

Special EDITION

SPRING 2010

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor

for your information

Power Outage?

Make sure you call the Automated Outage Reporting line at (888) 544-4877. Doing so will allow the Illuminating Company to restore service that much quicker.



Maintain Your Sidewalks

Property owners are required to keep their sidewalks in good repair. This includes clearing the sidewalks of snow and ice. (Ordinance 521.06)

Mentor Cemetery Decorations

Gravesites should be cleared of all winter decorations by March 1 and then three weeks after Easter (or by April 26). Summer decorations can be put out beginning Mother's Day (May 9).



Summer Teen Volunteers Wanted

The Recreation Department is accepting applications from teen volunteers for the 2010 Lend A Hand for Summer Teen Volunteer Program. Volunteers will help city staff at Civic Center Day Camp, Camp Wildwood, Garfield Play Camp, in the Learn to Swim program at all three pools, and also with our special events. Applications are available online at www.cityofmentor.com/play/volunteer and at the Recreation Department, on the second floor of Mentor Municipal Center. References are required. Deadline for application is May 3.



Garbage, Recycling & Yard Waste

Residents are encouraged to put out their refuse by 7 p.m. the night before their regular pick up day. The empty containers should be removed from the curb by 7 p.m. the day of pick up. Any questions? Call the Public Works Department at 974-5781.

The 2010 CENSUS is Coming! Why it's Important

The U.S. Constitution requires that every 10 years every person in the United States be counted. This month, the 2010 Census Form will be mailed to every household in the country.

What questions are asked?

The 2010 Census Form will ask simple questions, such as name, date of birth, race, number in your household, and if you own or rent your house. It is one of the shortest census forms in history, containing 10 questions that should take only 10 minutes to complete. The census does not ask for a social security number, household income or other personal information.

Once you get your form, fill it in and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope provided. That's all there is to it. From April through July, census takers will visit those households that did not return a form.



Why is this information important?

The U.S. Census Bureau collects information to produce statistics that are used to guide cities and counties on where to build new roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen centers. Emergency management agencies use census figures to estimate the number of people displaced by floods and other natural disasters to speed disaster relief to affected areas. Census data is also used to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. An accurate count of residents can help a community receive better funding for better services and infrastructure.

Need a job?

The U.S. Census Bureau has started hiring 1,600 temporary, part-time employees to work in a five county area. These jobs offer good pay, flexible hours and paid training. Best of all, census takers will work right in their own community. To apply, call 440-210-5320.

Census Facts

The first census was conducted in 1790, when 650 Federal Marshals went house-to-house, unannounced, writing down the names of the head of household and counting the residents. In 1840, questions on commerce and industry were added, lengthening the form to 80 questions. In 1930, the onset of the Great Depression prompted inquiries about unemployment, migration and income. In 1970, people of Hispanic or Spanish descent were asked to identify themselves as such. In 2000, long and short form questionnaires were used.

For census statistics, visit www.census.gov.
If you have questions about the 2010 Census, visit www.2010.census.gov or call 800-923-8282.





IMPORTANT NEWS

Mentor Tax Season Approaches

The Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) provides municipal income tax collection services for over 150 Ohio cities. By utilizing such an agency, Mentor saves money by not having to provide the staff, technology and resources.

RITA has mailed out Mentor Municipal Tax Forms for 2009. If you had earned income last year and did not receive a tax form, please contact RITA at (800) 860-7482. You can also pick up a form from the Mentor Finance Department.

Who Files?

It is now mandatory for everyone with earned income to file a Municipal Tax Return. Senior citizens who only receive a pension should file a one-time exemption. If you filed an exemption

last year, you do not need to file again. You may also file an exemption if you are on social security disability, serve in the armed forces, or are under the age of 18 and expect a refund.

Municipal Tax Assistance Offered

RITA will provide free help in completing Municipal Tax Returns to residents in March and April at their City Hall office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Residents can also file on line at www.ritaohio.com.



