



# Mentor

## SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor

# The Sand Man

The highlight of the Headlands BeachFest is the Master Sand Sculptors Competition. Watching these talented artists create intricate masterpieces (and out of sand no less) is nothing short of amazing.

Carl Jara has been sculpting for 24 years and has won 13 World championship medals in competitions that have taken him to over a dozen countries around the world. The artist will be returning to BeachFest this year. We caught up with Carl to find out more.

**Q: How do you come up with ideas of what to sculpt?**

JARA: "My best ideas are the result of timing and location: I allow myself to be open to any idea as I begin to move sand around, sometimes the idea will just leap forth, other times it must be coaxed out. I try to make every idea a response to what is going on right at that moment."

**Q: Do you ever regret not working in a medium that is more permanent?**

JARA: "Impermanence is intrinsic to the sand sculpting experience, it heightens the awareness of both the artist and the viewer, both know it will only be there a moment. As in music and dance, experiencing it firsthand cannot be matched in any other way."

**Q: Comment on Headlands BeachFest and the Ohio Master Sand Sculpting Competition.**

JARA: "This is a great event for everyone! For the people of Mentor and surrounding areas, it is a chance to see not just one but three Master Sand Sculptors at work in their natural habitat. For myself, it's a

chance to have two of my best friends visit for a few days and share what we do and love best. And for the Sand Sculpting industry, this is the only event of its kind in Ohio and along the Lake Erie shore."

**Come to see Sand Sculptors Carl Jara, Suzanne Atmore, and Greg Grady at the Headlands BeachFest, Saturday, July 25 from 11 AM to 7 PM. Learn more at [www.headlandsbeachfest.com](http://www.headlandsbeachfest.com).**



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## for your information

### Keep Cool

Skate this summer at the Mentor Ice Arena. Summer Open Skates are on Wednesdays from 7 – 9 PM, Fridays from 12:30 – 2:30 PM and Friday evening skates from 7 – 9 PM.

### Bike Helmet Program

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. For information on the program go to: [cityofmentor.com/live/police/bicycle-safety/](http://cityofmentor.com/live/police/bicycle-safety/)

### Garage & Yard Sales

A permit is not required for a garage sale, however, there shall be no more than three sales permitted per property in a given calendar year. No sale can extend for more than four consecutive days. Hours for a yard or garage sale are limited to 9 AM to 7 PM. Signs promoting the sale 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 without notice. Contact Code Enforcement at (440) 974-5792 with questions.

### James A Garfield National Historic Site Summer Hours

Visit this hometown treasure. The site is open to the public 10 a.m.-5 p.m. seven days per week, including the Fourth of July and Labor Day. Located at 8095 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH 44060. Learn more at [www.nps.gov/jaga](http://www.nps.gov/jaga).

### Rent a Kayak at the Mentor Lagoons

May 31 to August 31  
Mentor Lagoons is a perfect place to enjoy a kayak trip. Rental includes kayak/paddles and lifejacket. Per hour: Resident \$10/ Nonresidents \$12 single kayak, or \$16 & \$18 double kayak. Call Marina office 440-205-3265 for details.

## Explore the "Nightlife" at the Lagoons Nature Preserve

*Guided hikes give visitors new opportunities to learn and ask questions about the park and its inhabitants.*

Join City of Mentor Naturalists on a Twilight Hike at the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve on August 12 at 7:30 PM. The preserve is part of one of the largest coastal marshes in the state, and contains a wide variety of species to be seen day and night.

"Dusk is often a high point of activity for many species, so when you hike at dusk you'll often see more wildlife," says Mentor Naturalist Jake Kudrna.

Hikers will call for owls, scout for bats, and search for "eye shine" as well as enjoy a starlit campfire and make s'mores after the hike. Hikers are encouraged to bring a camp chair. Cost of the program is \$6 for residents/\$8 nonresidents. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Preregistration is required by calling 974-5720 or online at [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com).

# MENTOR'S Summer of Fun!

So many big events. So much to do. So many ways to have fun!

## Extreme Recess

Friday, June 19  
2 – 8 PM

Civic Center Park

Mentor Recreation's big new event for kids and parents featuring the coolest giant inflatables, live entertainment, cupcake decorating, fire hose tug-o-war, giant foam pit, bubble mania, Mentor's Got Talent – Kids, Reverse Face Painting (kids paint their parents!) Chalk Art Contest, the incredible 100' paint table and aquatics games at Civic Center Pool. It's big Summer fun! Kid-friendly food trucks will be selling pizza, ice cream, hot dogs & more. Cost is just \$8. Register at [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com)



## Mentor CityFest

August 28, 4 – 11 PM  
August 29, Noon – 11 PM

Civic Center Park

Lake County's premier family-friendly festival will offer a full slate of entertainment, vendors, food, and refreshments. This year, the excitement of NASCAR comes to CityFest and you're the driver! Gather in the Thunderdome to "race" against others in a thrilling battle for the checkered flag. We've gone totally 80s with entertainment this year. On Friday evening (7:30 – 11:30 PM) celebrate the decade with the music of the Spazmatics. Saturday night (7:30-10:30 PM) with The Breakfast Club, the longest running 1980s tribute band in the US who will play all of your 80s favorites. Learn more at [mentorcityfest.com](http://mentorcityfest.com).

