

Mentor

SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor

SPRING 2015



inside

- 2 Get in on the Fun at Mentor Summer Camp
- 3 Springbrook Garden remains green
- 4 Starting a business? MEACO can help

for your information

Yard Waste Collection

Mentor's Yard Waste Collection Program begins the week of April 6th and run through December 11th. Residents may put out 12 units of yard waste (bags, bundles of sticks or containers) for collection on the same day that the trash is collected.



Lake County Special Collections

Lake County Fairgrounds, 1301 Mentor Avenue
April 25 – Computer Collection. Drop off home computer equipment and related items between 9 AM and 1 PM
May 2 – Scrap Tire Collection. Dispose of up to six tires without rims for no charge between 8 AM and 1 PM.
For more details call 350-2908

City Tax Help

April 15th is the deadline to file City taxes. If you need assistance with your tax form, stop in at the RITA office located on the second floor of the Mentor Municipal Center. The office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8 AM and 1 PM and 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. No appointment is necessary. Help is also available online at ritaohio.com or by calling 800-860-RITA (7482).



Register Your Bike Online

Lost or stolen bikes recovered by the Mentor Police Department can be returned to you. Just go to cityofmentor.com, select Police under the Live tab, and look for the Bike Registration Input Form under Bicycle Safety. This is a free service from the Mentor Police Department.



Bird Watching Takes Flight

Bird watching has become the fastest growing outdoor activity in the United States. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, over 45 million Americans spend time bird watching. It's easy to see why the hobby has become so popular because anyone can participate and it's easy to get started. All you need is a bird book (or a readily available birding app) and a pair of binoculars.

Mentor is home to some of the best birding locations in Northeast Ohio. Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve, Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve and Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve are all part of the Lake Erie Birding Trail which extends along the Erie shore from Conneaut to Toledo. Over 400 species of birds have been spotted along the lakeshore. During the spring migration (typically March through May), Woodpeckers, Sparrows, Rusty Blackbirds and Warblers are all common visitors on their way to nesting areas. Veteran's Park is another excellent location to spot waterfowl and other birds.

Get started by attending the Mentor Marsh's Bald Eagle Fest and Silent Auction on May 3rd from 12 to 5 PM at the Carol H. Sweet Nature Center, 5185 Corduroy Road. Among a host of Eagle related activities, guided hikes will be offered to see the Bald Eagle nesting site. Call 257-0777 to register. Later in May, Mentor Recreation will help you learn about birds migrating through the Mentor Lagoons. The Spring Bird Walk led by City of Mentor Naturalists is May 9th from 9 to 11 AM. Register by calling 974-5720.



Photo: Don Donaldson



Photo: Don Donaldson

Headlands Dunes Boardwalk



Last October, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources announced an exciting project at the Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve. The agency will be constructing a 800 foot boardwalk that will provide increased access to the dunes and lakefront for disabled, elderly, and other residents unable to manage walking the sandy terrain.

The boardwalk will traverse the preserve, giving visitors views of the magnificent lake dunes and a place to watch the many birds and butterflies that stop to rest at the sight during the spring and fall migrations.

The boardwalk will lead to an observation deck 60

feet from the water's edge, providing a vista to enjoy the ever-changing beauty of Lake Erie.

Construction on the project is scheduled to begin in late summer and be completed by the end of the year.

Get In On The Fun at a Mentor Summer Camp

The Mentor Parks and Recreation Department offers fun and exciting summer camp experiences for youth ages 4 to 14. Summer camps give participants a chance to learn new things, enhance sports skills and just have fun. Day Camps come complete with swim lessons and field trips. Sports Camps include fencing, Cleveland Indians baseball, and volleyball camps. Discovery camps teach skills like art, cooking and outdoor skills. Whatever you choose, your kids are sure to have fun. For a complete listing of Summer camps offered, check out the 2015 Summer Camp Guide online at cityofmentor.com/play/summercamps.



Purchase Your Pool Pass Now

Mentor pools will be open before you know it, and you can be ready by purchasing your Pool Pass now. The pass is good for admission at any of Mentor's aquatics facilities all summer long. Pool passes are on sale at the Mentor Recreation Department, weekdays between 8 AM and 5 PM. If you're a resident purchasing a new pass, remember to bring a current utility bill with your name and address and a photo ID as proof of residency. If you purchased a pass last year, you may renew it online at cityofmentor.com/play/aquatics.



Early Bird Savings:

Buy your pool pass any time between April 1st – 30th, and pay last year's pass rates. Avoid the long lines of summer and save!

Keeping Mentor's Kids Safe



For 25 years Mentor Safety Town has taught kids ages 4 to 6 years about important safety lessons - including school bus and fire safety, stranger danger and road rules.

The program is offered by the Junior Women's Club of Mentor in conjunction with the Mentor Police and Fire Departments. Registration for the week-long sessions is in progress. Session 1 is offered June 8-12 and Session 2 will take place June 22 – 26. Both morning and afternoon sessions are offered.

