



MENTOR

WINTER 2025

SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor



ENCHANTED WINTER FUN

The temperatures may be getting colder, but there is no need to take off for warmer climates. There is still plenty of fun to be had right here in the City of Mentor.

We kick off the month of December with the annual **Community Tree Lighting Ceremony** on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00pm. We invite you to join us as we light our stunning Norwegian spruce and municipal campus. Santa will arrive in his horse drawn carriage and will be available for photos and making Christmas wishes. Choirs from Mentor Schools will sing and hot chocolate and cookies will be served. This event will take place at the Mentor Municipal Center, 8500 Civic Center Boulevard from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. There will also be a free **Holiday Public Skate** with free skate rental at the Civic Center Ice Arena the same night from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

The fun continues Sunday, December 7th when the Mentor Community Rec Center hosts the **Jingle Jamboree Winter Carnival** for those aged 5 to 10. Kids can enjoy carnival-style games, festive crafts, prizes, and sweet treats – all with a merry winter twist. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season without having to bundle up. For more information, call the Mentor Parks Department at (440) 974-5720.

The month of January kicks off with **Mentor Skate Day** on Saturday, January 3rd from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This free public skate event offers complimentary skate rentals and features a lively atmosphere with a DJ spinning the tunes. Open to all ages, but since we prioritize safety, all skaters under age 11 must wear helmets. Don't miss out on this opportunity to glide, spin, and twirl on the ice with friends and family.

For all of you that embrace the frigid temps and snowy weather, the fun continues with the annual **Mentor Chill Out** held on Saturday, January 17th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. If you missed it last year, be sure to mark your calendar, call your

friends, bundle up the family and come on up to the Mentor Civic Center Park and Amphitheater. There will be something for everyone, food trucks, outdoor ice skating, carved ice sculptures, a chili cook off, a fantastic fireworks display and much more!

For more outdoor excitement, don't miss the biggest winter golf event of the season with the **Lake County Chili Open** at Black Brook Golf Course and Practice Center on January 24th. Tee off with orange balls on this snowy 9-hole course. After the round, warm up with chili, hot dogs, and hot chocolate. Proceeds will benefit the United Way of Lake County. Over 200 golfers joined us last year, so make sure you register early by calling Parks and Rec at (440) 974-5720.

We kick off February by royally inviting all princesses to the **Little Princess Valentine's Dance** on Friday, February 6th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Springbrook Gardenhouse. Come join us for a regal evening of dance, music, snacks, crafts, and majestic memories. Again, space is limited, so register online or call the Parks Department at (440) 974-5720. Springbrook Gardenhouse is located at 6776 Heisley Road.

2026 will also mark the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, and we kick off our celebration on President's Day, February 16th, with your chance to **Meet President George Washington**. Dale Fellows of "We Made History, Presidential Living Historians" will share his extensive knowledge of the Founding Fathers and will discuss the newly inaugurated president's thoughts on being the first President of the United States. Come meet the President at Wildwood Cultural Center, located at 7645 Little Mountain Road. Light refreshments will be served, and you can register online or by calling Wildwood at (440) 974-5735.

As you can see, there is plenty to see and do during these cold, snowy months. Come on out and join us for some winter fun!

THIS ISSUE

SHOP IN MENTOR

PORCH PIRATES

WINTER TIPS

...and more!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CHRISTMAS TREE DROP-OFF SITES

After Christmas, recycle your live tree at a Mentor Park. Drop-off locations include:

Edward R. Walsh Park
7221 Bellflower Road

Eleanor B. Garfield Park
7967 Mentor Avenue

Donald E. Krueger Park
7556 Chillicothe Road

Morton Park
9325 Rosemary Lane

Please remove all decorations and plastic bags. The drop-off locations will be open through January 31, 2026.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION ENDS

The last week for the 2025 yard waste collection program is December 8-12

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Mentor City Offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25, 2025, in observance of Christmas Day. City offices will also be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026, in observance of New Year's Day.

