in an emergency – including police, fire, or emergency ambulance – dial 9-1-1.

When you dial 9-1-1, the call is answered at the Mentor Dispatch Center, where the address and phone number from where the call originates will automatically appear on the dispatcher’s screen.

A dispatcher answers the call by saying “9-1-1, what is your emergency?” State the problem or emergency first, and then give the location of the incident.

The dispatcher will start the fire and/or police departments en route while obtaining additional information from the caller.

Stay on the line until the dispatcher tells you to hang up.

Hospitals and Medical Services

Cleveland Clinic
Mentor Hospital
8300 Norton Parkway
800-223-2273

Cleveland Clinic
Express Care Clinic
7533 Center Street, Mentor
440-974-8362

UH Mentor Health Center
9485 Mentor Avenue
440-974-6800

UH Brunner, Sanden,
Deitrick Wellness Center
8655 Market Street
440-255-6400

UH Lake West
Medical Center
36000 Euclid Avenue
Willoughby
440-953-9600

UH Tripoint Medical Center
7590 Auburn Road
Concord Township
440-375-8100

One more listing on page 54 →



Dick’s Sporting Goods
Dillard’s
JCPenney
Bath & Body Works
SHOE DEPT. ENCORE
Express Factory Outlet
Buckle
PacSun

Outback Steakhouse
Fuji Japan Steakhouse
The Original Hot Dog Factory
Bubble House
Flagship Express

Atlas Cinemas
Round1 Bowling & Arcade
All Smiles Aboard Railroad
Comics and Friends
R Fun House

SEE ALL OF OUR RETAILERS HERE:
SHOPGREATLAKESMALL.COM

Hospitals/Medical Services cont'd

**University Hospitals
Mentor Health Center**
9000 Mentor Avenue
440-255-0800

**ORDINANCES
& PROGRAMS**

This summary of selected Mentor city ordinances and programs includes those areas and issues that are most commonly encountered by citizens. The complete Mentor Code of Ordinances can be viewed at cityofmentor.com; click on Ordinances under the "About Mentor" tab.

Animals

Households in residential districts may not have any more than three dogs over the age of four months. Dogs should be leashed at all times when outside. Owners must not permit their dog to bark or howl so that it disturbs the peace. All dogs over three months must be registered with the Lake County Auditor and wear a valid registration tag. An-

imal bites should be reported to the police department within 24 hours. Owners of both dogs and cats are responsible for picking up after their pets, both on public and private property. Contact the warden's office at 440-350-2640 to report stray dogs. Hunting is prohibited within city limits.

Dead Animals

Contact Public Works at 440-974-5781 weekdays between 7 AM and 4 PM; other times, call the police department at 440-974-5789.

Exotic and Wild Animals

Keeping any undomesticated animals, including primates other than monkeys, poisonous reptiles, alligators, lizards over two feet long, etc. is restricted. A complete list of wild and exotic animals is available at cityofmentor.com, click on Ordinances under the About Mentor tab.

Farm Animals

Farm animals are not permitted on premises less than two acres in size. These include horses, goats, cows, chickens, ducks and similar animals.

Additional zoning requirements may apply. Call 440-974-5740 for specifics.

Nuisance Health Risk Animals

Feeding or harboring of deer, rats, raccoons or skunks is prohibited.

Vicious Animals

Keeping dangerous or vicious animals is prohibited.

Bicycles

The Mentor Police Department offers citizens a no cost bicycle registration program that helps to identify a bike's rightful owner if the bike becomes lost or stolen. When riding on a road, cyclists must follow the traffic laws and ride WITH traffic. Bike paths are to be shared by pedestrians and bicyclists. Bike lanes are exclusively for bicycles, unless there is no sidewalk or shoulder.

Building Permits

Those looking to access construction permits and related documents, schedule building inspections, submit applications, and other city services, can now do so through the Mentor Gateway online at www.thementorgateway.com.

Building permits are required for all construction including decks, pools, sheds, porches, enclosures, etc., and must be obtained through Mentor's Engineering & Building Department. Applicants for accessory-type structures need to provide two copies of the construction drawings, consisting of a site plan showing where the structure will be situated on the property, and the distance from all property lines. Plans must also show how the structure will be built, materials used, etc.

Once submitted, the plan review process takes about five working days (permits for sheds built from a kit can be obtained at the time of submission). A permit fee is charged, along with a refundable construction deposit, which can be returned if the structure passes all inspections.

Both building permit and zoning permit applications are required for all construction projects including (but not limited to): additions, decks, garages, pools, fences, siding, →



Mentor Harbor Yachting Club







- Protected Private Harbor with 170 Floating Docks
- Indoor & Outdoor Food & Beverage Service
- Swimming Pool & Pickleball Courts
- Active Social Calendar
- Youth Sail Camp & Race Team



5330 Coronada Drive, Mentor | 440.257.7214 | www.mhyc.us

Building Permits cont'd

sheds, porches, driveways and enclosures.

For accessory buildings 200 square feet or less, only a zoning permit is required for review and approval by the Department of Planning and Development. If the accessory building is larger than 200 square feet, a review by both the Building Department and the Planning Department will be required. Applications for any new building or structure include two copies of the construction drawings and a site plan that indicates where the structure will be located on the property, the size and height of the structure, and the distance from all property lines. Plans must also show how the structure will be built (materials used, etc.). Once submitted, the review process takes approximately 7 to 10 working days. A permit fee is charged, along with a construction deposit, which will be refunded if the structure passes all inspections. When a permit is issued, work on the project may begin.

Cars for Sale

Vehicles that are for sale in residential districts must be titled to the current resident, properly licensed, operable, displayed for a maximum of two weeks and parked on an improved parking surface (not on the lawn). The number of vehicles for sale is limited to two per year.

Curfew

Children under 12 are prohibited from being outside between 9:30 PM and 5 AM; children 12–16 years old between 11 PM and 5 AM, and 16–18 years old from midnight to 5 AM. A new daytime curfew restricts school-aged children from being out of school during regularly scheduled school hours, unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, or the child has an authorized written excuse.

Drainage Ditches

All premises shall be graded and maintained to prevent the accumulation of standing water. No owner or occupant of any premises shall cause or permit any natural water-

course, drainage ditch, creek, brook, culvert, or drain located upon the premises to become obstructed with leaves or other debris so that water flow is hindered. Call 440-974-5785 with questions.

