

# HISTORY OF MENTOR A TIMELINE 2025



**1796**

Area surveyed by Moses Cleaveland.

**1797**

Charles Parker builds a cabin at the Mentor Marsh establishing the area's first settlement. In following years, other settlements in Mentor pop up near the east end along the Painesville line called Ridge Road, along the current Jackson Street bend, and in the Center Street area.

**1798**

Jared Ward, Moses Parks, Hosmer Merry, and Charles' 16-year-old brother Clark, join Charles in Mentor. Moses Parks performs first wedding.

**1800**

The first court session appoints Moses Parks as Justice of the Peace. Charles Parker named Constable of Painesville Township.

**1801**

First election at Marsh Settlement.

**1803**

Ohio becomes the 17th State in the Union.

**1805**

Geauga County is carved out of Trumbull County. Clark Parker marries Margaret Jordan (daughter of Concord's first settler); the couple raise 13 children on the Old Homestead on Ridge Road (Mentor Avenue).

**1806**

Mentor resident Charles Parker named Sheriff of newly created Geauga County.

**1810**

The first schoolhouse opens in an abandoned barn. Katy Smith is paid 75 cents a week to teach. She complains of rattlesnakes that appear through the knotholes in the flooring. Charles Parker leaves Mentor to help settle Milan.

**1812**

Clark Parker serves as a Captain in the Ohio Militia during the War of 1812.

**1814**

Colonel Warren Corning builds the first frame building at the NE corner of Center Street and Mentor Avenue which becomes known as D. G. Branch Tavern.

**1815**

Mentor Township officially forms with 460 residents.

**1818**

Mentor Township loses area along its southern boundary to newly established Kirtland Township.

**1819**

Mentor Library Company opens the first subscription library in the Western Reserve. The first collection of materials is comprised of just 79 volumes and housed in private homes. Patrons have to purchase shares in the library to borrow books.

**1823**

Mail and stagecoach service instituted.

**1825**

Erie Canal opens. Mentor products, including wheat, wool, lumber, cheese, and whiskey, now have access to a wider market.

**1833**

First Mentor Township Hall built on Jackson Street, just west of Hopkins, on land donated by the Hopkins and Sawyer families.

**1840**

Lake County, the smallest county in Ohio, is formed.

**1851**

The Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Railroad reaches Mentor.

**1853**

Mentor Township School District is formed after Ohio mandates the creation of boards of education.

**1854**

Mentor Cemetery is established at its current location on Hopkins Road.

**1855**

Mentor Village, consisting of 3,000 acres, is incorporated in the center of Mentor Township. Nathan Corning becomes first Mayor. Mentor Village School District is formed. A new school building is constructed on Mentor Avenue at Center Street.

**1861**

Civil War begins. The second company of volunteers to depart is made up of men from Mentor, Willoughby, and Kirtland. Most become members of the 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

**1865**

1,250 people reside in Mentor Township with another 416 in Mentor Village.

**1868**

Mentor's first factory is constructed for the Hart Nut and Washer Company for \$11,500. The building is now known as the Matchworks Building.

**1872**

Civil War Monument is dedicated at Mentor Cemetery.

**1876**

US Congressman James A. Garfield purchases the Dickey Farm which was originally constructed c. 1832 by Colonel Warren Corning. Mentor Special District Board of Education is formed.

**1878**

West Mentor Post Office opens in D.G. Branch Tavern.

**1880**

James A. Garfield is nominated for President at the Republican Convention in Chicago. He conducts the nation's first front porch campaign at his home in Mentor. Over 17,000 people travel to Lawnfield, named as such by journalists, to hear him speak. He is elected 20th President of the United States.

**1881**

President Garfield is assassinated in Washington D.C. by Charles Guiteau.

**1882**

The Nickel Plate Railroad's first passenger train passes through Mentor. Adam Clark is Mentor's first station agent.

**1885**

A two-year high school is added to the local school system in Mentor Village. Lucretia Garfield oversees the construction of a library at Lawnfield to house her husband's books and presidential documents which is widely acknowledged as the first presidential library.

**1888**

Mentor Village Hall is dedicated. It also accommodates postal services and school graduation ceremonies for all the schools.