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION

If a holiday falls on a weekday, service will be conducted the day after your regular pick-up day. If the holiday falls on a weekend, your service will NOT be delayed. There will be ONE DAY DELAY in trash collection for the Christmas and New Year's holidays this season.

NO PARKING DURING SNOW EMERGENCY

A Snow Emergency is defined as that time when there has been an accumulation of snow, sleet, hail, or ice on any streets or roads. No parking is permitted on any city street during a Snow Emergency. Snow Emergency alerts are posted on cityofmentor.com, Facebook, and X.

KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR

Residents and business owners are urged to assist the Fire Department by keeping clear access to their fire hydrants during heavy snowfalls. Shovel around your hydrant and be ready if an emergency occurs.

NO ICE IS SAFE ICE

Mentor has 241 ponds, Lake Erie, and the Lagoons. They are beautiful in the winter but if you walk on the ice, one misstep can be the difference between enjoying the view and fighting for your life. Please stay off the ice this winter.

BEAT THE FREEZE: PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER

Lake County weather can be unpredictable – especially during winter! Here are some quick and easy tips to make sure that you prepared for the worst-case scenario:

HOME

Clear your gutters and drain spouts of debris to reduce the risk of ice buildup.

Ensure that your dryer and furnace exhaust vents are free of debris. Bird nests and dryer lint can cause a build of carbon monoxide and increase risk of fire.

Inspect and repair any damaged

window and door seals to reduce drafts and help save on energy costs.

Remember to shut off your outside water supply if you don't have "frost free" spigots.

AUTO

You or your mechanic should ensure that your car is in good operating condition. Be sure to check your tire tread, battery, fluids and your heating/defrosting system.

Install winter wiper blades and freeze-resistant wiper fluid to break through the ice and snow.

Make sure you have an ice scraper, shovel, and jumper cables handy.

Pack a few bags of sand or kitty litter in your trunk to help weigh down your rear wheels. It can also help provide traction in case you get stuck.

Are you hitting the road for a trip? Pack an emergency kit which includes blankets, packaged food & water, and other essentials.

For additional information on winter preparedness, visit ready.gov.



STATE OF THE CITY

Mentor City Manager Kenneth J. Filipiak will present his annual State of the City address at the Mentor Area Chamber of Commerce meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

The presentation will be recorded and aired on the Mentor Channel and posted to the city's website and social media accounts.



JOIN THE MENTOR SENIOR CENTER

The Mentor Senior Center is Lake County's largest gathering spot for seniors with hundreds of friendly programs and activities designed just for you.

Joining is easy, affordable, and open to all Lake County residents 55+. Mentor residents pay only \$10 a year, while non-residents pay just \$15 a year.

If you're age 65 or older with an eligible Medicare plan, your SilverSneakers membership is included!

As a member, you'll enjoy homemade hot lunches made

from scratch and served weekdays, as well as day trips and outings, clubs devoted to a wide variety of interests, fitness classes, health clinics, and so much more.

Three times a year, you'll receive our informative newsletter packed with everything happening at the Center—trips, classes, clubs, menus, and senior services.

Need a ride? If you're 60 or older, live in Lake County, and want to visit the Center, just call. Free door-to-door rides are provided

by Laketran, thanks to the Lake County senior services levy. Reserve your spot by calling (440) 354-6100.

Come learn something new, stay active, make friends, and have a good time. The Mentor Senior Center is your place!

Register now or renew 2026 membership and take advantage of all of the great things that the Mentor Senior Center has to offer!

Call us at (440) 974-5725 or visit mentorseniorcenter.com for details. We'd love to see you!



TAKE A WINTER HIKE

Experience the Mentor park trails in winter with the crunch of your footsteps in the snow, sunlight filtered through bare trees, and the hush of a winter afternoon.