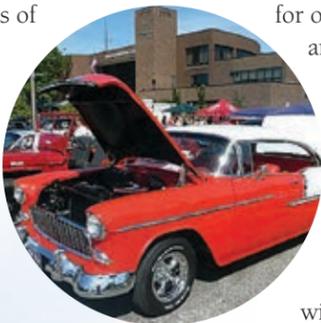


## 35th Annual Wildwood Fine Arts & Crafts Festival

Sunday, June 28  
10:30 AM – 5 PM

Wildwood Cultural Center

You'll find over 50 artists selling unique creations including paintings, jewelry, ceramics, carvings, textiles and more. The intimate set up at Wildwood is the perfect location to view the wonderful pieces of original art that are offered for sale, connect with local artists, ask questions, and find out what inspired the creation. This is a juried show so they only accept the best, most talented artists. Admission is just \$2 and supports art scholarships.



## Mentor Cruise-In

Saturday, August 8  
10 AM – 4 PM

Civic Center Park

The Mentor Cruise-In has been wowing crowds for over a decade. With over 800 cars anticipated to participate, this free, family-friendly event showcases Mentor's love affair with the automobile. Rekindle a memory or create a new one as you stroll the grounds appreciating these classic rides. A DJ will provide some 50s tunes to set the mood. Refreshments will be available for purchase.



## Headlands BeachFest

Saturday, July 25, 11 AM – 7 PM  
Headlands Beach State Park

Experience this one of a kind outdoor celebration where the arts meet wind, water, and sand! Don't miss the Ohio Master Sand Sculpting Competition featuring three of the most talented sand sculptors in the United States. Fly a kite, build a sand castle, kayak, paddleboard, make a craft, play games, enjoy continuous live music and strolling entertainment. This year, we've added an expanded line up of food trucks and vendors serving delicious food and treats sure to tempt every palate. It's not your typical day at the beach!

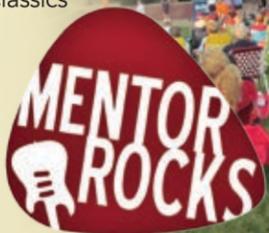


## Mentor Rocks...and You Will Too!

Get ready to rock at Civic Center Park with the Mentor Rocks summer concert series. This year's free concerts are going to be bigger and better than ever with awesome bands, great food and fun! You'll dance the night away every Tuesday at 7pm. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, pack a picnic or enjoy a delicious dinner from one of the many food vendors added to this year's concert series. Learn more at [www.mentorrocks.info](http://www.mentorrocks.info).

### This year's lineup includes:

- June 23 Escape – Journey Tribute
- June 30 Disco Inferno – Retro Disco Classics
- July 7 Panama – Van Halen Tribute
- July 14 The Caliber Band – Country
- July 21 52nd St/Capt Fantastic – Billy Joel/Elton John Tribute
- July 28 The Hesitations – R&B
- August 4 Mr. Speed – KISS Tribute



## Mentor's own TOP 25 turns 50!



The Mentor High School show choir is celebrating their 50th anniversary. Founded in 1965, by Ted and Jane Hieronymus, and now under the direction of Top 25 alumna Laurie Eppler, the Mentor Top 25 is one of the oldest show choirs in the country. This summer, the group is travelling to Orlando, Florida where they will participate in an educational workshop at Walt Disney World, and perform at both Walt Disney World and Universal Studios. Of course you can catch their performance in August at the Mentor CityFest!

## Calendar of Events

June 20, Tee times start at 9 AM  
**Father/Son Best Ball Tournament**  
Blackbrook Golf Course

June 24, 7:30 AM  
**Sunrise Stand Up Paddle**  
Ages 16+  
Mentor Lagoons  
Resident: \$16/Non: \$21  
Call 974-5720

July 4, 9:50 PM  
**Fourth of July Fireworks**  
Civic Center Park

July 22, 7:30 – 8:30 PM  
**Scimitars Swing Band**  
Mentor Senior Center  
Tickets: \$3. Call: 974-5725

July 24, 1-4 PM  
**Christmas in July**  
Garfield Pool  
A summertime visit from Santa  
Free with regular admission.

August 22, 1-5 PM  
**Doggie Dip Day**  
Civic Center Pool  
\$3 per dog

Visit [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com), or call 974-5720 for information on city events.



# Love Your Tree

Street trees are a valuable asset to a community. They add value to adjacent homes and businesses, and help manage storm water. They provide shelter and food for songbirds and other wildlife, as well as reduce heat in and around parking lots. Trees clean pollutants from the air and provide much needed shade during the hot summer months.