**1889**

Mentor remains a quiet, somewhat remote little town. Its residents are mostly farmers, nurserymen, or workers in small shops. President Garfield's son, James R. Garfield helps organize Mentor Village Library and is named president of the library board.

**1890**

The "Gay Nineties" brings development of more resorts on Little Mountain as well as cottages along the lake. Mentor Village Library opens in Village Hall with 288 books.

**1891**

The Cleveland, Painesville & Erie (CP&E) interurban electric railroad extends through Mentor. From Stop 58 at Center Street, you could ride to Cleveland in 95-minutes at a cost of 35 cents. The Hart Nut and Washer building becomes the home of the Mentor Knitting Mills, which sells its Mentor comfort underwear in every state in the Union. First commercial block of buildings is constructed in at the Northeast corner of Mentor Avenue and Center Street.

**1898**

Lucretia Garfield forms Mentor Miscellany Club as a women's literary club. The combined population of Mentor Township and Mentor Village reaches 1,835.

**1899**

Camp Fort Herrick, the first Salvation Army farm camp in the U.S., is built in Mentor. Elizabeth Munson convinces township voters to approve the \$5,800 purchase of nearly 11 acres at Hopkins Point from Anna Hopkins to establish Mentor Township Park which is now known as Mentor Beach Park.

**1902**

D.G. Branch Tavern is torn down to make way for first public library building.

**1903**

Mentor Public Library building dedicated. Designed by Abram Garfield, architect and son of James A. Garfield, it is named for his brother, James R. Garfield, for his years of service to the Mentor Library Board. Wooden pavilion constructed at Mentor Township Park which offers free bathing and bathhouse facilities to Mentor citizens; nonresidents are charged a nominal fee. The first rural free mail delivery route started from Painesville to Mentor Headlands.

**1905**

The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern's Twentieth Century Limited express train hits an open switch at the Mentor depot and crashes into the freight station killing 19 of the 75 passengers on board. Sabotage is suspected but the cause remains unknown to this day.

**1908**

Abram Garfield designs Wildwood on Little Mountain Road as the summer home of Cleveland industrialist John G. Oliver.

**1910**

Cribs built along the water's edge at Mentor Township Park create a long and wide beach. Bathers deposit their street clothes in a wooden basket at the bath house and receive a round metal token as a receipt.

**1914**

Second school built in Mentor Village (later named Center Street School). Michael H. Horvath moves to Mentor and becomes the recognized authority in the science and practice of seed propagation.

**1915**

A new Mentor Christian Church constructed. The old church is sold to the Township and, minus its steeple, is moved across Jackson Street to replace the first Township Hall which burned down. Mentor Township marks 100th anniversary.

**1916**

Wayside Nursery is established. C. Merkel & Sons incorporates. Mentor Knitting Mills closes its doors shortly after the mysterious shooting death of company president John B. Henrion.

**1917**

The effects of the First World War are felt by Mentor citizens, as they face rationing, meatless Fridays, and auto-less Sundays.



**1920**

The Williams Murphy Company of Cleveland, Ohio began marketing their brand-new development, Mentor Headlands Park, for those seeking summer homes. Headlands Bath & Tennis Club is built on Park Drive which is now Brooksdale Drive. The building is torn down in 1956. Rose growing becomes a blossoming industry in Mentor.

**1921**

Reorganization of Special District Board of Education and Township School District into Mentor Special Rural Township School District. Gerard K. Klyn Inc. Nursery is established. By 1958, Klyn's was the largest rose grower in the Midwest. Mentor Post Office moves into its own building at the corner of Mentor Avenue and Hart Street. Mentor Village purchases its first fire truck.

**1922**

Mentor Lumber Company opens for business. J. Fracci Florists is founded by Joseph Fracci.

**1923**

Memorial High School is built on Mentor Avenue at Hopkins Road as Mentor's first four-year high school.

**1924**

The Village of Mentor-on-the-Lake incorporates, separating from Mentor Township. The Township retains ownership of Mentor Township Park, although it is physically located in Mentor-on-the-Lake. The Mentor Headlands Country Club, now Black Brook Golf Course, opens as a private nine-hole course in September.

**1925**

Melvin E. Wyant purchases ten acres on Johnnycake Ridge and begins growing roses. He becomes nationally known for hybrid tea roses.