City Pays Nearly \$2 Million for Residential Waste Collection Programs

This year, the typical Mentor homeowner will pay Waste Management \$21.63 per quarter for weekly garbage collection; the cost includes the collection of bulk items as well as curbside yard waste pick up from April through December. Mentor residents who also want curbside recycling, pay an additional \$5.22 per quarter.

In comparison, homeowners in adjacent communities pay from \$40 to \$67 per quarter, for garbage collection alone.

So, why do Mentor residents receive so many services for such a low price? One reason is that the City of Mentor negotiated a unified contract with Waste Management on behalf of its residents to provide these weekly services. But, the main reason is that the City pays half the total cost of basic garbage collection. It also pays the full cost of yard waste collection and subsidizes the recycling program. Here's the break down of what the City pays:

Amount	Type of Service
\$971,000	50% subsidy for basic garbage collection
\$150,000	Recycling subsidy for Mentor homeowners
\$736,000	Curbside yard waste pick up
\$ 80,000	For drop-off recycling center
Total Annual Cost that Mentor pays: \$1,937,000	

Mentor will pay nearly \$2 million out of its 2010 budget for residential garbage, recycling and curbside yard waste collections because Mentor City Council has insisted that this support be maintained for as long as the City is able.



misc.

Meeting Dates

City Council*

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 p.m.
March 16
April 6, 20
May 4, 18
June 1

Municipal Planning Commission*

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 p.m.
March 11
April 1, 22
May 13
June 3

Board of Building & Zoning Appeals

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 p.m.
April 13
May 11
June 8

Beautification Commission

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 p.m.
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8

*Meetings are broadcast on the Mentor Channel 12 on Time Warner, on Channel 99 on AT&T U-verse and at www.TheMentorChannel.com.

Calendar of Events

March 16

Mentor Lagoons Trail Hike

April 24

Senior Center Garage Sale

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



May 4

Pitch, Hit & Run Competition

Civic Center
Ballfield Complex, 3:45 to 6 p.m.

May 7

Wildwood Singers Spring Concert

Mentor Senior Center, 7:30 p.m.

May 22

Wildwood Garden Club Plant Sale

Wildwood Cultural Center,
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 31

Memorial Day Parade

10 a.m. step off from Heinen's Parking Lot



Visit cityofmentor.com, or call 974-5720 for more information on these City events.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Home Repair Help for Low to Moderate Income Residents

The City of Mentor operates two grant programs that can help residents with home repair issues.

Single Family Housing Rehab

The first and longest operating grant program is the Single Family Housing Rehabilitation Program. This is a HUD funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activity that works to eliminate substandard housing conditions for low to moderate income homeowners. As the program administrator, Western Reserve Community Development Corporation works directly with qualified homeowners to initiate home repairs for a wide range of activities, such as plumbing, heating, electrical, windows, roofing, foundation and handicapped accessibility. For information, call Western Reserve at (440) 357-4400.

Neighborhood Stabilization

The second grant program is the newly created Neighborhood Stabilization program funded by the federal government through the State Department of Development. This program provides down payment incentives and housing rehabilitation assistance for the purchase of vacant homes in two target neighborhoods within the City of Mentor. To qualify, you must purchase a vacant home in a target neighborhood utilizing both Down Payment incentives and Rehabilitation assistance. The home must be maintained as your primary residence and you must meet income eligibility guidelines. Contact Phyllis Dunlap, Program Administrator at (440) 530-2230.

Rebuilding Together – Lake County

Additional housing rehabilitation assistance may also be available through Rebuilding Together – Lake County (RT-LC). This is yet another City partner that undertakes limited home repair and maintenance projects for income qualified residents. RT-LC is an all-volunteer organization that works with other volunteers to provide services to residents who need assistance maintaining their home.

Community Development Block Grant

The City also uses Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to partner with the Fair Housing Resource Center to provide fair housing services to residents who have questions or concerns regarding fair housing practices. Interested residents should call (440) 392-0147.