Fences

A permit is required if you plan on installing, altering, or relocating a fence. Fences in the rear yard of a residence must not exceed six feet in height. Fences in the front yard or on a corner lot facing a side street may not exceed three feet in height and must be decorative and at least 50 percent open.

Garage Sales

A permit is not required; however, sales are limited to three per year and no sale shall exceed four consecutive days. Garage sale signs are permitted only on the property where the sale is being held. Signs may NOT be posted at any street corner or on tree lawns or utility poles. Illegally posted signs will be confiscated by the City without notice.

Garbage & Recycling

Garbage cans, recycling containers, bulk items, and yard waste may only be placed at the curb after 3 PM the day before the items are to be collected.

After collection, garbage cans, recycling bins, and yard waste containers must be retrieved from the curb by 7 AM the day after your collection.

During the fall, the yard waste restriction does not apply beginning on the weekend immediately preceding the fourth Monday in

October through Friday of the second full week in December in any year of city-sponsored yard waste collection.

Grass and Weed Control

Generally, grass in residential neighborhoods must be controlled in height and kept less than eight inches. No owner or occupant shall permit vegetation to create a safety hazard.

Property owners with excessively high grass or weeds will be given 48 hours from receipt of notice to comply with the ordinance. If compliance is not met, a city crew will be sent to cut the grass or weeds of any unoccupied properties and the property owner will be billed. Occupied properties in violation will be prosecuted in the Mentor court. Call 440-974-5792 with questions

Home Occupations

Any business conducted out of a residence requires one of two types of permits. One permit is administratively approved, while the other requires approval by the Municipal Planning Commission. Call 440-974-5740 with questions.

House Numbers

House numbers must be displayed in a conspicuous location in order to ensure efficient police, fire, and postal services. Numbers, no less than four inches tall, are to be displayed on houses less than 61 feet from the road right-of-way. Numbers at least six inches tall are to be displayed on houses located between 61 feet to 100 feet from the road right-of-way.



MENTOR

PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.mentorpl.org



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Programs for all ages
Historical lectures
Guest speakers
Book clubs
Special programming for kids



Main Library
8215 Mentor Ave. (440) 255-8811



Mentor-on-the-Lake
5642 Andrews Rd.



Headlands Branch
4669 Corduroy Rd.

Income Tax

All persons earning income in the city are subject to a two percent municipal income tax. Mentor residents must file an annual municipal income tax return with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA); retired persons can file an exemption to show no earned wages. Residents are granted 100 percent credit for city income tax paid to other communities. If you have questions, call 800-860-RITA.

Jogging

Joggers are encouraged to pursue their recreational activity of choice in a safe and responsible manner, and to follow these rules:

- Jogging upon a roadway is illegal if an accessible, adjacent sidewalk is provided.
- Where a sidewalk is not provided, jog only on the shoulder of the roadway, as far as possible from the edge of the roadway.
- Where neither a sidewalk nor a shoulder is available, jog as near as possible to the outside edge

of the road; if it's a two-way road, jog ONLY on the left side. Any joggers on a roadway shall yield the right of way to ALL vehicles.

Light Trespass

High intensity density (HID) lighting must have full cut-off fixtures or be shielded to prevent trespass or glare. All spot or flood lighting must be shielded or aimed to prevent light trespass. Call 440-974-5792 with questions.

Mosquito Control

The Lake County General Health District oversees mosquito control during the summer months. Spraying schedules are posted on The Mentor Channel as they become available. If you have concerns, call the Health District at 440-350-2543.

Noise

No person shall unreasonably create a noise disturbance within the city. Any noise that annoys or disturbs a reasonable person, or

causes adverse effects on humans, is prohibited before 7 AM or after 9 PM weekdays, and before 8:30 AM or after 9 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. Call the Mentor Police Department at 440-255-1234 to report disturbances.

Open Burning

The burning of trash, brush, or leaves is not permitted. Small, attended cooking campfires are permitted during favorable weather conditions without prior approval. Bonfires require prior approval of the Fire Prevention Bureau by calling 440-974-5768.

Parking

Overnight street parking between the hours of 2– 6 AM is prohibited. Parking on the fire hydrant side of the street is prohibited. Parking on any city street whenever there is more than a two-inch accumulation of snow or ice is prohibited.

- **Motor Vehicles** – In residential districts, motor vehicles must be parked on an improved surface. →



2026 Collection Calendar

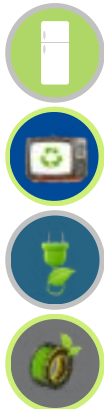
Appliances, Electronics, Monitors, TVs, & Tires

Collection Season: Now through December 31st
Lake County Landfill & Recycling Center
 2039 Blase Nemeth Rd. Painesville Twp.
 Monday – Friday: 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.,
 Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

All personal data is securely and professionally erased

NO COST, FREE: Most corded and rechargeable household electronics including phones, computers, towers, and printers
\$3 EACH: Car and pickup truck tires – no rims, 6 max. per day, up to 20". **\$5 EACH:** Household appliances, flat screens/tube screens 27" and smaller, and semi-truck tires - no rims, 6 max. per day, over 20".
\$10 EACH: Flat/tube screens larger than 27", projection and console sets. **\$15 EACH:** Tractor and agricultural tires, no rims, 6 max. per day.

PROHIBITED: Batteries, broken/bare CRTs, any light bulb, carbon monoxide detectors, gas-powered equipment, hazardous waste, materials containing liquids, devices containing liquid mercury (thermostats, switches, medical devices, thermometers), PCB-containing materials, propane tanks, radioactive materials, and smoke detectors



Household Hazardous Waste Events

May 30, 2026
September 12, 2026
Lake County Fairgrounds
 1301 Mentor Ave., Painesville Twp.,
 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



ACCEPTED: Most automotive, household cleaners, lawn, pool, unknown chemicals. Bulbs and batteries. Aerosols, empty propane tanks, kerosene, mercury, paints (oil-based), polyurethanes, primers and grout. Roofing tars, shellacs, stains, thinners, turpentine and varnish

PROHIBITED: Ammunition, explosives, latex paint (dry it & toss it), medical waste, prescription medicines, and smoke alarms (mail to manufacturer)



Parking cont'd

Improved surfaces are those constructed of concrete, asphalt or permeable pavers, without excess weeds or grass.