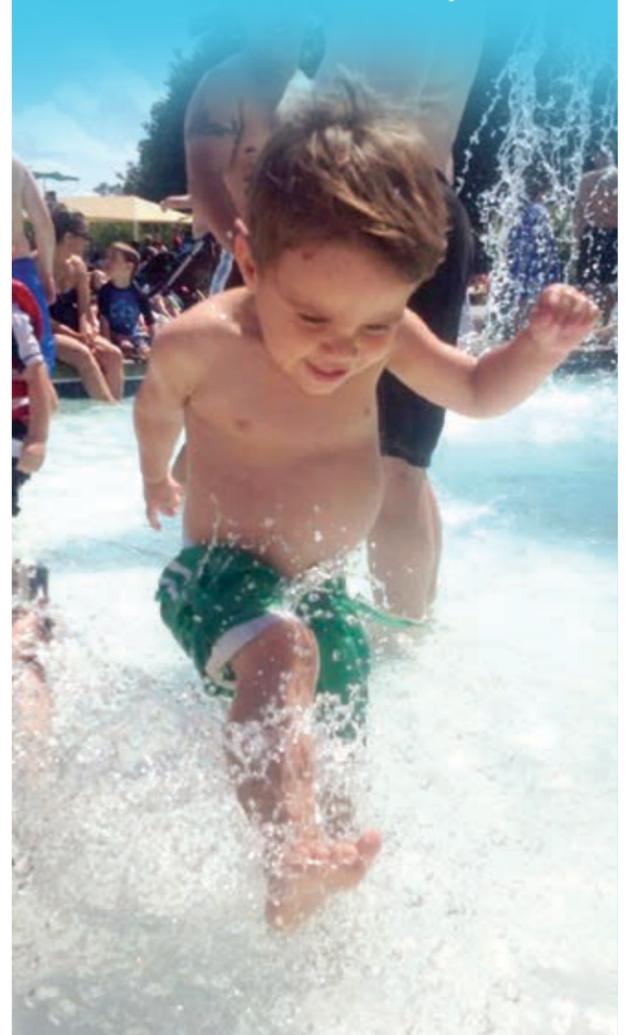
Maintaining the street trees planted in the tree lawn is the responsibility of the homeowner. Trees add beauty and value to your home and neighborhood and will thrive for years to come with some minimal care like pruning and mulching. By Mentor Ordinance, trees in the right-of-way (treelawn) must be 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 seven feet above a sidewalk and 14 feet above a public road. Before removing or planting a tree in your treelawn you should call Mentor's Public Works Department. A no-cost permit is required to remove a tree or if planting, the staff will recommend acceptable trees for the right-of-way. The City of Mentor offers a handy Tree Care Guide to help you take care of your street trees. Call 440-974-5794 to have a copy mailed to your home.



## Dive Right In... The Water's Fine!

All three City of Mentor Pools are now open so get out and swim! Civic Center Pool is open weekdays from 1 – 9 PM and weekends from 1 – 8 PM. Morton & Garfield Pools are both open from 1 – 8 PM daily. Pool passes are on sale weekdays from 8 AM to 5 PM at the Mentor Recreation Department located on the second floor of the Mentor Municipal Center or renew your pass online at [cityofmentor.com/play](http://cityofmentor.com/play).

**Celebrate summer with a splash!**



## MENTOR Farmers Market



Shop all summer long for fresh fruits and vegetables at the Mentor Farmers Market. Stop by Garfield Park (7967 Mentor Ave.), Fridays, June 5 through September 25, from 2:30 to 6:30 PM. Local Farmers will be selling a wide assortment of fresh picked fruits and vegetables, flowers, honey, assorted vinegars, organic cheese and baked goods.

**Learn more at [www.mentorfarmersmarket.com](http://www.mentorfarmersmarket.com).**

# Under construction

The following projects are scheduled over the next few months:

### Plaza Boulevard Extension Phase II

Extends Plaza Boulevard across the railroad tracks to connect Mentor Avenue with Tyler Boulevard via Clover Avenue. The City has completed most of its work outside the railroad right-of-way. It is expected that the work to be done by the Railroads will begin this summer.

### I90/SR615 Interchange Enhancement

As part of the City Gateway Project, improvements will include decorative overhead street lighting on SR615, decorative walls and City of Mentor signage.

### Heisley Road Phase 3

Widening Heisley Road to four lanes between Jackson Street and Mentor Avenue. Utility relocations will continue through the spring / summer with construction to follow. The completion date is October 2016.

### 2015 Road Repair Program

This project will provide asphalt overlays or concrete repairs on portions of City Streets. Streets in this year's program include Aileen, Allendale, Brownell, Connie, Country, Dawson, Enfield, Erie, Fairview, Farley, Glen Arbor, Hayes, Headlands, Hidden Hollow, Hidden Valley, Jasani, Lorrach, McKinley, Milton, Nowlen, Ohio, Old Munson, Parker, Perkins, Rosewood, S. Camelot, S. Rambler, S. Shandle, Vintage, Walden, Whitby, Wildwood, and Woodland Place.

### Newell Creek Bikeway

This project will provide a bike path system north of Norton Parkway in open space for public use.

### City Sidewalk Repair Program

Replacement of sidewalk sections which are in violation of the Mentor Code of Ordinances. Zone 1A will be inspected in 2015 and is bounded by Munson Road, Melshore Drive, Edgewood Road, Center Street and Market Street.

### Heisley/Steris/US Endoscopy Traffic Signal

Provide for a traffic signal at the intersection of Steris/US Endoscopy driveway and Heisley Road and construct a sidewalk from Hendricks Road to this intersection on the east side of Heisley Road. The project is expected to be complete by August 2015.