Mentor residents are encouraged to become more involved with the CDBG program by participating in the annual planning for the use of its funding. All activities performed or operated are done so on a first come, first served basis without regard to ethnicity, gender, handicap or age.

Residents should contact Tom O'Hara in Mentor's Community Development Department at (440) 974-5740 with questions on any of these programs.

tidbits

Mentor Safety Town

Safety Town is a safety awareness program for children ages 4 through 6. Classes are held Monday through Friday, with sessions offered from 9 - 11:15 a.m. or from Noon - 2:15 p.m. This year's sessions will be held June 14-18th and June 21-25th. Registration is \$40 per child.

Safety Town is held at St. Mary's School, 8560 Mentor Avenue, Mentor. Register by mail until April 15th. Forms are available at the Mentor Public Library, at www.juniorwomens.org or send an e-mail to: info@juniorwomens.org. Call (440) 954-3690 for additional information.

Safety Town is sponsored by the Junior Women's Club of Mentor.



Indoor Rack Dockage Year Round or Seasonal

This year, store your boat indoors at the Mentor Lagoons Marina and enjoy the security, ease and maintenance free advantage of indoor dockage. Rack storage customers also enjoy an adjacent picnic area with water, electric, picnic tables and related facilities.

Choose from year round or summer only storage for boats up to 28' in length. Store your boat all winter long and receive unlimited daily launches throughout the summer season. Discounts are available for Mentor residents. Call the Marina at (440) 205-3625.



under construction

The following projects are scheduled over the next three months:

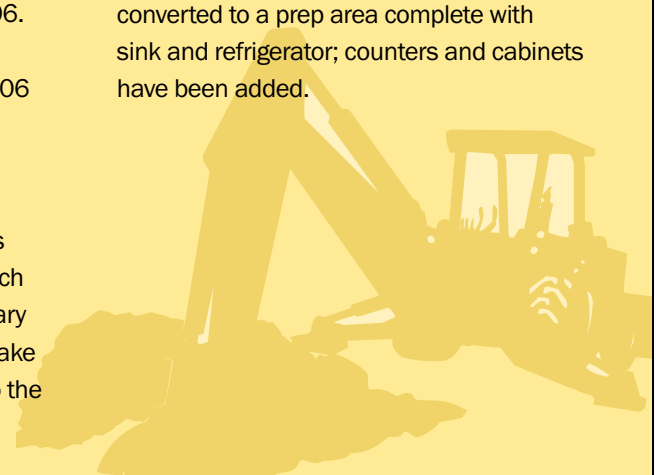
Roads & Drainage

- The City of Mentor will begin construction on base repairs and asphalt overlay of Tyler Boulevard from SR 615 to SR 306. Work will be completed in the fall of 2010. The project is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).
- The Ohio Department of Transportation will begin construction on the next phase of the SR 2 Reconstruction and Widening. The project will add a third lane, noise walls and new pavement on the section of SR 2 from ¾ of a mile east of SR 306 to SR 44. Work will continue thru October 2012.

- The Ohio Department of Transportation will continue construction to add a third lane in each direction on SR 2 from SR 91 to approximately ¾ of a mile east of SR306. The project will add noise walls where justified and reconstruct the SR 2/SR 306 interchange. The project is targeted for completion in 2011.
- The Lake County Department of Utilities will continue replacing an existing 12-inch sanitary sewer line with a 15-inch sanitary sewer line on the south side of Johnnycake Ridge Road from King Edwards Court to the intersection of Midland Road.

Parks & Recreation

- City crews are completing the remodeling of the interior of the Mentor Beach Park North Room. The storage area has been converted to a prep area complete with sink and refrigerator; counters and cabinets have been added.