**1926**

Wealthy Clevelanders form the Mentor Harbor Club with plans to build the "Venice of the North" which consists of a posh country club, luxurious homes with private docks, golf courses and a landing strip. A portion of the marsh is dredged, and concrete retaining walls constructed. The country club is now the Mentor Harbor Yacht Club and the remaining harbor is part of the Mentor Lagoons Marina. Mentor hires its first full-time police officer, Lawrence R. Yaxley. Six months later, while covering an open manhole on Mentor Avenue, his revolver drops to the bottom of the sewer and discharges, killing him.

**1928**

Paul R. Bosley starts Bosley Nursery and publishes a wholesale and retail catalog specializing in roses, serving 12 states. The Village of Kirtland Hills incorporates taking a portion of southern Mentor Township. Mentor Headlands Country Club expands to 18 holes.

**1929**

The stock market crash hits Mentor. Construction on the Midland Moor, Mentor Harbor, and Mentor Headlands Park developments come to a halt.

**1930**

The combined population of Mentor Township and Mentor Village reaches 3,542.

**1931**

Andrews Road, from Salida Road to Lake Erie, takes on a carnival atmosphere with penny arcades, a dance hall, and rides and games as Mentor Beach Playland opens across from Mentor Township Park. Mentor Headlands Volunteer Fire Department is organized.

**1932**

U.S. Patent No. 10 is issued to the first ever-blooming climbing rose, Blaze, developed in Mentor by Joseph W. Kallay. By now, Mentor is known as the Rose Capital of the Nation. The county builds the Mentor Harbor Boulevard Bridge across the Mentor lagoons to connect with a proposed road. Due to the depression, the road project is cancelled, and the unfinished bridge became known as “the bridge to nowhere.”

**1936**

Mentor Village purchases first police car. The Garfield family donates Lawnfield and its contents to the Western Reserve Historical Society for use as a museum.

**1937**

Joseph Havel salvages an ornamental greenhouse from the George Ball estate near Gordon Park in Cleveland and relocates it to Mentor Avenue in Mentor. A new three-story pavilion is constructed at Mentor Township Park as a WPA project.

**1939**

Mentor Women's Club is formed. General Newell Bolton purchases the former Special District School on Hopkins Road for the American Legion. Wednesday is free outdoor movie night at Mentor Township where people flock to watch cowboy movies, newsreels, and Felix the Cat cartoons.

**1940**

Wyatt's Greenhouse opens for business.

**1941**

Joseph J. Kern starts a nursery in Mentor and gains national recognition as an expert and authority on old-fashioned roses.

**1942**

Fire Station No. 1 is constructed on Jackson Street. It still stands and serves as the Mentor Fire Museum.

**1946**

Mentor experiences a post-WW2 housing boom. Elmer Schultz, founder of Wayside Gardens, organizes Springbrook Gardens Nursery with his son Jack.

**1948**

Mentor Village Police Department employs five full-time policemen.

**1950**

The combined population of Mentor Township and Mentor Village reaches 8,492. Local authorities begin facing growth challenges related to water distribution, sanitation, and roads. Mentor Local School District is formed. Garfield Public Library is renamed Mentor Public Library.

**1951**

Industrial zoning is established along Vine Street.

**1952**

Eleanor B. Garfield, the granddaughter-in-law of President James A. Garfield, becomes Mentor's first female mayor and plans the first industrial park. She also works with Ohio's governor on relocating the route of proposed State Route 2, so it wouldn't bisect the new industrial park.

**1953**

Mentor schools receive exemption from county control and become the Mentor Exempted Village School District. R. James Schroeder forms Mentor Rose Growers with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Collacott, owners of Wildwood. Mentor adopts new zoning code. Painesville Beach State Park is created from land purchased by the state of Ohio.

**1954**

Headlands Sheriff Patrol starts volunteer police protection. Walter Boles is named Chief and Howard E. Schultz his assistant.

**1955**

Mentor Village fails in attempt to annex Mentor Township. Mentor Village celebrates its 100th anniversary. Painesville Beach State Park renamed Headlands Beach State Park.

**1956**

Mentor Beach Playland is torn down. Mentor Village sells waterworks to Ohio Water Service Company.