Winter is a special time to explore Mentor's 1,200 acres of parkland and surrounding natural areas. From easy paved walkways to challenging trails, Mentor city parks offer plenty of opportunities for casual walkers and avid hikers alike to connect with nature in the colder months.

For a quick, less strenuous winter walk on paved paths, visit **Edward R. Walsh Park**, **Springbrook Gardens Park**, or the **Mentor Municipal Complex**.

Walsh's 1.5-mile walkway skirts the park's perimeter, winding through a short wooded area and past the fishing pond. It's perfect for a family outing: snow-covered soccer fields provide space to play, and the playground remains open year-round for releasing pent-up energy.

Springbrook Gardens Park

offers 1.7 miles of paved paths, including an all-access boardwalk with views of a large pond. The former nursery site has been transformed into a prairie of native plants, with a restored stream bed enhancing habitat for birds and wildlife. Keep an eye out for great blue herons and other native species that inhabit our parks year round.

The all-purpose path at the Mentor Municipal Complex winds through and around Civic Center Park and directly connects to several points of interest including the all-peoples playground, ballcourts, and nearby neighborhoods.

For more challenging terrain, head to **Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve**. Over three miles of hiking trails encircle the preserve, offering four distinct vistas: Mentor Lagoons Marina, Mentor Marsh, upland forest, and the Lake Erie shoreline.

Veer off the main trail onto the Marsh Rim Trail, which winds through upland forest along the

marsh's western edge. Without leaves on the trees, hikers enjoy expansive views of the marsh. This mile-long trail connects to the Overlook Trail, providing views of and access to Lake Erie.

The Zimmerman Trail, accessible from Morton Community Park, is part of the Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve and follows the marsh's northern edge. This two-mile hike (four miles round trip) leads through upland and swamp forest, crossing streams and shallow ravines to a small parking area on Headlands Road. Along the way, you'll find ample opportunities to spot wildlife and take in marsh views.

Mentor's park trails and the **Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve** trails are open from dawn to dusk year-round. We invite you to get outdoors and experience the season's beauty on a winter hike.

Learn more about outdoor activities in our community at cityofmentor.com/parks.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

December 2 - 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Community Tree Lighting
Mentor Municipal Center – Free Event.

December 14 - 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Wildwood Holiday Historical Tours and Open House
Wildwood Cultural Center – Register online.

January 3 – 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Mentor Skate Day
Mentor Civic Ice Arena. Free event.

January 17 - 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Mentor Chill Out
Mentor Civic Center Park. Free event.

January 24 - 9:00 AM
Lake County Chili Open
Black Brook Golf Course. Registration is required.

February 6 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Little Princess Valentine's Dance
Springbrook Gardenhouse. Space is limited, Register online.

For additional information or to register, visit cityofmentor.com.

PORCH PIRATES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON: HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PACKAGES

The holiday season brings joy, gifts — and unfortunately, porch pirates. These are thieves who steal packages right from your doorstep, often just minutes after delivery. This type of criminal activity can happen all year long, but with online shopping peaking during the holidays, it’s prime time for these types of crime.

The Mentor Police Department has formed a special undercover detail to combat porch pirates. Undercover officers will be operating throughout city neighborhoods utilizing a variety of tools including unmarked vehicles, surveillance equipment, and the use of bait boxes that contain GPS tracking units.

Even though Mentor Police are out there looking out for these lawbreakers, there are still simple steps you can take to protect your home deliveries.

First, consider using package tracking notifications so you know exactly when

your order arrives. If possible, schedule deliveries for when someone will be home. You can also send them to a secure location like your workplace or to an Amazon Locker, like the one located inside the Great Lakes Mall. You could also consider asking a trusted neighbor to get your package if you know you’ll be away. It’s a small favor that could save you a lot of stress.