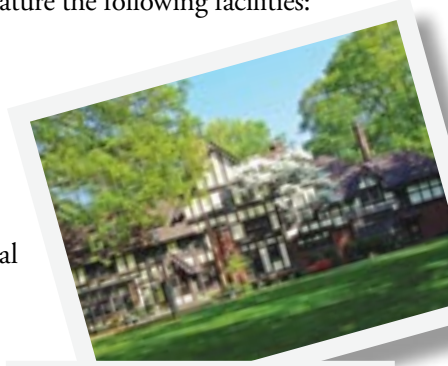


Host your Next Party in Mentor

Planning a party, reception or business meeting? Then look no further! Mentor offers six distinctive facilities so you're sure to find the perfect place for your special occasion right here close to home. Choose from Garfield Recreation Building, Mentor Beach Park, Mentor Senior Center, Old Council Hall, Wildwood Cultural Center or the Community Center. Discounts are offered to residents. All facilities include tables and chairs. This month, we feature the following facilities:

Wildwood Cultural Center

This beautiful and historic, English Tudor Manor House is the perfect setting for weddings, parties, receptions, seminars and business meetings. The property also features a garden patio and gazebo. The Manor House at 7645 Little Mountain Road accommodates up to 150 people. Call (440) 974-5735 for a personal tour or watch a Virtual Tour on our web site.



Community Center

Located above the Ice Arena, this newly remodeled facility is barrier-free and air conditioned and features three rooms of varying sizes. The largest room with wet bar, dance area and serving kitchen accommodates banquet seating for 185. The Woods Room accommodates 90, while Meeting Room D is perfect for small groups up to 50. Call (440) 974-5730 for a tour.



For information on all Mentor facilities go to cityofmentor.com and click on Rent a Facility under the Play tab.

GOLF OUTINGS



Consider Black Brook Golf Course for your next golf outing. Black Brook, located at 8900 Lake Shore Boulevard, features 18 holes with watered fairways, cart paths, a driving range and practice putting green and a fully stocked pro shop. Our staff will tailor your outing to meet your needs, including providing a complete breakfast, lunch or dinner. Golfers are served on our covered pavilion overlooking our famous 18th hole.

Call (440) 951-0010 to learn how we can make your outing a very special event.

Kids Love Summer Camp

This summer, Mentor Recreation will offer more than 100 different camp experiences. From boating to fencing, theater to science, there is truly something for everyone.

Registration is currently underway. Visit www.cityofmentor.com/play/summercamps for detailed information on each of our camps, or call **(440) 974-5720**.



2010 Season Pool Passes

Purchase before May 3 at 2009 Rates

Buy your pass early and save money! The early bird sale begins Monday, April 5 at the Mentor Recreation Department, which will be open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Evening hours are offered on Tuesdays, April 22 and April 29, when staff will be available until 7 p.m.

To receive the resident rate, you MUST bring the following to prove residency:

1. CURRENT utility bill that shows your name and address on it.
2. Photo ID.

Those purchasing a pool pass before May 3 will automatically be entered into a drawing for a Mentor Recreation Gift Pack, valued at over \$250.

A Season Pass for residents starts at \$52 for an Adult to \$125 for a Family of Five. For residents who do not wish to purchase a season pass, swimming ID cards are available for \$10. This card entitles you to \$2 off the standard daily admission fee and may be used daily. Without the Resident ID card, the daily admission is \$5 to \$6.

Mentor City Council



Seated from left to right: Vice President Ronald L. Micchia, President Robert M. Shiner, Louis S. Aliberti. Standing left to right: Carolyn P. Bucey, Scott J. Marn, Ray Kirchner, Edward R. Walsh

Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Center. Meetings are open to the public and can be viewed live over the Time Warner cable system on Channel 12 and on AT&T's U-verse Channel 99.

You can also watch a live stream by logging on to www.TheMentorChannel.com. Meetings and other videos are archived on the city's web site, so you can watch at your convenience.

Welcome!

Are you new to Mentor? Let us know and we'll send you a New Resident Packet. Call us at (440) 974-5794 or send an e-mail to pupinfo@cityofmentor.com.



special
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