



# MENTOR

SPRING 2026 SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor



AMERICA



## MENTOR CELEBRATES AMERICA

This year, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our great nation, and although Ohio wasn't admitted until 1803, Mentor's roots were planted in the revolution.

The Ohio Territory was ceded to the United States as a result of the Treaty of Paris in 1793. In 1796, what was the Connecticut Western Reserve was surveyed by Moses Cleaveland's team. The following year, a member of that team, Charles Parker, settled near what is today the intersection of Lakeshore Blvd. and Hopkins Rd. Other soon followed, including a handful of Revolutionary War veterans seeking a new life on the frontier.

### MENTOR'S REVOLUTIONARY ROOTS

Beginning in the fall of 2024, we started to conduct research on the veterans who made Mentor their home or were laid to rest here.

They are:

- Benjamin Blish
- Garritt Brass
- Roger Craine
- Israel Fox
- John Reynolds
- Jacob Tyler
- Ebenezer Wilson

As a part of our America250 celebration, these veterans will have a day named in their honor and have his story told. Each will also be included in our Hometown Heroes banner program.

### GARFIELD STATUE

We mark another milestone this 2026. This is the 150th anniversary of James A. Garfield's purchase of the Dickey farm. He moved his family in fall of that year and immediately began renovations of the small farmhouse and 160 acres of land. Four years later, "Lawnfield" attracted over 17,000 curiosity seekers

to our sleepy village as then Congressman Garfield conducted the very first "front porch campaign".

This January, the city commissioned renowned artist Alan Cottrill of the Coopermill Bronzeworks located in Zanesville to produce a slightly-larger-than-life sculpture of Garfield which will be placed on Civic Center grounds and dedicated on the evening of Friday, July 3, 2026.

Cottrill has over 400 large-scale statues to his name including 19 U.S. presidents. His statue of Thomas Edison stands in the National Statuary Hall in Washington D.C.

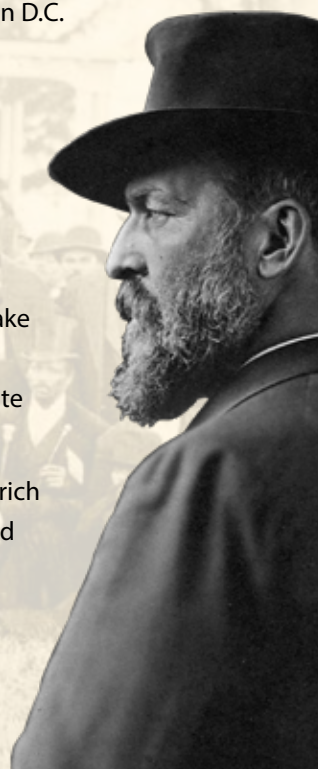
### INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

We'll kick off our popular Independence Day celebration earlier than usual this year as we commemorate this milestone event with expanded programs and attractions throughout the afternoon.

Eagles tribute band Hotel California will take the stage to rock the crowd and close out the evening before a spectacular 25-minute fireworks finale.

We look forward to celebrating America's rich history with an enduring spirit of hope and pride for our future.

Visit [cityofmentor.com/events](http://cityofmentor.com/events) for updates and additional information as it becomes available.



## SPRING PLANTING

This spring, consider planting native plants in your garden to enhance biodiversity and attract birds and pollinators. It is important to understand our garden type when picking out species.

Do you have dry sunny areas or maybe shaded spots? Your answer will change which native species you should plant.

These highly beneficial species are adaptive to most conditions and also provide resources to local wildlife at varying times of the year - something to keep in mind when purchasing plants. Diversity is key, so get creative when designing your landscapes!



### SMALL TREES / SHRUBS

- Flowering dogwood
- Arrowwood viburnum
- Winterberry

### GRASSES

- Side oats grama
- Little blue stem

### FORBES

- Wild red columbine
- Hairy Mountain mint

## THIS ISSUE

- MUNICIPAL TAX INFO
- NOW HIRING
- CONSTRUCTION UPDATES
- ...and more!

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### 2026 Yard Waste Program

Mentor's Yard Waste Collection Program runs from April 6 through December 11. Residents can put out up to 12 units of yard waste each week on their regular collection day. A unit is a biodegradable bag or up to 32-gallon reusable container (marked YW) of grass clippings, trimmings twigs and leaves, or bundles of sticks (no more than 4 feet long and 3 inches in diameter). For more information visit [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com) and select the Waste Removal and Recycling page under the Resident Info tab.