### Diamond Center Right Turn Lane Extension

Extend the right turn lane on Diamond Center at Heisley Road eastward to the intersection with Emerald Court.

### Roosevelt Avenue Culvert Replacement

Replace an existing elliptical culvert at Roosevelt Avenue immediately south of Jackson Street with a larger box culvert to reduce the headwater and help reduce flood events.

### Jenther Drive Storm Sewer Improvement

Remove 140 feet of undersized 12 inch storm sewer on the cul-de-sac end of Jenther Drive and replace it with 140 feet of 21 inch storm sewer in an effort to reduce storm water backup.

### Two-Town Detention Basin between Jeremy Drive and Bellflower Road

Construct a 12-acre detention basin to attenuate peak flows in Two Town Ditch and reduce flooding for residential properties downstream.

### Newell Creek Green Infrastructure @ Great Lakes Mall

This project will treat stormwater runoff from 2.6 acres of roof area of the Great Lakes Mall.

### Edward R. Walsh Park

Tennis and basketball court resurfacing will be completed, including paving, net post installation, sealing and painting and reinstallation of fencing.

### Garfield Park

Tennis and basketball courts will be repaved. Work includes net post installation, sealing and painting and reinstallation of fencing.

### Wildwood Cultural Center

Use Stormwater Improvement Fund grant from the Ohio EPA to install a section of permeable pavers and a bioretention cell at Wildwood. Resurface parking lot.

## Residential Customer ECRWSS

### 2014 Annual Report Inside

Dated Material: Deliver by June 13, 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.

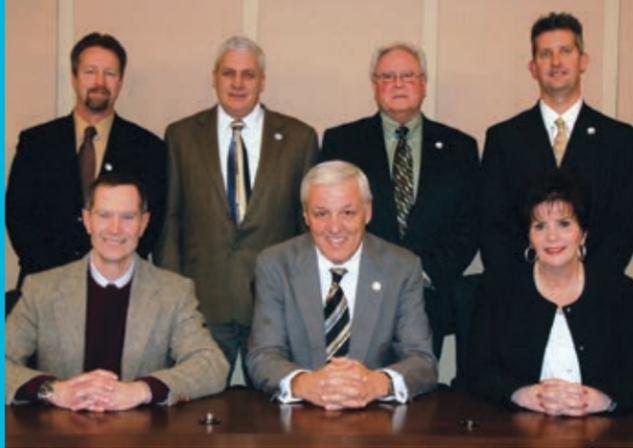
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### MENTOR CITY COUNCIL



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. Marn.

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](http://www.thementorchannel.com). 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 PM  
June 2, 16  
July 7  
August 18

**Board of Building & Zoning Appeals**  
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM  
June 9  
July 14  
August 11

**Municipal Planning Commission\***  
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM  
June 11  
July 2, 23  
August 13

**Tree Commission**  
Mentor Municipal Center, 3:30 PM  
June 10  
July 8  
August 12

\*These meetings are broadcast live on  
The Mentor Channel 12, digital 96.12,  
AT&T U-verse channel 99, and online at  
[TheMentorChannel.com](http://TheMentorChannel.com).

## Keep Mentor Beautiful

Mentor City Council recently amended the Mentor Code of Ordinances governing when garbage containers can be placed and retrieved from the curb. Garbage cans, recycling containers, bulk items and yard waste\* may only be placed at the curb after 3 PM on 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 4th Monday in October through Friday of the second full week in December in any year of city sponsored yard waste collection.*

Help us maintain the appearance of our neighborhoods and keep our City clean by following these new guidelines.



## Fire Safety Survey

The Mentor Fire Department is offering a free Home Safety Survey for residents. Firefighters will visit your home to identify safety concerns and offer solutions to help you make your house safer. Following through is voluntary and at the discretion of the homeowner. Call (440) 974-5765 today to schedule your survey.



## Mentor Means Business

The world is getting smaller. A contingent of Mentor officials including City Council President Ray Kirchner, City Manager Kenneth J. Filipiak and International Trade Manager Kim Holzna recently embarked on a trade mission to Germany and Great Britain in a bid to attract additional high-tech investment and bring more jobs to the city.

Along with County Commissioner, Kevin Malecek, the group represented the City of Mentor at Hannover Messe 2015. Hannover Messe is the world's leading trade fair for industrial technology and attracts over 150,000 attendees from around the world.

The group also met with eight trade organizations in Great Britain in order to investigate trade opportunities and foster further investment in the city.





## Police Department

Chief Kevin Knight

The Police Department maintains a high standard of safety throughout the community through crime prevention programs, public education and community policing. The Operations Department delivers police services through the Patrol Division, Criminal Investigations and Narcotics & Intelligence units. The Support Services Division is responsible for Records, Communications (Dispatch Center), Corrections, and Property and Evidence. The department also employs special units consisting of K9, Special Weapons and Tactics, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Hostage Negotiations, Accident Reconstruction and Computer Forensics

### 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Successfully established and evaluated a "New Sergeant" training program
- Successfully developed and instituted a Retail Theft Enforcement and Education Program.
- Implemented new Public Safety Software in March of 2014
- Began "Customer Service Satisfaction" random surveys in February 2014
- Current results indicate 98% satisfaction rate with Police service.
- Purchased, trained and transitioned entire Police Department to new service weapons.
- Conducted first responder to barricaded person/ hostage training for entire Department

- Gave Civil Service entrance test to bring Department up to full staffing.
- Used GPS tracking technology to identify and make arrests of numerous individuals in a burglary ring and separate auto theft ring, both operating throughout northeast Ohio.