**1957**

Ohio Water Service begins providing water to the area.

**1958**

Eleanor B. Garfield starts the Mentor Recreation Foundation in an effort to acquire the Newell Estate for a community park. Leonard C. Hanna provides matching funds to purchase the 53-acre estate. Residents purchase \$60 shares for maintenance and capital improvements.

**1960**

Combined population of Mentor Township and Mentor Village reaches 21,652. The new Mentor Library building, Garfield Unit, opens on Mentor Avenue. Lilla Schaefer saves the original library from destruction by moving the building from the corner of Mentor Avenue and Center Street to the corner of Nowlen and Center Streets where it still stands. The Mentor Chamber of Commerce incorporates. Vine Street is paved and renamed Tyler Boulevard. W.S. Tyler Company and others jumpstart industrial development.



**1961**

Great Lakes Mall opens as the country's largest enclosed shopping center.

**1962**

Voters approve annexation of Mentor Township to Mentor Village. Mentor-on-the-Lake opts to remain a separate community. Robert Moon is hired as the first City Manager. Regional building code is adopted. Council-Manager form of government is adopted. Interstate 90 and State Route 2 are extended to Mentor. New Mentor Post Office opens on Center Street. It later becomes Mentor Office Supply, then demolished in 2009 as part of the Center Street Village Project.

**1963**

Mentor Village officially incorporates as the City of Mentor on December 18, 1963. Village Hall becomes Mentor's first City Hall. The new Mentor Police Department consists of 12 full-time officers under the direction of Chief Frank D. Hathy. Sanitary sewer program established.

**1964**

Mentor businessmen Bob Kral and Jim Toncre work on design of Civic Center project, while Councilman Bill Boyd negotiates the purchase of former Klyn Nursery property. Robert Brewer takes over as temporary City Manager.

**1965**

New Mentor High School opens on Center Street. The original high school is renamed Memorial Junior High. Fire Station No. 3 opens across from the Great Lakes Mall. Fire Station No. 4 opens with 18 volunteer firemen in a temporary, prefabricated, green and white metal building on Reynolds Road. Allen Perkins, Jr. is hired as City Manager.

**1966**

Perkins Pancake House opens at Center Street and Tyler Boulevard, one of only two restaurants in the vicinity. Chief Hathy retires and James W. Agard named new Police Chief. Police Department moves from City Hall into former American Legion building on Hopkins Road. Mentor Marsh is designated as a National Natural Landmark.

**1967**

City Council adopts first Comprehensive Development Plan to create guidelines for growth and development. Arthur V. Dickard takes over as temporary City Manager.

**1968**

Robert C. Wells becomes City Manager. Fire Chief A.G. Howells is joined by the first full-time firemen: Robert Edmisten, Richard Knopf, Carl Lewis, Gary Lloyd, Kenneth Myllykoski, and Frank Steinfurth.

**1969**

Tyler Boulevard opens from Reynolds Road to Center Street. Arthur V. Dickard takes over as temporary City Manager and is then hired as City Manager.

**1970**

Mentor population grows to 39,912. Construction begins on Center Street railroad overpass. The first environmental study of Mentor Marsh conducted stemming from salt contamination which

occurred in the 1960s.

### **1971**

Caterpillar opens one-million square foot Mentor plant. Old Mentor Foundation forms to preserve the heritage of Mentor and documents 102 historic buildings and begins restoration of Old Council Hall. New building for Fire Station No. 4 opens on Reynolds Road. Fire Station No. 5 opens on Civic Center Blvd. Leonard and Belle Granger's 58-acres at a cost of \$36,500 to create Veterans Park. The 28-acre pond is the largest body of water in Lake County. Mentor Marsh is dedicated as Ohio's First Nature Preserve.

### **1973**

A handful of senior citizens meet at Mentor Beach Park to form the Mentor Senior Center. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the state of Ohio sign an agreement to make Mentor Marsh an Interpretive Nature Preserve.

### **1976**

The Mentor Municipal Center is constructed. Thomas C. Fracci succeeds Chief Agard as Chief of Police.