- **RVs, boats, and dual-axle trailers** – RVs, boats, and dual axle trailers may not be parked in front of the main structure. A minimum three-foot set back is required from side property lines. On corner lots, no RV, boat, or dual axle trailer parking is permitted between the right-of-way and side of the main structure. Parking must be on an improved surface of concrete, asphalt or permeable pavers.
- **Commercial vehicles** – No more than one commercial vehicle per dwelling unit may be parked on a residential property. No vehicle, having a net total weight of greater than 10,000 pounds, shall be parked on a residential property. Parking must be on an improved surface of concrete, asphalt or permeable pavers. No construction equipment or vehicle (includ-

ing, but not limited to, backhoes, bulldozers, trenchers) shall be parked in residential districts for more than 30 days.

Property Maintenance

Property owners are required to maintain the exterior of their premises so that its appearance does not negatively impact the immediate neighborhood. All residential rental properties must be inspected every two years. If you are renting an apartment or house, and you feel the property is not properly maintained, call the Code Enforcement Office at 440-974-5792.

Refuse Collection (Commercial & Industrial)

Commercial and industrial rubbish haulers collecting in the city of Mentor are required to obtain a contractor's license and vehicle permit.

Satellite Dishes

Satellite dishes are permitted in rear yards only and must be at least 10 feet from the side and rear

property lines. The maximum height permitted is 12 feet; the maximum diameter is 10 feet. A permit is required. Dishes less than one meter in diameter (39.37 inches) do not require a permit. It is recommended that the smaller dishes be located in the rear yard. DIRECTV and DISH residential units are exempt.

Sidewalks and Driveways

Property owners are required to keep their sidewalks and driveway aprons within the public right-of-way in a proper state of repair. If cracked, defective, or uneven, they must be repaired or replaced. A sidewalk inspection and maintenance program is ongoing. Property owners or persons responsible for the premises shall keep the sidewalk(s) adjacent to such building in a clean condition at all times (this includes clearing the property's sidewalks of snow and ice, per Ord. 521.06).

Have questions? Get answers!
Call (440) 255-1100 or
email pubinfo@cityofmentor.com.



MENTOR
— AREA —
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Business Benefits and Exposure | Local Resources
Professional Development

BUSINESS GROWTH. NETWORKING. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

6990 Spinach Drive | Mentor, OH 44060 | 440-255-1616
www.mentorchamber.org

Signs

“Home for Sale,” “For Sale,” and “Garage Sale” signs are permitted only on the actual property where the sale is taking place and only when posted behind the tree lawn. Similar signs are not permitted off-premises and will be confiscated, without prior notice, when observed by the city. (See “garage sales.”)

Snow and Ice Control

- **Clearing of city streets** – Arterial and major collector streets are given first priority for snow and ice control. All major intersections on the major arterial highway system are salted and/or cindered, along with certain hills and bridges. Residential neighborhoods are cleared when conditions warrant. Call 440-974-5781 with routine snow and ice control inquiries.
- **No parking during snow emergency** – A snow emergency is when there has been an accumulation of more than two inches of snow, sleet, hail, or ice

on any streets/roads. No parking is permitted on city streets during a snow emergency.

- **Depositing snow & ice on public sidewalks or roadways** – Depositing snow or ice onto any public sidewalk, street, road, or highway is not permitted.
- **Access to fire hydrants** – Property owners are urged to adopt the fire hydrant closest to their property to keep the hydrant clear from snow during the winter months.

Solicitation

It is unlawful to solicit without first obtaining a solicitor’s permit from the Mentor Police Department. It is unlawful to solicit at any premise at which a “No Solicitors” sign is displayed. “No Solicitors” signs are available from the Mentor Police Department.

STAY UP TO DATE



Streetlights

Streetlights within the city of Mentor are paid through assessment of the benefiting property owners. If you observe a streetlight in need of repair, please call 440-974-5781.

Trees on Right-of-Way/ Tree Lawn

- **Dead trees** – No owner or occupant of any premises shall permit a dead tree to stand near to a public sidewalk or roadway as to endanger users should all or part of it fall. No owner or occupant shall permit a dead branch to overhang a public sidewalk or roadway.
- **Planting & removing of trees** – The city of Mentor has specific ordinances which property owners are required to follow when trimming, removing and planting trees within the right-of-way or tree lawn. Call Public Works at 440-974-5781 for details.

Traffic Signals/Signs

Traffic signals and signs are installed and maintained by the Public Works Department. For service requests, including repair or replacement of these devices, call 440-974-5781. Emergency or weekend repairs should be reported to the Mentor Police Department at 440-974-5789.

Yard Waste Collection

The city offers weekly curbside yard waste collection from the first full week of April through the second full week of December. Residents can set out 12 units per week on their regular trash day. The limit increases to 25 units from the last full week of October through the second full week of December. A unit is a paper yard waste bag, a 32-gallon can, or a bundle of sticks. If you have questions, call 440-974-5781.

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hr@ump-inc.com
 29980 Lakeland Blvd.
 Wickliffe, OH 44092

TUNES AT THE LAGOONS

www.tunesatthelagoons.com

CITY FACILITIES

This is a listing of city offices and recreational facilities and the services available at each.

Civic Center Campus
Mentor Municipal Center

8500 Civic Center Boulevard

The city of Mentor's administrative offices are located within the Mentor Municipal Center building. Offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 AM–5 PM. The main number is 440-255-1100. City offices are closed: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, and Christmas Day.

1st Floor – Planning & Development, Engineering & Building, Information Technologies, Mentor Municipal Court, Police Department, and Mentor Jail.

2nd Floor – Finance Department, Public Information (The Mentor Channel)

3rd Floor – Council Chambers, Council Offices, Law Director, City Manager and Human Resources.

Civic Center Ice Arena,
Community Center,
Mentor Civic Amphitheater,
Civic Center Waterpark

8600 Munson Road

(Located on the Civic Center Campus)

The Mentor Ice Arena is open year-round and features two full-sized indoor rinks as well as a studio rink. Available for open skates, tournaments, parties and more. Full snack bar and pro shop.

The Community Center has three rooms which accommodate 50–200 people each. Available for meetings and banquets.

Campus also includes picnic grounds and shelter, playground, amphitheater, swimming pool, children's water play area, sand volleyball court, basketball courts, pickle ball courts, skate park, bike path and baseball diamonds.