### MAJOR PLANS FOR 2015

- Begin working with other Lake County Departments to determine operational, intelligence and training needs for upcoming 2016 Political Convention in Cleveland.
- Conduct Department/County wide crowd control training.
- Develop and institute a Nasal Narcan program
- Conduct a complete review and update of department Policies and Procedures
- Continue to conduct joint training exercises with Mentor Fire and Mentor Schools for major incident response.
- Implement grant to continue strategic retail theft enforcement and education program.



## Economic & Community Development

Ronald M. Traub, Director

The department's primary responsibility is to foster economic development through business retention and recruitment. The department reaches out at the regional level to inform businesses about Mentor's vibrant local economy in an effort to attract new investment to our community. The department also oversees the administration of planning and zoning functions, provides staff support to the Planning Commission and Board of Building & Zoning Appeals, oversees property maintenance and the administration of the Community Development Block Grant and Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

### 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided financial assistance to nine property owners for housing rehabilitation under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
- Handled over 1,300 property maintenance "service requests" with a 94% closure rate.

- Inspected 154 single-family homes and 335 dwelling units under the Rental Inspection program.
- The new Vacant Dwelling Registration process resulted in 125 vacant properties being secured.
- Provided administrative review for the following Municipal Planning Commission projects: re-imagining Gordmans, Lake Cabinet & Flooring, and Speedway; site plan approval for Heritage of Mentor (Senior Living/ Skilled Nursing Facility), Point Blank Gun Range, Giant Eagle-GetGo, Noah's Party Center, multi-tenant retail building and McDonald's, rezoning from B-1, General Business to Mixed-use for Center Street Square, architectural review of Game of Mentor, a multi-tenant retail building, Moe's Southwest Grill, ACO Polymer Products, and Shibley Properties and final subdivision approvals for a 55-lot subdivision in Newell Creek, a 42-lot subdivision in Marshview Landing, and a 17-lot subdivision on Presley Avenue.
- Provided administrative review for the following grant-assisted projects: Premier Behavioral Health, Associated Compensation Resources, Visiting Angels of NE Ohio, Wiseco Piston Company and Paquin Company.



### MAJOR PLANS FOR 2015

- Promote foreign direct investment and export opportunities for Mentor companies through international trade show participation
- Cultivate business start-ups through the Ohio Secretary of State new domestic corporation listing.
- Explore creation of an overlay zoning district encompassing the Great Lakes Mall and Plaza Blvd. retail development corridor
- Continue business retention and expansion programs

## State of the City

Dear Neighbors,

Sustainability and preparation for the future were the prevailing themes guiding our City's efforts in 2014 and these will carry us into 2015 as well. On behalf of Mentor City Council and all of our administrative staff, I am pleased to present our 2014 Annual Report for your review and highlight some of our plans for the year ahead.

Sustainability has become a frequently used term, most commonly applied to efforts aimed at protecting the environment. It is simply defined as ensuring a system

retains its diversity and endures into the future. This is easily understood with biological systems, but communities are just as responsible for sustaining systems that include infrastructure, culture, and the economy. These systems must be nurtured with effort and resources for long-term success.

Preserving our City's beautiful natural assets is first among priorities. We are finding ways to meet community needs while improving environmental impacts. Several storm water management projects are planned for 2015 that both reduce water volume to their respective watersheds and improve water quality. The City will partner with the Great Lakes Mall to replace a portion of parking lot asphalt with permeable pavers and provide underground storage and filtration to hold and treat water during large rain events. A similar project will take place at the Wildwood Cultural Center, and construction is expected this fall for the long awaited project along the Two Town Ditch that will provide stream restoration and enhance existing wooded wetland habitat while vastly increasing water detention during rain events in Ward 3.

Our attention is also focused on protection of the eroding coastline along the Lagoons Marina and Nature Preserve, which we hope can be included as part of a larger Mentor Marsh restoration project. Preservation sometimes depends on good timing. Last December City Council acted decisively to purchase the Springbrook Gardens Nursery located on Heisley Road. At just over 50 acres, this historic property in one of our most heavily developed areas will be enjoyed as parkland for many generations to come. And there is no doubt that Mentor residents are committed to sustainability. We can take pride that over 55% of all the solid waste placed curbside weekly is diverted away from the landfill.