### Garage Sales

A permit is not required for a garage sale, but the city does restrict where signs can be placed. Garage sale signs are permitted only on the property where the sale is being held. They may not be posted at the street corner, on tree lawns, or utility poles. Illegally posted signs may be confiscated by city staff without prior notice.

### Power Outage

Call the Illuminating Company's Automated Outage Reporting Line at (888) 544-4877. Doing so will allow the Illuminating Company to track outages and restore service. Please do NOT call 911 unless you are experiencing an emergency.

### Street Tree Requirements

Just a reminder that any trees located in the public right-of-way (tree lawn) must be trimmed so they don't create an obstruction for pedestrians and motorists. Branches that hang over the sidewalk or right-of-way should be kept at 7 feet above a sidewalk, and 14 feet above a public road.

### Rental Inspection Program

The City's rental inspection program ensures that rental properties are safe, habitable, and assure that properties are maintained in compliance with Mentor's Property Maintenance Codes. Learn more about the Rental Inspection Program at [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com).

### Safety Assurance Programs

A variety of programs are available for Mentor residents who may require additional care during an emergency. Learn about them at [cityofmentor.com/resident-info/safety-assurance-programs/](http://cityofmentor.com/resident-info/safety-assurance-programs/)



# MUNICIPAL TAX INFO

The 2026 Tax Season is upon us and the deadline for filing Mentor municipal tax or exemption forms is Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Visit the RITA website at [www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com) to file your taxes, make a payment, check your refund status, view your payment history or send RITA a secure email. They offer online access to print and download tax forms.

If you would like RITA to prepare your return for you, print an Individual Municipal Tax Drop-Off Sheet (available on their website), attach your tax documents and drop it off at select RITA locations, including the Mentor Municipal Center Lobby.

Taxpayers with questions can call **1-800-860-7482**.

Self-service phone options such as making a payment, checking refunds and estimates are available around the clock or you may speak with an agent during business hours, weekdays 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.



## THE STATE OF OUR CITY

Mentor City Manager Kenneth J. Filipiak addressed an audience at Mentor Schools Paradigm during the Mentor Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting on February 24, 2026, regarding the current state of the city.

Watch the "2026 Mentor State of the City" address to learn more about what was accomplished and what's in store for Mentor!

View the entire presentation by clicking the QR code or visiting [cityofmentor.com/2026-state-of-the-city/](http://cityofmentor.com/2026-state-of-the-city/)



## FRESH IS BEST

The popular Mentor Farmers Market returns Fridays from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Eleanor B. Garfield Park from June 12 through September 11.

Join us at the market and enjoy an afternoon under century-old shade trees while you shop for delicious fresh-picked fruits and vegetables,

pies, plant starts, honey, specialty baked goods, and other farm-related products.

Fantastic Fridays are June 26, July 31, and August 28. This year, in addition to a wonderful selection of produce and freshly made items, art and craft vendors will be on hand

with a wide variety of handmade items.

Patrons can also enjoy live vendor demonstrations, food, live music, and so much more!

*Eleanor B. Garfield Park is located at 7967 Mentor Avenue, near the Great Lakes Mall.*

## JOIN US AT THE REC!

The 128,000 SF Mentor Community Recreation Center is one of the largest facilities of its kind in Northeast Ohio and includes an indoor soccer field, basketball, tennis, racquetball, and pickleball courts, golf simulators, an open concept fitness center, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, cardiovascular and weight training areas, group exercise rooms, a childcare room, an outdoor playground, and other amenities.

Members can enjoy a variety of year-round programs and activities.

Family and individual annual membership plans are available for both residents and non-residents. Memberships can be paid in full or through a payment plan. For membership rates, terms, and additional information, visit [mentorrec.com](http://mentorrec.com) or call (440) 205-3608.

**Single-day admission** is available for \$10.00 per person (age restrictions apply). The Mentor Community Recreation Center is located at 6000 Heisley Road.



## SEASONAL JOBS ...APPLY NOW!

The City of Mentor ramps up the fun during the summer – but we can't do it alone! Every season, we hire hundreds of part-time workers to help in our pools, parks, and camps.

Our seasonal positions are critical for the summer because they specifically affect operations and programming that we are able to offer the residents of Mentor.

Teens and adults looking for a summer job are encouraged to apply.