Registration forms are available at the Mentor Public Library or at mentorjuniorwomen.org. Cost is \$40 if you register before April 15th. All sessions are held at St. John Vianney Church, 7575 Bellflower Road.



Get Ready To Tee Off

Learn to play golf or brush up on your game with the Black Brook Golf Academy. PGA Golf Professionals Tim Ausperk, Tom Sloat, and Assistant Golf Professional Wayne Hrvatin provide instruction for both youth and adults. Improve your stance, learn the proper grip and work on pitching, chipping and putting. Classes begin in April.

Younger golfers can take advantage of Golf Camps offered during the summer at Black Brook. Junior golfers receive concentrated instruction focusing on swing technique and the short game.

Golf is a game that can be enjoyed for a lifetime and learning the fundamentals early is the basis for a sport that can be played and enjoyed for years to come. Camps are offered in both June and July.

To register, call 440-974-5720, or online at cityofmentor.com/play/takeaclass/golf/

Calendar of Events

March 12

Ladies Night Out

Wildwood Cultural Center
"Unique Nails"
Register: 974-5720
Residents: \$10/Nonresidents: \$12



March 28

Kids Egg Hunt

Wildwood Cultural Center
Register: 974-5720
Residents \$6/Nonresident \$10



April 22

2015 MACC Restaurant Showcase

Mentor Ice Arena
6 – 8 PM
Call 255-1616 for tickets

April 25

Senior Center Garage Sale

Mentor Senior Center
9 AM – 3 PM



May 8

Wildwood Singers Concert

Mentor Senior Center
7:30 PM Tickets: \$5

May 16

Wildwood Garden Club Plant Sale

Wildwood Cultural Center
11 AM – 2 PM



May 16

Heroes Day

Great Lakes Mall
Honoring our local Police Officers & Firemen.

Visit cityofmentor.com, or call 974-5720 for information on city events.

Help Prevent Algae Blooms

Most of us living in Lake Erie communities have paid attention to news reports about the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) in the Toledo area this past summer. This excessive growth of algae is capable of producing toxins at high enough levels to be harmful to your health. The toxins can cause skin rash, blisters, hives, vomiting, and diarrhea. Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are needed in the waters of Lake Erie to grow algae. When there is too much of these nutrients and the water is warm, there can be excessive algae growth.

You probably didn't know that things you do around your home could contribute to Lake Erie algae growth. Lawn fertilizer, grass clippings, leaves, sewage, and pet waste all contain phosphorus and nitrogen. If any of those things are left on hard surfaces, they will wash directly into the storm sewers that flow to Lake Erie when it rains. Remember, stormwater is not treated before it flows to the lake.

Do your part to prevent the HAB in Lake Erie. Follow these tips when performing your spring cleaning:

- Only use the necessary amount of fertilizer and apply when rain is not in the forecast. Sweep up any excess fertilizer from your driveway or sidewalk.
- Properly dispose of grass clippings and leaves. Never dump yard waste in a storm drain, ditch, or stream.
- Ensure that all wastewater is connected to your septic system or the sanitary sewer.
- Remember to pick up after your pets.

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

Springbrook Gardens Remains Green

When 86 year-old Jack Schultz, owner of Springbrook Gardens, decided to retire and close the historic nursery on Heisley Road, he hoped that the 50 plus acre parcel might remain intact and not be developed for housing or commercial use.

That hope became reality when Mentor City Council voted to purchase the land at the December 2, 2014 Council Meeting.

According to Ward 1 Councilman Bob Shiner, "It's an opportunity of a lifetime to save 53 acres in the heart of Mentor."

Springbrook Gardens has been a Mentor landmark since Jack and his father Elmer founded it in 1946. The business originally concentrated on growing shrubs and evergreens. Jack shifted the focus 10 years later to growing rare and hard to produce perennials and selling them wholesale to the mail order market. The idea was a great success! Springbrook Gardens became a top producer of perennials sold through garden centers and retail stores throughout the United States.

While the colorful blooms will no longer dot the landscape, the future remains green for the land as planning begins for Mentor's newest park.



The Mentor Senior Center is located at 8484 Munson Road. Membership is available to people age 55 and older. Cost is \$7 per year for Mentor residents and \$10 for nonresidents.

Under construction

The following projects are scheduled over the next few months:

- **Plaza Boulevard Extension**
Upon completion, Plaza Boulevard will connect with Tyler Boulevard to help alleviate traffic on Mentor Avenue near the Mall. The city has completed most of the work outside of the railroad right of way. It is anticipated that railroad work will begin this spring/summer.
- **Mentor Marina Harbor Bridge**
The bridge debris has been removed. Removal of the access road and restoration is on schedule for completion by June 12, 2015.
- **Heisley Road Widening**
Heisley Road will be widened to four lanes between Jackson Street and Mentor Avenue. Utility relocations are expected to continue through summer. Completion target: Fall 2016
- **Heisley Sidewalk & Traffic Signal**
A new signal will be installed at intersection of STERIS/US Endoscopy drive and Heisley Road. A sidewalk will also be installed from this location to Hendricks Road on the east side of Heisley Road. Target completion: August 2015
- **2015 Road Repairs**
Asphalt overlays or concrete repairs are scheduled on portions of the following city streets: Aileen, Allendale, Brownell, Connie, Country, Dawson, Enfield, Erie, Fairview, Farley, Glen Arbor, Hayes, Headlands, Hidden Hollow, Hidden Valley, Jasani, Lorrach, McKinley, Milton, Nowlen, Ohio, Perkins, Rosewood, S. Camelot, S. Rambler, S. Shandle, Vintage, Whitby, Wildwood, and Woodland Place.
- **Edward R. Walsh Park**
Tennis and basketball courts are being resurfaced. Work should be completed in the spring.
- **Wildwood**
An Ohio EPA Stormwater Improvement Fund Grant will be used to install a section of permeable pavers and a bioretention cell at Wildwood as a demonstration project for water quality improvements. City will also surface a majority of the parking lot. Target completion: June 2015

Shop Local at the Mentor Farmers Market!

Farm fresh produce, delicious baked goods, crafts, and other farm related items like honey, gourmet vinegars, soaps, fresh flowers as well as jams and jellies – you'll find them all Fridays at the Mentor Farmers Market!

This year, the market will be located under the trees at Eleanor B. Garfield Park on Mentor Avenue.

All items sold at the market must be grown or made by the vendor so you are assured of getting the freshest local fruits, vegetables, and products available!

If you are a local grower, baker or artisan, there is still time to register to participate! Vendor applications are available online at cityofmentor.com or by calling 440-974-5735.

Mentor Farmer's Market Dates & Hours

Fridays, June 5th - September 25th
from 2:30 to 6:30 PM
at Eleanor B. Garfield Park,
7967 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH 44060



Residential Customer ECRWSS

Dated Material: Deliver by March 2, 2015



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
pubinfo@cityofmentor.com.

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MENTOR CITY COUNCIL



Seated l-r: Bruce R. Landeg, Council President Ray Kirchner and Council Vice President Janet A. Dowling. Standing l-r: Matthew E. Donovan, Robert M. Shiner, John A. Krueger and Scott J. Marr.

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 on Time Warner Channel 12 or 96.12 and on AT&T U-verse Channel 99 as well as www.thementorchannel.com. 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
March 3, 17
April 7, 21
May 5, 19

Municipal Planning Commission*

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
March 19
April 9, 30
May 21

Board of Building & Zoning Appeals

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
March 10
April 14
May 12

Tree Commission

Mentor Municipal Center, 3 PM
March 11
April 8
May 13

*These meetings are broadcast live on the Mentor Channel. Time Warner channel 96.12 or 12; on ATT U-verse channel 99, and online and on demand at TheMentorChannel.com

Heisley Road Widening Project

Get ready. Orange barrels will soon be the norm on Heisley Road between Jackson Street and Mentor Avenue, as the much anticipated street widening project gets underway this spring. This portion of Heisley Road services over 20,000 cars per day, and during peak traffic hours backups do occur.

The widening project will add two additional lanes to help alleviate traffic. Utility relocation is already underway and is anticipated to be completed in June.

Traffic will be maintained during the project with the addition of temporary pavement lanes that will keep cars moving through the construction as the permanent lanes are built.

The project is expected to be completed in 2016.



STARTING A BUSINESS? MEACO CAN HELP

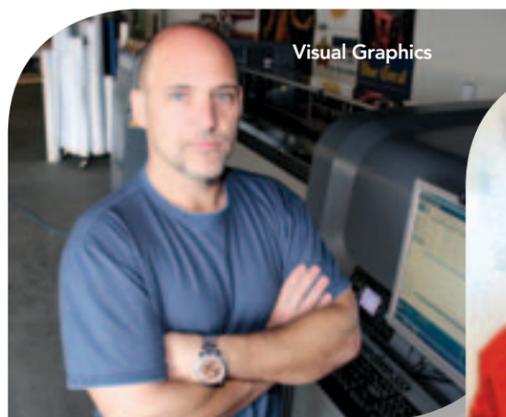
A strong local economy is essential to a vibrant community. Attracting and nurturing businesses, both large and small, is one of the keys to Mentor's success. For over 30 years, the Mentor Economic Assistance Corporation (MEACO) has helped small businesses obtain long-term, low-interest loans for building construction, expansion or new equipment purchases.

MEACO is a not-for-profit Certified Development Corporation which works in conjunction with the City, U.S. Small Business Administration and local banks. It was established to help stimulate small business growth in Mentor and has since expanded to assist small businesses throughout Northeast Ohio.

Some of the businesses MEACO has helped grow locally include Cleveland Plumbing Supply, Visual Graphics, World Wines and Dental Specialists of Lake County.



If you are considering starting or expanding a business, find out how MEACO can help through its SBA Small Business 504 Loan Program or Mentor Small Business Loan Fund. Contact Tom Thielman, MEACO Executive Director at 974-5739 or visit the MEACO website at meacoweb.com.



Visual Graphics



Cleveland
Plumbing Supply



Dental Specialist