We are sustaining our local economy through continued new investment, job growth, and our strong retail marketplace. Retailers such as Gordmans, Point Blank Range, and Audi of Mentor opened their doors in 2014, as well as manufacturers like the Paquin Company. Adding to the more than 160 restaurant offerings in town were Moe's Southwest Grill and Pastina Rustic Italian. This year we will welcome Five Guys restaurant, Noah's Event Center, Menards, and another new manufacturer, ACO Polymer Products. According to one well-regarded regional retail

*continued on next page*



# Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities

Kenn Kaminski, Director

This Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life for Mentor residents through a wide variety of recreational and cultural activities, special events and special-use facilities. The department oversees recreation opportunities for youth, teens, adults and seniors as well as the operation and maintenance of city parks and facilities.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2014

- Improvements at the Mentor Senior Center included the replacement of old paver patio with stamped concrete, the removal of landscaping adjacent to patio and below fitness room window, and the purchase of a new computerized kiln.
- Improvements at Black Brook Golf Course & Practice Center included overall improved turf quality, removal of a large sand bunker behind #11 green and the integration of an online tee-time booking with an accompanying app.
- Improvements at Mentor Marina include dock water line replacement, the installation of a 520 ft. concrete sidewalk at the floating docks, electrical improvements and a power overhead door on the rack building.
- Headlands BeachFest drew over 10,000 attendees.
- Mentor CityFest drew over 20,000 attendees.

## MAJOR PLANS FOR 2015

- Continued improvement of Black Brook including the installation of a cart path on hole #6, drainage on hole #18, a new bridge on hole #1, construction of a new maintenance building, and landscaping around the 1st tee.
- New trail maps at Wildwood Cultural Center as well as replacement of the walkway and the installation of bio-retention/pervious pavers in the parking lot.
- Relaunch of the summer concert series; Mentor Rocks will be bigger and better than ever with expanded food and refreshment offerings as well as talent line-up.
- Farmers Market moving to Eleanor Garfield Park this year.
- Planning for new Civic Center Park Amphitheater
- Replace piping in Civic Center Pool filter room
- Replacement of fencing and installation of a new maintenance building at Mentor Cemetery



## State of the City

*continued from front page*

report, Mentor's retail vacancy in 2014 was just over 6%, compared to 12% in Lake County and 9% in the Greater Cleveland Region. Our City's unemployment rate in 2014 averaged just 5.5%, once again outperforming averages in Lake County, the state of Ohio, and the U.S. For the first time in 5 years Mentor's \$3.9 billion property tax base increased, and for a third consecutive year, we set a record for income tax collections at \$39.2 million. This success has not come without effort and some measure of creativity. Our economic development efforts stretch the boundaries beyond traditional business attraction and expansion. Through the City's International Trade Initiative, Mentor companies are receiving assistance to expand their business through export. And in 2015, the City will participate in two foreign trade missions to encourage foreign direct investment in our City and establish relationships that can lead to future investment.

Financial success as a community is the means by which we sustain updated infrastructure and the cultural and community activities that make Mentor unique. Our biggest transportation construction project in 2015 will be the widening of Heisley Rd.

between Mentor Avenue and Jackson St. to four lanes, a job expected to be complete in 2016. We also expect to complete at-grade railroad crossings to allow the new northern extension of Plaza Blvd. to connect Mentor Ave. and Tyler Blvd., and SR 306 will be repaired and resurfaced from SR 84 north all the way to Lakeshore Blvd. The westbound right turn lane on Diamond Center Drive will be extended eastward, helping to avoid delays caused by stopped left-turning cars heading southbound on Heisley. These improvements will help you get to some of the City's biggest and best celebrations. Mentor CityFest and BeachFest are both back for a third year, and we anticipate the very best lineup ever for our summer concert series Mentor Rocks. We started two new traditions in 2014. The first was an official Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in front of City Hall, and the second was a live musical performance by the City Music Cleveland Orchestra at the Mentor Fine Arts Center in February. Both are back in 2015.

Of course, meeting our residents expectations for a safe community will always top our list of priorities. At a time when some communities are turning away from their police officers, we can boast

of a good relationship with a community that is engaged with its Police Department. In a random customer service survey performed in 2014 among persons involved in incidents generating a police report, 98.5% of those responding were satisfied with the overall services received. In 2014 our Police Department became the first in Northeast Ohio to train and equip officers to deliver a nasal form of the drug Narcan to revive drug overdose victims. Similarly, our Fire Department is leading by training communities throughout Northeast Ohio on techniques developed in Mentor for emergency medical aid that is fully integrated with police response during active shooter scenarios. They are also involved with nearly all regional hospitals and emergency preparedness agencies to develop Ebola response protocols.

So, as we reflect on another year gone by in our great City and the promise of the year ahead, I was struck recently by a quote from one of the greatest of all Ohioans, Wilbur Wright of the famed Wright brothers. When giving advice to a young man on how to get ahead in life, he said "Pick out a good mother and father, and begin life in Ohio." I like to think he could have had Mentor in mind.



## Fire Department

Chief Robert Searles

Through a system of education, preparedness, response and recovery, the Mentor Fire Department employs the following operating divisions to deliver service to the community: Fire Prevention and Education, Fire and Rescue, Fire Administration, and Maintenance.



### 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Fire & Rescue Division

- Responded to and safely managed 7,715 Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Incidents
- Appointed a New Fire Chief, promoted two Deputy Chiefs, two Battalion Chiefs, two Fire Lieutenants, and began developing new shift commander competency training program.
- Established a task team for improved communication with nursing homes, assisted living facilities and group homes in order to streamline care and emergency evacuation preparedness.
- Purchased a new ambulance for Station #1, to be placed into service spring 2015.
- Upgraded overall IT capability with the introduction of the "New World Fire Record System" providing mobile access to hydrant location, building schematics, building image inventory, hazardous material locations, and other information.
- Began upgrade of heart monitoring equipment through purchase of 2 new LifePak 15 monitors to increase patient care and monitoring capabilities. Implementation will be done in two phases.