STAY UP TO DATE

    /cityofmentor

Pool hours:

Civic Center pool complex under construction - reopens 2027.

Pool phone:

440-974- 5723

Arena phone:

440-974-5730

To rent the ice arena or community center, call 440-974-5730. To rent the pool, call 440-974-5720.

Fire Station No. 5

8467 Civic Center Boulevard
440-974-5765

Fire Administration, Emergency Dispatch Center, Fire Prevention and Public Education.

Senior Citizens Center

8484 Munson Road
440-974-5725

State-of-the-art facility provides activities and services for those 55 and over. Barrier free. Lunch served weekdays from 11:30 AM–12:15 PM and is open to the public.

Affordable membership open to residents and nonresidents. Available for private rentals.

Black Brook Golf Course
& Practice Center

8900 Lake Shore Boulevard
440-951-0010

www.blackbrookgolfcourse.com

This beautiful, 18-hole public course, features watered fairways, paved cart paths, a practice putting green and a practice center with ten target greens, practice bunker and 1.5-acre tee area. The clubhouse has a fully stocked pro shop and snack bar with an attached pavilion for catered outings. The course offers golf schools and private lessons. Black Brook offers a variety of leagues for men, women, coed, couples and juniors. Discounts offered to Mentor residents.

Center Street Ballfield
& Sledding Hill

8350 Carpenter Drive
(Enter off Center Street)

The hill provides a safe and enjoyable environment for sledding and winter fun. Sledding is permitted only during daylight hours.




**Commemorative
Rose Garden**

8537 Mentor Avenue

This garden was created in 1988 to commemorate the City's 25th anniversary. It features rose bushes, and an Ohio Bicentennial marker acknowledging Mentor's place in history as "The Rose Capital of the Nation."

Dog Park

6647 Hopkins Road

This is the perfect spot for our four-legged friends to run and play with dogs of the same size. The park features a doggie water fountain, park benches, agility equipment and a safe, and a fenced in entry/exit area. The park is located next to the municipal maintenance facility.

Eleanor B. Garfield Park

7967 Mentor Avenue

Community recreation center with barrier-free restrooms, all people's playground, baseball diamonds, picnic pavilion, pond, fishing, soccer, lighted tennis courts, and wildlife

area. The pavilion & recreation center are available for private rentals by calling 440-974-5720.

Donald E. Krueger Park

7556 Chillicothe Road
440-974-5720

Krueger Park House, barrier-free restrooms, soccer fields. Barrier-free facility. Krueger Park House is available for rent. Please call for more information and to reserve your time.

Mentor Beach Park

7779 Lake Shore Boulevard

Restrooms, picnic area, playground equipment, soccer fields.

Mentor Cemetery

6881 Hopkins Road
440-974-5733

Established in 1854. This beautifully maintained 60-acre property is the final resting place for over 15,000 souls including veterans of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War. New Memorial Promenade unveiled in 2023.

**Mentor Community
Recreation Center**

6000 Heisley Road
440-974-5720

The 128,000 SF facility is one of the largest of its kind in NE Ohio and features a number of popular programs and activities for all ages. Resident and nonresident annual memberships and single-day passes available. www.mentorrec.com.

**Mentor Lagoons Nature
Preserve & Marina**

8365 Harbor Drive
440-205-3625

Bird watchers and nature lovers enjoy this 450-acre nature preserve featuring hiking trails, observation deck, observation tower (opens fall 2026), water trails, and 1.5 miles of wild beach. The public marina provides direct lake access, year-round storage, and boat ramp with discounted rates for Mentor residents. Kayak, canoe, stand-up paddleboard and pedalboat rentals available Memorial Day through Labor Day. Safe-boating classes also offered.

Morton Community Park

9325 Rosemary Lane

Amenities include: pool, restrooms, picnic pavilion, playground, basketball and splash park.

Pool hours:

1-8 PM daily, June-August

Pool phone:

440-257-5719

Pool and pavilion available for private rentals at 440-974-5720.

**Municipal Maintenance
Facility**

6645 Hopkins Road

Public Works Department personnel and services related to road, public lands, equipment maintenance, storm drainage, street lighting and traffic.

Old Council Hall

7250 Jackson Street

Historic recreation center available for private rentals by calling 440-974-5720.

Presidents Park

7670 Buchanan Court

Picnic area, paved walking path, playground, basketball, and bocce court.

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine



**Centennial Jubilee
Speaker Series**

Celebrating 100 years of prayer, reflection, and community

All are invited! Free will offerings graciously accepted.

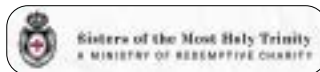
All events will take place 1-4 p.m.

June 13 – James Hickey
St. Bernadette

July 11 – Kathryn DeCapite
Under Mary's Mantle:

A Marian Journey through Lourdes and Fatima, and the Heart of a Mother

September 12 – Barb Ernster
*So That All May Believe –
The Miracles of Lourdes and Fatima*



Outdoor Mass

May 3–October 25, 2026

Breakfast will be served in the St. Ann Dining Room every Sunday after 9:30 a.m. outdoor Mass.



Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine

Owned and operated by the Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity

21281 Chardon Road, Euclid

www.srstrinity.com

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Springbrook Gardens Park
6842 Heisley Road

The park features 52-acres of restored grassland habitat and green-space, 1.7 miles of asphalt walking trails and a large pond with boardwalk and playground. Springbrook Gardenhouse all-season pavilion available for rentals by calling 440-974-5720.

Tiefenbach Park

Corduoy Road at Lake Overlook Dr.
Gazebo and picnic area, BMX bike and skate park.

Veterans Memorial

Corner of Center Street and Civic Center Boulevard

Created with support from Mentor VFW Post 9295. It is a site for reflection and remembering those who have served our country. Engraved bricks are available in the memorial walkway surrounding the monument by calling 440-974-5720.

Veterans Park

5740 Hopkins Road

Amenities include: fishing, hiking, picnic shelter, restrooms, playground, and wildlife area. This park is owned by the city of Mentor and maintained and operated by Lake Metroparks. Call 440-358-7275 to reserve the picnic shelter.

Edward R. Walsh Park

7221 Bellflower Road

Located west of Route 306 behind the Farmington Meadows development. Amenities: picnic pavilion, playground, spray park, baseball, restrooms, soccer, barrier-free fishing dock, tennis, basketball, and 1½-mile paved walkway. Reserve pavilion by calling 440-974-5720.