Video doorbells and security cameras are also great deterrents. A clearly visible camera can make thieves think twice about committing illegal activity. You can also register your camera with the city of Mentor’s Operation S.C.R.A.M. This program gives our Mentor officers a map of the residences that have cameras, so if there is a crime in your area, they can reach out to you and check your video footage. Operation S.C.R.A.M. does not give Mentor Police access to your camera, just your location. You can register your camera location at www.cityofmentor.com

Finally, keep an eye out and be a good neighbor. Watch for suspicious people walking down your street, watch for a suspicious vehicle. If you see something, say something. Make note of car descriptions, license plates, and the direction of travel. You can contact Mentor PD on the non-emergency line at (440) 255-1234.

No one wants their holiday spirit dampened by stolen gifts. A little planning goes a long way toward keeping your deliveries safe—and your season merry and bright!



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holidays are a time for families and friends to gather together, but it’s also a time of increased risk of fire. It may surprise you to learn that over 33% of decoration fires are started by candles and nearly 33% of Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

The Mentor Fire Department offers a few simple tips to ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

- Choose holiday decorations that are flame resistant or retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other potentially flammable items. Keep children and pets away from lit candles. Extinguish candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. Replace any string lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer’s instructions for the number of light strands you can connect. Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so cords don’t get damaged. Turn off all string lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source - fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights. Add water to the tree stand daily. Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it’s dry. Dried-out trees should not be left in the home or garage.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop. Keep pot handles turned to the side or the back so children cannot pull them down.

We hope you have a festive and safe holiday season!



HEALTHY WINTER WATERSHEDS

We all live in an area of land that will drain rain and snowmelt to a body of water. This land is our watershed. Our actions on the land directly impact the quality of the rivers, streams and the lake. Rainwater and snow melt from roofs, lawns, driveways, streets, roadside ditches and parking lots drains to small creeks that flow into streams before eventually entering Lake Erie.

On its way, stormwater picks up the pollutants that we may leave behind

such as oils and antifreeze that drips from our cars, leaves and sediment from our lawns, litter, salt we use on our sidewalks, and pet waste.

- Dispose of household hazardous and motor oil properly. Never dump in a storm drain.
- Pick up pet wastes even when it’s under the snow.
- Choose environmentally friendly household products.

- Use salt sparingly this winter and sweep up the excess. One coffee mug of salt will melt 250 sf of sidewalk.

- Clear gutters and downspouts of debris.
- Do regular maintenance on your vehicles to prevent leaks/drips.

Lets keep pollutants out of our waterways and keep our great lake and drinking water supplies healthy!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

continued

REPORT POWER OUTAGES
If your power goes out call the Illuminating Company’s Automated Outage Reporting Line at (888) 544-4877. Doing so will allow the Illuminating Company to restore service that much quicker. Please do NOT call 911. Only call 911 to report a crime in progress, or a fire, or if an ambulance is needed.

EMERGENCY ALERTS
The Lake County WENS system provides weather warnings, traffic alerts as well as information specific to the Mentor community. Register for emergency landline, cell phone, text or email alerts at lakeohioalert.com.

HELP PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS
Dispose of FOGs (fats, oils and greases) by allowing them to cool and then placing in the trash instead of pouring down your sink. Hardened FOG can build up, causing unwanted clogs. Contact the Lake County Department of Utilities at (440) 350-2645 or visit lakecountyohio.gov/utilities for more info.

ELECTRIC UTILITY CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
There are many programs available to Ohio customers who are having difficulty paying their electric utility bills. First Energy has information on different programs which you may qualify for. Contact The Illuminating Company at (800) 589-3101 or visit cityofmentor.com and click on the Resident Info menu for details.

JOIN THE MENTOR SENIOR CENTER
Become a member of the Mentor Senior Center to participate in programs and use the facility. The cost of membership for Mentor residents 55+ is just \$7.00 and \$10.00 for nonresidents. The membership period is January through December. There is no cost for a Silver Sneakers Membership. Learn more at mentorseniorcenter.com.