#### Training Division

- Fire Department personnel participated in over 9,000 training hours for 2014.
- Completed a revision of Standard Evolutions with a strong focus on NIST studies. Updated the classroom portion to reflect new material from NIST and the "Kill the Flashover Project" by presenting via Adobe Connect for regional training.
- Improved coordination of Post Incident Critiques and information sharing.
- Developed succession planning of company level officers.
- Broadened the use of Adobe Connect.

#### Public Education

- Provided Public Education and Safety Awareness Programs to over 6,518 members of the community through CPR, First Aid, Safety House Visits, Student Safety Talks, Fire Extinguisher classes and other training.
- Continued providing awareness to the community and senior citizens about the Residential Lock Box Program. Since its inception, 143 Residential Lock Boxes were sold and we anticipate their popularity to continue with ongoing public awareness campaign

### MAJOR PLANS FOR 2015

- Implement a Home Safety Survey program to assist homeowners in identifying hazards that may be present in their homes.
- Design and order new fire engine for Station 2.
- Design and order new Advanced Life Support squad for Station 2.
- Select and purchase new nozzles throughout the department to replace 20-year-old equipment
- Submit regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant for new SCBAs that supply firefighters with clean air to breath during a fire.
- Complete Phase II purchases of new LifePak 15 heart monitors.



## Public Works Department

Matt Schweikert, Director

The Department consists of six operating divisions that are responsible for road maintenance, storm water management and control, fleet maintenance, traffic operations and maintenance, maintenance of parks and public lands, and solid waste management. Additionally, all personnel participate in snow and ice control during the winter months.

### 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Storm Sewer

- Cleaned over 13 miles of storm sewer
- Inspected over 18,000 lf of ditches
- Cleaned 470 catch basins
- Swept 1,810 lane miles of curbed streets
- Landfilled over 926 tons of street sweepings
- Replaced approximately 3,000 feet of failing storm sewer pipe

#### Road Maintenance

- Rebuilt 86 inlet basin and replaced surrounding road surface
- Cracksealed all or portions of the following roads: Mentor Ave, SR 306, Hoose Rd, Jordan Dr, Corduroy Rd, Lakeshore Blvd, Plaza Blvd, SR 615 and Tyler Blvd.

#### Traffic Improvements

- Continued replacement/upgrade of City's 8,000+ regulatory and warning signs
- Upgraded traffic signal system software
- Coordinated installation of new decorative lighting on SR 306 between I 90 and SR 84

#### Solid Waste

- Diverted 55% of waste stream away from landfills, including 16% of solid waste stream recycled



### MAJOR PLANS FOR 2015

#### Administration/Personnel

- Complete employee safety manual and safety training "tracker"
- Schedule safety training programs as required

#### Stormwater Control

- Complete year 4 of five year schedule to televise and clean storm sewers
- Re-establish list of ditches to be cleaned and begin year 1
- Assist with DAP's to meet annual goals

#### Roadway Maintenance And Repair

- Continue with inlet basin inspection and reconstruction program (100)
- Aggressive cracksealing program in coordination with road program (40,000 #s)
- Increase "in house" efforts to replace small scale concrete road failures

#### City Facility Maintenance

- Establish preventive maintenance programs for City facilities
- Implement work order tracking system for problems/repairs
- City Hall roof repairs, Continued City Hall HV AC upgrades

#### Traffic

- Implement improved communication technology for traffic signals
- Begin next phase of regulatory/warning sign upgrades
- Annual inspection of traffic boxes, conflict monitors etc

#### Equipment Maintenance And Repair

- Extend useful life of equipment and vehicles through far sighted purchasing, preventive maintenance and operation of equipment

#### General

- Maintain ability to react quickly and effectively to emergencies and unplanned projects



# Department of Engineering and Building

David A. Swiger, P.E., City Engineer

Responsible for overseeing the City's capital improvements program, regulating construction activity within the public right-of-way and overseeing the safe design and of homes and buildings. The Engineering Division reviews and approves construction plans for all construction projects in the City. It is also involved with planning future infrastructure improvements and reviewing all site plans for conformance with the Mentor Code of Ordinances and Engineering standards. The Building Division is involved in all activities associated with residential and commercial building construction and code compliance.

## 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Demolition of Mentor Harbor Bridge – Demolished and removed the 186 foot four-span bridge over the Mentor Lagoons.
- 2014 Road Repair Program – Resurfaced or made concrete repairs on 46 streets throughout the City.
- 2014 Sidewalk Replacement Program – The City inspected and made repairs to sidewalks within the Pinegate Subdivision, Eaglesnest Road and the south side of Hendricks Road.
- OEPA NPDES Phase II Storm Water Regulation Permit – This project provided and will continue to provide the necessary field survey and computer mapping information for City storm sewer system base maps and implementation of an OEPA general permit for storm water discharges within the City of Mentor.