Available positions include:

- LIFEGUARDS
- WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTORS
- SUMMER CAMP STAFF
- MAINTENANCE AIDES
- CASHIERS
- SPECIAL EVENT ATTENDANTS

The City of Mentor is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

For complete job descriptions and applications visit the Employment Opportunities page at [workformentor.com](http://workformentor.com).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events and activities are posted to the City of Mentor website as that information becomes available.

April 25 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Mentor Senior Center Garage Sale**  
Mentor Senior Center

May 1 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

**[unveiled] Artist Reception**  
Mentor Municipal Center lobby. Free admission.

May 2 | 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**Just Kids Stuff Garage Sale**  
New location! Mentor Community Recreation Center

May 17 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**Wildwood Garden Club Spring Plant and Flower Sale**  
Wildwood Cultural Center. Free admission

For additional information or to register, visit [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com).

# LOW COST BIKE HELMETS AVAILABLE

Spring is here and it's time to pull out the bikes, trikes and scooters and hit the bike path. Did you know that wearing a bike helmet can reduce the risk of a serious head injury by over 85%?

Bike crashes can happen at any time, so you need to be prepared to minimize injury by wearing the proper safety gear. And, bike helmets aren't just for kids. Riders of all ages should protect themselves by wearing a helmet.

To promote bicycle safety, the Mentor Police Department, in cooperation with the Greater Cleveland Safe Kids Coalition, and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, offers bicycle helmets at a significantly reduced cost.

The helmets are name brands and are tested to exceed the stringent bicycle helmet standards set by the American Society of Testing and Materials, and the American National Standards Institute.

Helmets in sizes ranging from toddler to adult extra-large are available. The cost of a helmet is \$12.00 each. To place an order, print out and complete the bicycle helmet order form available at [cityofmentor.com/departments/police/resident-services/](http://cityofmentor.com/departments/police/resident-services/). Mail the completed order form, along with a check or money order made payable to the City of Mentor to:

Crime Prevention  
c/o Mentor Police Department  
8500 Civic Center Blvd.  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Your check or money order must be made out to the "CITY OF MENTOR." You will be notified by telephone when your order is ready for pick up. Normal delivery time is two weeks.

Call Officer Dan Radigan or Tracey Woodward at (440) 974-5760 ext. 4017 or 4018 if you have questions.



## NEED A PERMIT?

If you're planning some home improvements this spring, chances are that you're going to need a permit. Both Building Permit and Zoning Permit Applications are required for all construction projects including (but not limited to): additions, decks, garages, pools, fences, siding, sheds, porches, driveways and enclosures.

Applications should be completed through our online permit portal known as the Mentor Gateway. Visit [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com) for access on the home page. You can also contact the Building Department at (440) 974-5785 or the Planning Department at (440) 974-5740 with any questions.



## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CARBON MONOXIDE



50,000 people a year visit the emergency room due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Mentor Fire Department urges you to install a carbon monoxide alarm in your home.

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide. It can cause sudden illness and even death in closed, unventilated spaces. Symptoms can include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting,

chest pain, and confusion.

Get help quickly if your family shows signs.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is preventable and can be discovered early by installing an alarm. Follow important tips.

- Change the batteries every six months.
- Have your furnace and water heater serviced every year.
- Keep vents and flues clear.
- Never leave the car running in the garage.
- Don't run generators inside and keep them away from open windows.
- Never cook with propane or charcoal in closed spaces.

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, call 911 right away.

Protect your family and install your carbon monoxide alarm today.

## LAKE ERIE SPRING CLEANING

*When doing yard work this spring, remember to help keep our waterways clean by following a few tips.*

- Sweep up the left over salt, dirt, litter, and debris from the sidewalk and driveway. Do not let it all wash away with the next rainfall.
- If there is yard waste, leaves, and branches in your yard, properly dispose of the waste. Never dump waste at the banks of streams or in a storm sewer. This waste will clog the sewers and stream channels and is harmful to the flora and fauna in-and-around the water.
- Remove any pet waste that was left behind from the winter to help reduce the amount of bacteria entering our waterways. High amounts of bacteria in Lake Erie can lead to beach closings due to unsafe swimming conditions.



Keep in mind, storm water does not flow to a wastewater treatment plant like the wastewater plumbed inside our homes. Anything that flows down a storm sewer at the street will wash directly to Lake Erie, untreated. That is why we all should do our part to keep our waterways and Lake Erie Clean!