Wildwood Cultural Center

7645 Little Mountain Road

The 25-room English tudor manor house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and sits on 34-acres of wooded grounds. Amenities include the historic manor house, hiking trails, barrier-free restroom, picnic and wildlife area.

Annual activities include the Wildwood Arts Festival, held each June. The beautiful manor house is available for private parties, dinners or seminars by calling 440-974-5735.

ALSO IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

History, Museums, & Nature

James A. Garfield National Historic Site

8095 Mentor Avenue

Locals still call it Lawnfield, the name given to our 20th president's home by newspaper reporters during the 1881 campaign. Garfield purchased the c. 1830 nine-room house with nearly 119 acres of farmland in 1876. The home contains the first presidential memorial library. The carriage house is now a visitor center and the main house contains many original Garfield family pieces. Owned and operated by the National Park Service. Call for hours at 440-255-8722 or visit www.nps.gov.

Headlands Beach State Park

Headlands Road at north end of state Route 44

This 125-acre state park boasts a mile-long sandy beach — the longest in Ohio. Facilities are open

daily from 8 AM to dusk and include swimming, fishing, picnic areas, paved bike path, and public restrooms. Breakwall fishing is permitted 24 hours a day. To the immediate east is Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve. Call 440-466-8400 or visit www.ohiodnr.gov.

Mentor Fire Museum

7262 Jackson Street

Constructed in 1942, this building served as the first Fire Station No. 1 until 1991. Now operated by the Mentor Firefighters' Historical Association. To arrange tours, email mentorfiremuseum@yahoo.com.

Mentor Marsh Nature Center

(Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve)

5185 Corduroy Road

440-257-0777

This 700-plus acre state nature preserve was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1966 by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Scenic trails, boardwalks, access areas, and a small nature center aid the public in appreciating the wonders of this natural area.

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EDUCATION

Mentor Public Schools

The Mentor Public Schools system serves 7,600 students from Mentor, Mentor-on-the-Lake, and small portions of Concord Township and Kirtland Hills. The school district offers a strong college preparatory program, vocational curriculum, and special education services. Local businesses help students explore career options through their participation in programs like job shadowing and Senior Project. Learn more online at www.mentorschools.net.

Administration

6451 Center Street
440-255-4444

Dr. Jacqueline A. Hoynes School
(Cardinal Autism Resource Education)

5028 Forest Road
440-257-5951

Mentor High School

6477 Center Street
440-974-5300

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Memorial Middle School

8979 Mentor Avenue
440-974-2250

Shore Middle School

5670 Hopkins Road
440-257-8750

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bellflower Elementary

6655 Reynolds Road
440-255-4212

Fairfax Elementary

6465 Curtiss Court
440-255-7223

Hopkins Elementary

7565 Hopkins Road
440-255-6179

Lake Elementary

7625 Pinehurst Road, M-O-L
440-257-5953

Orchard Hollow Elementary

8700 Hendricks Road
440-257-5955

Ridge Elementary School

7860 Johnnycake Ridge Road
440-974-5400

Sterling Morton Elementary

9292 Jordan Drive
440-257-5954

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Lake Catholic High School

6733 Reynolds Road
440-578-1020

Mentor Christian School

8600 Lake Shore Boulevard
440-257-3172

St. Gabriel School

9935 Johnnycake Ridge Road
440-352-6169

St. Mary of the Assumption School

8540 Mentor Avenue
440-255-9781

HIGHER EDUCATION

Lake Erie College

391 W. Washington Street
Painesville, OH 44077
440-375-7050

Lakeland Community College

7700 Clocktower Drive
Kirtland, OH 44094
440-525-7000

LIBRARIES

Mentor Public Library

mentorpl.org

The Mentor Public Library, formed on February 22, 1819, is the oldest library in Lake County. Renew, check out holds, and pay fines online at mentorpl.org. For general questions, send an email to a librarian at askalibrarian@mentorpl.org.

Main Branch

8215 Mentor Avenue
440-255-8811

For hours visit mentorpl.org.

Headlands Branch

4669 Corduroy Road
440-257-2000

For hours visit www.mentorpl.org.

Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch

5642 Andrews Road
440-257-2512

For hours visit www.mentorpl.org.

The HUB @ Mentor High School

6477 Center Street
440-205-6011

Monday–Thursday; 3–8 PM

Featuring state-of-the-art maker-space, WiFi, computers, and technology.

CITY DEPARTMENTS

Office of the City Manager

The city manager serves as the chief executive officer and safety director and is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the activities of all municipal operations.

The city manager appoints all department heads and employees; ensures that laws and ordinances governing the city are faithfully enforced; recommends to the city council measures or actions which appear necessary or desirable; recommends municipal ordinances and regulations; implements policies established by city council; prepares and submits to council the administrative budget and capital improvement program; and performs other activities as provided for in the city charter.

The city manager is appointed by city council for his expertise, education, and prior managerial experience. The following divisions are part of the city manager's office:

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- **Human resources** – Oversees employee recruitment, selection and testing; employee safety, training and development; labor relations; employee compensation and equal employment opportunity; and processing of accident and injury reports.
- **Information technology** – Provides technical support services to city departments including application design and development, post implementation support and training, process analysis, technical consulting and project management.
- **Public information** – Responsible for disseminating information to the general public related to city projects, events, activities, and services through various means including press releases, newsletters, publications, city website, social media, apps, advertising, The Mentor Channel, and Mentor Radio 1620.

Clerk of Council

The clerk of council is appointed by city council members to keep its records and perform all duties as prescribed by the council.

Planning & Development

Responsible for establishing a diversified economic base with an emphasis on retention and expansion of existing firms, while attracting growth-oriented industries.

Provides staff to the International Trade Program. Oversees day-to-day development concerns and long-range land-use planning issues.

The department assists in administering the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, provides staff support to the Municipal Planning Commission and the Board of Building & Zoning Appeals, issues sign and fence permits, and prepares reports and studies dealing with land use, rezoning, subdivision and site plans, conditional use permits, signage, etc.

The department is also responsible for addressing property maintenance issues and administration of the multi-family and single-family rental inspection programs.