## MAJOR PLANS FOR 2015

- Newell Creek Bikeway – In cooperation with the Lake County Metroparks, this project will provide a bike path system north of Norton Parkway in open space for public use.
- Plaza Boulevard Extension Phase II – This project consists of extending a connector street approximately 1,700 feet north from Mentor Avenue across the NS and CSX railroad tracks to intersect with St. Clair Avenue and connect with Tyler Boulevard via Clover Avenue.
- Heisley Road Phase III Improvements – This project will widen Heisley Road to four lanes between Jackson Street and Mentor Avenue. Approximately \$4,000,000 in Federal funding has been secured for this \$7.7 million project. Completion date for this project is October, 2016.
- 2015 Sidewalk Replacement Program – Zone 1A will be inspected in 2015 and is bounded by Munson Road, Melshore Drive, Edgewood Road, Center Street and Market Street.
- I90/SR615 Interchange Enhancement – As part of the City Gateway Project, improvements will include decorative overhead street lighting on SR615, decorative walls and City of Mentor signage. Approximately \$660,000 in Federal funding has been secured for this project.
- Heisley/Steris/US Endoscopy Traffic Signal – This project will provide for a traffic signal at the intersection of Steris/US Endoscopy driveway and Heisley Road. The project will also construct a

sidewalk from Hendricks Road to this intersection on the east side of Heisley Road. The completion of this project is scheduled for August 2015. \$190,000 in funding was received from the OHIO Office of Jobs and Commerce.

- Route 306 Resurfacing – This project will resurface SR 306 from SR 84 to SR 283. 80% of this \$3.9 million project is federally funded.
- Diamond Center Right Turn Lane Extension – This project will extend the right turn lane on Diamond Center at Heisley Road eastward to the intersection with Emerald Court.
- Mentor Avenue Intersection Improvements – This project will construct turn lanes at the Mentor Avenue (US 20) and Garfield Park/Lucretia Court Intersection.
- Roosevelt Avenue Culvert Replacement – This project will replace an existing elliptical culvert at Roosevelt Avenue immediately south of Jackson Street with a larger box culvert to reduce the headwater and help reduce flood events.
- Jenther Drive Storm Sewer Improvement – This project will remove 140 feet of undersized 12 inch storm sewer on the cul-de-sac end of Jenther Drive and replace it with 140 feet of 21 inch storm sewer in an effort to reduce storm water backup.
- Wildwood Park Bioretention and Parking Lot Pavement Repair – This project will resurface the existing asphalt parking lot at Wildwood Park. In addition the City has received a Storm Water

Improvement Fund Grant (SWIF - \$112,000) from Ohio EPA to install 4,200 Sq Ft of permeable pavers along with a bioretention cell to treat storm water runoff from the parking lot.

- Two-Town Ditch Stream Restoration - This project will provide stream restoration and enhance existing wooded wetland habitat while increasing water detention within the two-town ditch watershed for flood prevention. \$499,000 in funding is being provided by the Ohio Public Works Commission. Construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2015.
- Newell Creek Green Infrastructure at Great Lakes Mall – This project will capture and treat storm water runoff from a portion of the Great Lakes Mall roof and parking lot in order to reduce and improve storm water flow in the Newell Creek watershed. \$350,000 in Federal funding was secured for this project through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- 2015 Road Repair Program - This program consists of resurfacing or concrete repairs on over 40 streets throughout the City.
- OEPA NPDES Phase II Storm water Regulation Permit – The City will continue its obligation to regulate and improve upon storm water management practices in cooperation with the Ohio EPA, the Lake County General Health District, and the Chagrin River Watershed Partners.



# Finance Department

David W. Malinowski, Director

The Finance Department's chief responsibility is processing the City's financial transactions. Finance staff does day-to-day budget administration, issues purchase orders and pays vendors, prepares payrolls, maintains capital asset records, receives and invests monies, enforces the municipal income tax, arranges City borrowings, administers the City's insurance program, and reports the City's financial condition.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The City's income tax enforcement program generated \$400,000 of additional revenue in 2014. Income Tax collections for the year were a record \$39.2 million.
- Presented with Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 30th consecutive year.
- Maintained the City's strong Aa1 credit rating from Moody's Investors Service.
- Reduced outstanding bond principal by \$2.5 million and paid for major public improvement projects, including increases in road repair and improvements without adding any new debt.



## 2014 General Fund Revenues:

Property Taxes	733,870
Municipal Income Tax	39,217,649
State Shared Revenues	2,368,974
Intergovernmental	137,514
Charges For Services	5,835,325
Fines And Forfeitures	1,154,290
Licenses, Permits, Inspections	1,634,109
Other Revenue (Net of Temp Advances)	640,702
<b>Total General Fund Revenues</b>	<b>51,722,433</b>

## 2014 General Fund Expenditures:

General Government	
Council, Court, City Manager,	
Finance and Law	6,355,938
Police	12,501,674
Fire	9,781,127
Public Works	8,087,171
Parks, Recreation & Public Lands	9,613,183
Economic Development	2,673,801
Engineering & Building	1,913,991
Other(Net Of Temp Advances)	2,086,845
<b>Total General Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>53,013,730</b>