### **1977**

The first "It's Better in Mentor" Festival, created by the Mentor Area Chamber of Commerce, is held at the Civic Center Complex. Alvin E. Beasley serves as temporary City Manager for several months until Edward J. Podojil is hired as City Manager on November 28, 1977.

### **1979**

Mentor Senior Center moves into former Ohio Bell building on Prospect Street.

### **1980**

The city purchases the Wildwood Estate from John G. Oliver's granddaughters to create a cultural and educational center. Mentor population is at 42,065 residents. The city acquires the privately-held Mentor Recreation Park and opens it to the public as Eleanor B. Garfield Park. The Mentor Police Department Crime Prevention Bureau is founded under Chief Fracci. Lawnfield declared a National Historic Site.

### **1981**

Pool, tennis courts, and hiking trails open at Mentor Civic Center Park. Wildwood named to National Register of Historic Places. Morton Community Park and Pool opens. Joseph Koziol is appointed Chief of Police.

### **1982**

Railroad underpass opens on Reynolds Road. Mentor Ice Arena opens. Mentor Police Department and Municipal Court facility opens at Civic Center Complex.

### **1983**

Mentor establishes Mentor Economic Assistance Corporation (MEACO) to stimulate business growth.

**1984**

Joseph P. Tiefenbach Memorial Park dedicated. Mentor is named State Capital for a Day. Richard A. Amriott sworn in as Chief of Police. Wildwood Garden Club is organized. Caterpillar Tractor Company closes its Mentor lift-truck plant in 1984.

**1985**

Innovative Medical Technologies is founded in Mentor. The company is renamed to STERIS in 1987.

**1986**

Center Street Mill is torn down.

**1988**

Mentor celebrates 25 years as a city and constructs the Commemorative Rose Garden at Mentor Avenue and Hart Street. Points East Shopping Center is constructed at Reynolds Road and Mentor Avenue. Mentor begins free Summer Concerts in the Park.

**1989**

Bellflower Park opens. Construction of Market Street begins. Mentor receives its first Tree City USA award.

**1990**

Population reaches 48,960. Grand opening is held for new Fire Station No. 1 on Heisley Road. City Council adopts official City of Mentor seal. Julian M. Suso hired as City Manager. The Mentor Channel goes on the air to enhance communications with residents.

**1993**

Mentor Schools Fine Arts Center opens.

**1995**

New Mentor Senior Center opens at Civic Center Complex. New Fire Station No. 2 opens on Corduroy Road. Chillicothe Park renamed Donald E. Krueger Park in honor of long-time Council President/Mayor.

**1996**

Voters approve the acquisition of the Mentor Lagoons property which is the first such referendum action in the State of Ohio. Renovation of Mentor Municipal Center and construction of two-story addition begins.

**1997**

Mentor celebrates 200th anniversary of first settlement. City assumes ownership and operation of 380-acre Mentor Lagoons Marina & Park. City acquires 14-acres to expand Eleanor B. Garfield Park. Mentor achieves state ranking of 7th in terms of retail sales volume.

**1998**

Second ice surface opens at Mentor Ice Arena. Skatepark opens at Morton Community Park. City opens new Municipal Maintenance Facility on Hopkins Road combining all maintenance operations into a single facility. Restoration efforts at Lawnfield completed.

**1999**

City opens system of trails at Mentor Lagoons Nature & Marina. Mentor receives 1999 Ohio Lake Erie Commission Award for environmental stewardship of Lake Erie - the first government entity to receive this award. Mentor achieves state ranking of 6th in terms of retail sales volume. Mentor Lagoons Marina & Park is renamed Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve & Marina. Archaeologists from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History discover evidence of prehistoric habitation at Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve.

**2000**

City continues expansion of Bikeway System. Tiefenbach Memorial Park is expanded. Tyler Boulevard extension opens between Hopkins and Heisley Roads.

**2001**

City completes addition of bike lanes along Hopkins Road between Market Street and Mentor Avenue. Center Street widened between Mentor Avenue and Johnnycake Ridge Road. Mentor Civic Center Skatepark opens. Bellflower Park Sprayground opens.

**2002**

Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve named one of eight portal sites in Ohio by Lake Erie Coastal Ohio. Archaeologists with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History return to Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and discover additional artifacts that date to 1500 BC. Mentor Cruise-In held for the first time.