Engineering & Building

The department engineers and administers the city’s capital improvements, regulates private utility work within the public right-of-way, and inspects building construction for community standards to promote the safety of homes and buildings. The department has two divisions:

- **Engineering** – Directly involved with all utility and publicly or privately funded roadway construction in Mentor, both in reviewing and approving the construction plans, and inspecting the construction work performed. It is also involved with planning future public improvement projects, storm drainage assistance, municipal architectural design, and traffic control.
- **Building** – Involved in all activities associated with residential and commercial building construction, including reviewing plans for conformance with building codes and performing on-site inspections to monitor building-code compliance. Helps with building-related concerns.

Finance Department

The finance department keeps accounts of all city financial transactions. This involves day-to-day budget administration, payment of accounts, payroll preparation, and maintenance of fixed asset records, receipt and investment of monies, municipal income tax enforcement, auditing, debt administration, city insurance, and reporting the city’s financial condition.

Fire Department

The fire chief organizes, directs and coordinates all fire resources to accomplish the mission of saving lives and community property.

- **Fire and Rescue Division** – Provides lifesaving and property protection including: the handling of fires, rescues, medical and sudden mechanical emergencies, hazardous materials and natural disasters. Services are provided from five fire stations staffed 24-hours per day.
- **Fire Prevention Bureau** – Enforces the fire safety code and



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Fire Department cont'd

the ordinances of the city through routine inspections of businesses, industries, schools and shopping centers for the purpose of reducing the chance of fires. Also reviews all plans for new construction and investigates the causes of fires.

• **Training and public education –**

The training division provides continuous in-service and specialized training for members of the fire department as well as conducting home exit drills, evacuation planning, accident prevention, first aid, CPR and fire extinguisher training. The division also provides educational programs through schools, businesses, community organizations and civic groups, and works with the Fire Prevention Bureau on juvenile fire setter counseling programs.

Law Department

The law director is the adviser to, and the attorney and counsel for, the city of Mentor, its officers and

divisions. The director and his staff represent the city for prosecutions for offenses against the ordinances of Mentor and the relevant Ohio laws. The law director is appointed by city council and is an attorney-at-law, admitted to the practice of law in the state of Ohio.

Municipal Court

The Mentor municipal judge tries all misdemeanors and ordinance violations occurring within the cities of Mentor and Mentor-on-the-Lake. Mentor Municipal Court hears traffic citation cases, civil cases valued up to \$15,000, landlord/tenant cases and all small claims complaints valued up to \$3,000. All felony cases are heard to determine probable cause and then bound over to the Lake County Common Pleas Court. The Court Probation Department oversees all persons placed on probation by the court for any offense.

STAY UP TO DATE



Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities

This department enhances the quality of life for residents through the development and maintenance of a diverse and comprehensive system of parks and recreational facilities. The department's areas of responsibility include: recreation for youth, teens, and adults; operating and maintaining municipal pools, ice arena, Black Brook Golf Course and Practice Center, senior citizens center, Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve & Marina, Wildwood Cultural Center several community centers; cemetery operations; facility rentals; and maintaining city facilities and parks.

Police Department

The chief of police organizes, directs and coordinates all police resources to serve Mentor citizens.

- **Communications Center** – Receives information and requests from the public and dispatches calls to police and fire personnel.
- **Community Services** – Officers maintain a strong and effective working relationship with citizens.
- **Corrections** – Provides for the safety and security of the Mentor jail and the care of inmates.
- **Detective/Juvenile Bureau** – Responsible for follow-up investigations of all major felony crimes that occur in the school district, Lake County Juvenile Court and other youth service organizations in the community.
- **Patrol Services Bureau** – Responsible for the protection of life and property, the preservation of peace, repression of crime, apprehension of criminal suspects, prevention of delinquency, traffic direction and control, accident investigation, and traffic law enforcement.
- **Records Bureau** – Provides information to support the police department and assist the general public.
- **Victim Assistance Program** – Serves victims of crime through information, crisis intervention, referrals and court advocacy.



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Public Works

Responsible for the construction and maintenance of city streets; the maintenance and operation of the storm water infrastructure system and the city’s traffic signal system; the management of the city’s fleet of vehicles and equipment; the city’s waste collection programs, and the maintenance and improvements of all municipal public lands, urban forestry and street trees.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

More than 50 residents volunteer their expertise and input to city officials through their participation on city boards and commissions.

These citizens are appointed by city council and represent a valuable resource by making recommendations on various municipal issues.

For a listing of current members, or to inquire about a vacancy, contact the city council office at 440-974-5755.

Board of Building & Zoning Appeals (BZA)

The seven-member board hears and determines appeals for exceptions to and variations from the city’s zoning and building codes to ensure that they remain in harmony with municipal ordinances and regulations. Members serve four-year terms. Members meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the municipal center. Agendas are posted at cityofmentor.com.

Civil Service Commission

Ensures that consideration for appointments and promotions within the police and fire department’s classified service are made according to merit and fitness, based on competitive examination. Three residents serve four-year terms.

Community Arts Commission

Fourteen members provide direction and assistance to the Parks, Recreation, & Public Facilities Department in developing cultural programs to suit the needs of the community. Members serve three-year terms.

Fair Housing Board

Members serve three-year terms to review and oversee fair housing concerns.

Lake County Combined General Health Board

Two residents are appointed to serve on this board to oversee the operations and programs of the Lake County Health Department.

Municipal Planning Commission

Members review all new industrial and commercial buildings, subdivisions, rezoning requests, and conditional use permits. Seven members each serve four-year terms and meet every three weeks on Thursdays at 7 PM at the municipal center. Meetings are carried live on The Mentor Channel (Spectrum 1024 and AT&T’s channel 99). The meetings are also streamed live at TheMentorChannel.com. Meeting agendas and archived meetings are also available at cityofmentor.com.

Tree Commission

Four members establish and administer Mentor’s Master Street Tree Plan. Each serves a four-year term.

VOTER INFORMATION

You can vote if you —

- Are 18 years or older by Election Day;
- Are a United States citizen;
- Have lived in Ohio for 30 days;
- You are registered to vote prior to 30 days before an election.

You **MUST** register to vote if —

- You are voting for the first time;
- Your name has changed;
- You have not voted in four years;
- You have moved since you last voted.

Register to vote at:

- Lake County Board of Elections;
 - Online at olvr.ohiosos.gov.
- Voter registration closes 30 days before an election.
- For more information contact the Board of Elections at 440-350-2700 or visit lakeelections.com.