For more information, contact the City of Mentor Building and Engineering Department at (440) 255-1100.

# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

MARCH – MAY 2026

**ANNUAL ROAD PROGRAM** – This annual program will resurface or repair approximately 16 asphalt and 11 concrete neighborhood streets throughout the City. In 2026, the City will invest roughly \$4 million in resurfacing and repairing local roads.

**ANNUAL SIDEWALK PROGRAM** – This annual program will replace deficient concrete sidewalk slabs in Ward 1 (Zone F) through an assessment process that were not replaced by property owners as a result of 2025 inspections by the City. This zone consisted of 12.4 miles of sidewalk. The sidewalk inspections found roughly 1,400 slabs of sidewalk to be deficient and in need of repair or replacement.

**MENTOR LAGOONS MARINA OBSERVATION TOWER** – Construction will soon be underway on the 95-foot tall (approx.) steel observation tower at the edge of the Mentor Marsh.

**MERCANTILE DRIVE CONCRETE ROAD REPAIR** – The project consists of removing and replacing concrete pavement on Mercantile Drive.

**TYLER BOULEVARD SIDEWALK** – This project consists of installing concrete sidewalk on the south side of Tyler Blvd. from Hopkins Rd. to Heisley Rd.

**BLOSSOM DRIVE STORM SEWER** – This project consists of increasing the size of existing storm sewer as well as extending the storm sewer and installing new catch basins along the north and south side of Blossom Dr.

**BLACK BROOK PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS** – This project includes curbing and resurfacing the Black Brook Golf Course Parking Lot. Other improvements include installation of new storm sewer, relocation of utility lines underground, new lighting fixtures, and fresh painting of the lot.

**MARINA BULKHEAD REPLACEMENT PHASE 7** – This project will repair and replace approximately 500 feet of bulkhead in the marina along E dock and at the fuel dock with steel sheet piling and concrete walk.

**SR -615 GUARDRAIL REPLACEMENT** – This project involves removing and replacing existing guardrail that has become old and rusted, installing new impact new guardrail and impact attenuators.

**SR-283 BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT** – ODOT will begin removing and replacing the bridge deck on the Lakeshore Blvd. bridge over SR 44.

**LAKESHORE BOULEVARD** - Concrete pavement repairs will be made at the intersection of SR-306 and Lakeshore Blvd. This is the final work to be completed as part of last year's resurfacing project.

**TYLER BOULEVARD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT** - The Lake County Engineer will be replacing two bridges on Tyler Blvd. between SR-306 and SR-615.

**HOPKINS ROAD CULVERT REPAIR** - The Lake County Engineer will repair the culvert under Hopkins Rd. just north of Munson Rd. This work will include lining the culvert and making repairs and modifications to the upstream headwall.

**MENTOR HARBOR CHANNEL CONSTRUCTION** - The construction of the harbor channel will continue in in 2026. Work started on this project in the summer of 2025. This project includes repairing and reconfiguring the channel walls and dredging the channel.

**HARBOR DRIVE RESURFACING** - Harbor Dr. will be resurfaced from the intersection of Hilcrest Ave. to just east of the bridge over the channel in the marina. This project will begin following the completion of the stone hauling operation for the harbor channel project.

**AT&T FIBER UPGRADES** - AT&T will continue to install fiber optics in various locations throughout the city.



**City of Mentor**  
8500 Civic Center Boulevard  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

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Permit No. 161  
Mentor, Ohio

## Residential Customer ECRWSS

# MENTOR

SPRING 2026 SPECIAL EDITION

### WELCOME!

Are you new to Mentor?  
Visit [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com)  
and click on New Resident  
Resources under the  
Resident Info tab.

**Published by the City of Mentor**  
8500 Civic Center Boulevard  
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[www.cityofmentor.com](http://www.cityofmentor.com)

"It is the right of the American  
people to know the necessities of  
the republic when they are called  
upon to make sacrifices for it."

- James A. Garfield



## MENTOR CITY COUNCIL

Members of Mentor City Council. Seated: (L-R) Vice-President of Council and Councilperson-at-Large Ray Kirchner, President of Council and Councilperson-at-Large Janet A. Dowling, Ward 4 Councilperson John A. Krueger. Standing: (L-R) Ward 2 Councilperson Matthew E. Donovan, Councilperson-at-Large Brian G. Cook, Ward 1 Councilperson Sean P. Blake, Ward 3 Councilperson Charles E. Pinkerman.

Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m. 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](mailto:citycouncil@cityofmentor.com).

## MEETING INFORMATION

**Mentor City Council\***  
Mentor Municipal Center, 7:00 PM  
March 3, 17  
April 7, 21  
May 5, 19

**Board of Building & Zoning Appeals**  
Mentor Municipal Center, 7:00 PM  
March 10  
April 14  
May 12

**Municipal Planning Commission\***  
Mentor Municipal Center, 7:00 PM  
March 19  
April 9, 30  
May 21

**Tree Commission**  
Mentor Municipal Center, 4:30 PM  
March 11  
April 8  
May 13

**Community Arts Commission**  
Wildwood Cultural Center, 4:30 PM  
March 5  
April 2  
May 7

\*These meetings are broadcast live on the Mentor Channel. For channel listings, app download links, and more, visit [thementorchannel.com](http://thementorchannel.com).



## CITY OF MENTOR IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
LAKE CTY 211 GOV SERVICES & PROGRAMS	211
AQUA OHIO WATER	(877) 987-2782
CITY HALL MAIN SWITCHBOARD	(440) 255-1100
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE	(440) 974-5755
CODE ENFORCEMENT	(440) 974-5792
DOMINION /EAST OHIO GAS	(800) 362-7557
ENGINEERING/BUILDING PERMITS	(440) 974-5785
FIRST ENERGY POWER OUTAGES	(888) 544-4877
FIRE NON-EMERGENCY	(440) 255-1212
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	(440) 350-2543
ICE ARENA	(440) 974-5730
LAKE COUNTY MAIN	(800) 899-5253
LAKE COUNTY LANDFILL	(440) 350-2644
LAKE COUNTY UTILITIES SEWER 24/7	(440) 350-3431
LAKETRAN	(888) 525-3872
MENTOR COMMUNITY REC CENTER	(440) 205-3608
MENTOR PUBLIC LIBRARY MAIN	(440) 255-8811
MENTOR SCHOOLS MAIN	(440) 255-4444
MUNICIPAL COURT	(440) 974-5744
PARKS & RECREATION	(440) 974-5720
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	(440) 974-5740
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	(440) 255-1234
PUBLIC INFORMATION	(440) 974-5794
PUBLIC WORKS PLOWING / ROAD REPAIR	(440) 974-5781
RITA REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCY	(800) 860-7482
RECREATION CENTER	(440) 205-3608
SENIOR CENTER	(440) 974-5725
WASTE MANAGEMENT	(866) 797-9018
WILDWOOD CULTURAL CENTER	(440) 974-5735



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[www.thementorchannel.com](http://www.thementorchannel.com)

[www.cityofmentor.com](http://www.cityofmentor.com)

## DON'T MISS IMPORTANT MEETINGS

It has recently come to our attention that many Spectrum customers who have upgraded to a new digital set-top box or to the Xumo Stream Box no longer have access to the Mentor Channel.

The Mentor Channel has been broadcasting live City Council and Planning Commission meetings on cable TV since 1990. A little over a decade ago, we recognized that viewer habits had changed dramatically and that regulations once guaranteeing broadcast of public, educational, and government access channels on local cable would eventually sunset.

That is why we invested in developing apps that deliver high-quality streams of the Mentor Channel on Roku, Fire, Apple, and Android devices, as well as on our website and YouTube channel—so residents can watch our content in

high-definition quality anywhere in the world.

You deserve to stay informed! Don't miss important public meetings and other content produced by the city. Be sure to visit [thementorchannel.com](http://thementorchannel.com) for download links and additional information on all the different ways you can continue to stay up to date with what's happening in the City of Mentor.

Need assistance? Contact the Public Information Office at [pubinfo@cityofmentor.com](mailto:pubinfo@cityofmentor.com) or call (440) 974-5794 for guidance on downloading the app on your preferred device.



## MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

All are invited to attend the city of Mentor's annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 25, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Mentor Municipal Cemetery.

The ceremony will be preceded by a solemn parade which will step-off at 9:30 AM from Memorial Middle School located at 8979 Mentor Avenue. It will proceed north to the cemetery, arriving at the Mentor Memorial Promenade.

Members of city council and administration, county and state elected officials, and other veterans and civic groups will be in attendance.

Mentor Municipal Cemetery is located at 6881 Hopkins Road.