SENIOR SERVICES
The Lake County Council on Aging of Ohio offers a wide array of programs for those 60 and older including information and referral, support services, nutrition services, case management, in-home safety, homemaker services, and much more. For additional information, call (440) 205-8111 or visit lccoa.org.

SAFETY ASSURANCE PROGRAMS
A variety of programs are available for Mentor residents who may require additional care during an emergency including the Fire Department Issued Lock Box Program, Resident Information Address Flag, Well Check Database, Ohio Staying Connected Program, and Lifeline Are You OK Program. Learn more at cityofmentor.com/safety-assurance-programs.

If you have any questions or require additional information, call (440) 974-5765.

THE MENTOR GATEWAY
Those looking to access construction permits & related documents, schedule building inspections, submit applications, and other city services, can now do so through the Mentor Gateway. This new online resource center provides users with 24/7 access from the comfort of their home or office at www.thementorgateway.com.



City of Mentor
8500 Civic Center Boulevard
Mentor, Ohio 44060

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MENTOR
WINTER 2025 SPECIAL EDITION

WELCOME!

Are you new to Mentor?
Visit cityofmentor.com
and click on New Resident
Resources under the
Resident Info tab.

Published by the City of Mentor
8500 Civic Center Boulevard
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Kenneth J. Filipiak, City Manager
(440) 974-5790
citymgr@cityofmentor.com

Ante F. Logarusic, Comms Officer
(440) 974-5794
logarusic@cityofmentor.com

www.cityofmentor.com



"Ideas outlive men."
- James A. Garfield

MENTOR CITY COUNCIL
ELECT 2026



Sean P.
BLAKE
Ward 1



Matthew E.
DONOVAN
Ward 2



Charles E.
PINKERMAN
Ward 3



John A.
KRUEGER
Ward 4



Janet A.
DOWLING
At-Large



Ray
KIRCHNER
At-Large



N/A*
At-Large

*The winner of the third At-Large seat was not determined at the time of printing. A reorganizational meeting will be held on January 2, 2026, at 7:30 PM. Every two years, Council chooses one of its own members to serve as President of Council.

Regular 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.

MEETING
INFORMATION

Mentor City Council*
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
December 2
January 6 (7:30 PM), 20
February 3, 17

Municipal Planning Commission*
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
December 4
January 15
February 5, 26

Board of Building & Zoning Appeals
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
December 9
January 13
February 10

Tree Commission
Mentor Municipal Center, 4:30 PM
December 10
January 14
February 11

Community Arts Commission
Wildwood Cultural Center, 4:30 PM
December 4
January 8
February 5

*These meetings are broadcast live on Spectrum Channel 1024, U-Verse Channel 99, online at thementorchannel.com, YouTube, and our app.



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

www.cityofmentor.com

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
SHOP IN MENTOR

The City of Mentor is Northeast Ohio's premier shopping hub. From earrings to electronics, cars to clothes, and baked goods to books - you'll find it all right here.

As the holidays approach, we're all hunting for the perfect gifts and the best deals. This year, we urge you to shop local when you can because 68¢ of every dollar spent locally stays in our community.

Shopping and dining drive Mentor's economy. With over 300 retailers and 170 restaurants generating more than \$1.6 billion in annual sales, these businesses employ over 9,500 residents. That's real impact.

But the benefits go deeper. The income tax revenue from these jobs funds 66% of the city's budget, supporting police and fire services, road repairs and infrastructure improvements, parks, recreation, and senior programs and many more of the things that make Mentor a wonderful place to call home

Are you struggling to find a gift for that impossible-to-shop-for person? Mentor's independent retailers offer one-of-a-kind treasures you won't find anywhere else. Download the newly updated Mentor Visitor Guide at shopinmentor.com for a complete list of where to eat, shop, play, and stay in our city.

Shop small. Shop local. Shop Mentor.