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OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Lake County

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Painesville, Ohio 44077
lakecountyohio.gov
800-899-5253

State of Ohio

Governor

Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-644-4357

Ohio House of Representatives District 57

Jamie Callender
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614-644-6074
Rep57@ohiohouse.gov

Ohio House of Representatives District 23

Dan Troy
77 S. High Street, 10th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614-466-7251
Rep23@ohiohouse.gov

Ohio State Senate District 18

Jerry C. Cirino
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614-644-7718
cirino@ohiosenate.gov

United States

House of Representatives

Dave Joyce, Congressman
14th District
1535 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5731

Mentor Office

8500 Station Street
Mentor, OH 44060
440-352-3939

Senate

Bernie Moreno, Senator
SR-B33 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2315

Cleveland Office

Carl B. Stokes U.S. Courthouse
801 W Superior Ave., STE 1400
Cleveland, OH 44113
216-522-7272

Jon Husted, Senator

SR-198 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3353

Cleveland Office

1240 E. 9th Street, Room 3061
Cleveland, OH 44199
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Online: cityofmentor.com

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Congratulations

MENTOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026!

View the commencement ceremony at www.mentorschools.net.

Mentor High School offers **240 courses** for students including honors, AP, career technical education, online and a wide variety of electives. Students are also provided with the opportunity to participate in **100 clubs, activities and athletic teams**.

Each graduation class from Mentor High School typically gives 10,000 hours in volunteer time to help out with an array of community service projects benefiting others.



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Pastina Rustic Italian 🎵

9354 Mentor Avenue
(440) 255-3117

Skye Bistro & Pub

8434 Mentor Avenue
(440) 974-3572

Casual Dining

Aladdin's Eatery

8870 Mentor Avenue
(440) 205-5966

Another Broken Egg ☪

7890 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-0704

Applebee's Neighborhood Bar + Grille

9174 Mentor Avenue
(440) 974-3777

BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

7880 Mentor Avenue
(440) 276-1360

Bob Evans ☪

9232 Mentor Avenue
(440) 205-9279

7680 Reynolds Road
(440) 946-7117

Danny G's

7224 Center Street
(440) 534-1024

Denny's ☪

7700 Mentor Avenue
(440) 255-3154

Leolo Hospitality (Take-out only)

8488 Mentor Avenue
(440) 299-5123

Longhorn Steakhouse

9557 Mentor Avenue
(440) 639-5103

Mama Roberto's Pizza & Pasta

8658 Mentor Avenue
(440) 205-8890

Manhattan Deli ☪

8900 Mentor Avenue
(440) 974-0055

Market Street

Family Restaurant ☪
8450 Market Street
(440) 255-4962

Olive Garden

7740 Mentor Avenue
(440) 205-9247

Original Pancake House ☪

(Coming Soon)
7357 Mentor Avenue

Outback Steakhouse 🕒

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(440) 205-9505

Red Lobster

7744 Reynolds Road
(440) 946-6677

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9570 Mentor Avenue
(440) 350-6272

Stani's Family Restaurant

8900 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-0332

TJ's on the Avenue

7485 Mentor Avenue
(440) 953-5959

Village Inn

7800 Plaza Boulevard
(440) 255-6960

Winking Lizard

9570 Mentor Avenue
(440) 354-2968

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9379 Mentor Avenue
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Clean Eatz

9385 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-8528

Five Guys

9180 Mentor Avenue
(440) 205-1750

Mission BBQ

7787 Reynolds Road
(440) 236-2657

Panera Bread

7373 Mentor Avenue
(440) 975-9022

9587 Mentor Avenue
(440) 639-1176

Trios Italian Grille

7537 Mentor Avenue
(440) 571-5306

Verdi's Italian Market

8720 Mentor Avenue
(440) 266-8400

Zoup!

7327 Mentor Avenue
(440) 701-4110

Pizza

Cleveland Pizza Company

8510 Mentor Avenue
(440) 266-0800

Corduroy's Pizza

9131 Jordan Drive
(440) 257-6000

Domino's Pizza

7250 Center Street
(440) 290-9991

G-licious Pizza

7361 Center Street
(440) 290-8300

Gionino's Pizza

7710 Lakeshore Boulevard
(440) 209-0000

Hungry Howie's

9173 Mentor Avenue
(440) 205-9595

J's Pizza Market

7404 Center Street
(440) 974-0919

Longo's Italian Restaurant & Pizza

7314 Lakeshore Boulevard
(440) 946-8222

8907 Mentor Avenue
(440) 974-8282

Maxim's

6966 Heisley Road
(440) 257-9070

Papa John's

6289 Reynolds Road
(440) 209-1901

Pizza Hut Pickup/Delivery

7345 Lakeshore Boulevard
(440) 257-0215

Primoz Pizza

9520 Diamond Centre Drive
(440) 352-1352

Villa Fresh Italian Kitchen

Great Lakes Mall
(440) 205-0577

Bars, Pubs & Clubs

Billy's A Cappelli Martini Bar

7338 Industrial Park Boulevard
(440) 585-8815

The Brew Kettle Tavern

Great Lakes Mall
(440) 290-7106

Buffalo Wild Wings

9566 Diamond Centre Drive
(440) 352-2999

Bumpers Bar & Grille

7123 Mentor Avenue
(440) 953-1662

Delaney's Chase Inn

8702 Mentor Avenue
(440) 255-6645

Happy Moose Bar & Grill

7693 Reynolds Road
(440) 953-9464

Hooley House

Sports Pub & Grille
7861 Reynolds Road
(440) 942-6611

Kearney's Public House

(Coming Soon)
6316 Center Street

Mason Social

7289 Mentor Avenue
(440) 368-9828

Mean Mugs Pub

7061 Chillicothe Road
(440) 290-7966

Nostalgia Lounge

8484 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-0741

Red, Wine & Brew

9620 Old Johnnycake Road
(440) 210-0024

Rounder's Lounge

9175 Mentor Avenue
(440) 255-4773

Shamrock Inn

7500 Mentor Avenue
(440) 946-3111

Tommy Boy's Pub

8330 Tyler Boulevard
(440) 290-0241

Three O Six Lounge

7377 Lakeshore Boulevard
(440) 257-3557

Toth's Place

6966 Heisley Road
(440) 974-1390

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7851 Reynolds Road
(440) 497-6773

Bluefin Hibachi & Sushi Bar

8820 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-7383

China Wok & Grill

7573 Mentor Avenue
(440) 269-8388

Fuji Buffet & Grill

9130 Mentor Avenue
(440) 205-8878

Fuji Japan Steakhouse

Great Lakes Mall
(440) 205-1888

Giant Panda

Supersmarket & Café
7770 Mentor Avenue

Hop Hing Chinese Restaurant

9407 Mentor Avenue
(440) 255-2005

Hunan Lake Chinese Cuisine

7357 Lakeshore Boulevard
(440) 257-0030

Imperial Dragon

8310 Tyler Boulevard
(440) 534-1063

The Indian Kitchen

9552 Mentor Avenue
(440) 650-0060

Issho Ni Poke Bar

9570 Mentor Avenue
(440) 754-8204

Lynn's Garden Café

(Coming Soon)
8351 Mentor Avenue

Maki Mentor

9582 Diamond Centre Drive
(440) 853-8685

Panda Express

9184 Mentor Avenue
(440) 266-1799

Sarku Japan

7599 Mentor Avenue
(440) 870-0696

**Sumo Boy Sushi
and Teriyaki House**

9393 Mentor Avenue
(440) 255-8858

Thai Orchid

7329 Mentor Avenue
(440) 942-6752

Vietnamese Pho & Grill

Great Lakes Mall
(440) 266-9008

Fast Food

Arby's

7719 Lakeshore Boulevard
(440) 209-8866

7690 Mentor Avenue
(440) 255-9177

7715 Reynolds Road
(440) 942-2432

Bruegger's Bagels

9210 Mentor Avenue
(440) 974-9350

Burger King

5725 Heisley Road
(440) 352-8890

Charley's Philly Steaks

Great Lakes Mall
(440) 255-8932

Chick-fil-A

9611 Mentor Avenue
(440) 354-2924

Dave's Cosmic Subs

9664 Mentor Avenue
(440) 639-1969

DiBella's Subs

7824 Reynolds Road
(440) 918-1760

Dynamite Dawgs

6312 Center Street
(440) 290-0286

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9210 Mentor Avenue Unit A
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Jersey Mike's Subs

9372 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-8011

7681 Mentor Avenue
(440) 306-8053

Jimmy John's

7338 Mentor Avenue
(440) 942-2600

Kuhar's Carryout (Take-out only)

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(440) 951-1000

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(440) 942-1599

Fast food continued on page 70→

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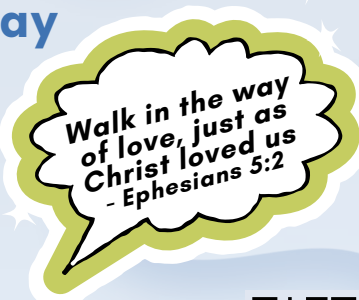
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(440) 942-5522

5745 Heisley Road
(440) 357-7507

8775 Mentor Avenue
(440) 255-6177

7700 Reynolds Road
(440) 946-9492

Mr. Hero

7488 Mentor Avenue
(440) 946-3995

8895 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-7200

Mykonos Gyro

7519 Mentor Avenue #12
(440) 710-6040

The Original Hotdog Factory

7850 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-7141

Original Steak & Hoagies

9229 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-0506



Penn Station East Coast Subs

7240 Mentor Avenue
(440) 954-7366

9383 Mentor Avenue
(440) 534-1861

Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen

7635 Mentor Avenue
(440) 710-6058

Raising Cane's

6888 Center Street
(440) 657-3102

Scooter's World Famous Dawg House

9600 Blackbrook Road
(440) 354-8480

Steak-n-Shake

9530 Diamond Centre Drive
(440) 639-8734

Subway

9514 Diamond Centre Drive
(440) 867-2009

7501 Mentor Avenue
(440) 701-9955

8318 Tyler Boulevard
(440) 266-2000

9303 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-7035

Taco Bell

7753 Mentor Avenue
(440) 942-1261

9486 Mentor Avenue
(440) 392-0319

9500 Diamond Centre Drive
(440) 299-7165

8351 Tyler Boulevard
(440) 974-8650

Tommy's Old Fashioned Sandwiches

7671 Mentor Avenue
(440) 975-1570

Wendy's

6866 Center Street
(440) 205-0247

Mexican

Azteca

9515 Diamond Centre Drive
(440) 350-7039

Chipotle

7787 Reynolds Road
(440) 220-4781

9188 Mentor Avenue
(440) 255-0759

Coco Locos

7501 Mentor Avenue
(440) 918-1503

Condado Tacos

7720 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-0657

Don Tequila

9439 Mentor Avenue
(440) 205-1688

El Rodeo

7601 Mentor Avenue
(440) 205-8740

Federales Burrito Grill

8787 Mentor Avenue
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Moe's Southwest Grill

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(440) 205-5300

Crumbl Cookies

9662 Mentor Avenue
(440) 754-0601

Dairy Queen

7695 Lakeshore Boulevard
(440) 257-5588

9575 Diamond Centre Drive
(440) 354-3004

Del Monte's Italian Treats

7850 Mentor Avenue
(440) 496-4996

Dunkin' Donuts

7825 Mentor Avenue
(440) 942-0399

Dunkin' Donuts

7742 Lakeshore Boulevard
(440) 257-7790

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7577 Mentor Avenue
(440) 946-2595

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8764 Mentor Avenue
(440) 290-0630

Malley's Chocolates & Ice Cream

8920 Mentor Avenue
(440) 974-1440

Nothing Bundt Cakes

6990 Heisley Road
(216) 340-6411

Pulp Juice and Smoothie Bar

9227 Mentor Avenue
(440) 266-0900

Rita's Italian Ice & Custard
(Coming Soon)

7652 Mentor Avenue

Smoothie King

7322 Mentor Avenue
(440) 510-8055

Starbucks

9377 Mentor Avenue
(440) 255-2300

7715 Mentor Avenue
(440) 975-2996

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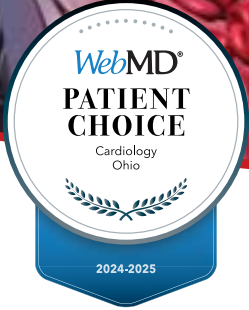
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