**2003**

Daniel W. Llewellyn sworn in as new Chief of Police. Morton Park Spraypark opens. Fire Station No. 5 expansion completed with new living quarters, expanded offices and relocation of 911 dispatch center. I-90 and Center Street interchange opens. Ohio Bicentennial Commission painted barn on Munson Road to mark Ohio's 200th birthday. Old Village Market, now known as the Mentor Farmers Market, is established.

**2004**

Heisley Road railroad overpass opens to traffic.

**2005**

City purchases 150-acre Black Brook Golf Course.

**2006**

A July flood causes extensive damage throughout the city after 9.7 inches of rainfall prompting the evacuation of homes as well as numerous road and business closures. The Veterans Memorial opens near the entrance to the Civic Center Complex. City adopts Old Village zoning district for the area around Center Street and Mentor Avenue. Bike lanes added on Lake Shore Boulevard. John W. Konrad hired as Mentor City Manager.

**2007**

Mentor joins with Fairport Harbor, Grand River, and Eastlake, to form the Association of Municipal Port Authorities. The former Mentor Village School building is converted to Center Street Village mixed use development. City completes the purchase of 100-acres adjacent to Morton Park and Mentor Marsh. Mentor Senior Center expands.

**2008**

Expansion of Mentor Municipal Court begins. City demolishes the condemned Flagship Lounge at the Mentor Lagoons. Lawnfield property is transferred from Western Reserve Historical Society to the National Park Service to create the James A. Garfield National Historic Site.

**2009**

Kenneth J. Filipiak is hired as City Manager.

**2010**

The Mentor Chamber of Commerce celebrates 50 years.

**2011**

The Mentor Ice Arena hosts the Eastern Great Lakes Regional Championships attracting 600 competitors, 1,500 visitors, and adds \$1 million to the local economy. The Garfield \$1 presidential coin is released in a ceremony at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site. ODOT completes construction of third-lane on SR-2 from SR-91 to just east of SR-306. Bellflower Park renamed Edward R. Walsh Park in honor of the Ward 3 Councilman who served for nearly 35 years, the longest in Mentor history.

**2012**

Black Brook Golf Course expanded to include new practice center. City begins sidewalk maintenance program to regularly inspect, repair or reconstruct damaged sidewalks. SR-2 expanded to three lanes from SR-306 to SR-44 with new interchanges at SR-306 and SR-615. Deer maintenance program implemented. 35th and final "It's Better in Mentor Days Festival" held.

**2013**

Kevin Knight sworn in as new Mentor Police Chief. Mentor hosts first CityFest. Mentor High School Boys Basketball team wins Ohio Division 1 Title.

**2014**

Mentor International Trade Initiative is established to promote foreign direct investment and export opportunities for Mentor businesses. The "Bridge to Nowhere" is demolished due to safety concerns. City purchases the 52-acre Springbrook Gardens Nursery property to create a public park. Bob Searles sworn in as new Mentor Fire Chief.

**2015**

Heisley Road between Jackson Street and Mentor Avenue is widened to four lanes. 600-foot revetment installed at Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve to fight shoreline erosion. Mentor Concerts in the Park rebranded to Mentor Rocks.

**2016**

Janet Dowling is elected by her peers as the first female president of Mentor City Council. John Krueger is elected Vice-President, making history himself as part of the first father-son tandem to serve in Council leadership, along with the late Don Krueger.

**2017**

Mentor Civic Amphitheater opens on July 4th with a concert featuring alt Rock group Soul Asylum followed by fireworks. Nearly 40,000 people attend Mentor Rocks performances during the season. With the second overall pick, the Chicago Bears draft Mentor High alum and quarterback Mitch Trubisky. Hometown Heroes banner program established.

**2018**

The community mourns the loss of Mentor Police Officer Mathew Mazany who is killed in the line of duty by a hit-and-run driver. Mentor is designated as a Buckeye Trail Town.

**2019**

Springbrook Gardens Park is dedicated. Kenneth Gunsch is sworn in as Mentor Police Chief. A 275-foot revetment installed at Mentor Beach Park to fight shoreline erosion.

**2020**

Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are felt in Mentor and around the world. The virus infects over 100,000 Ohioans. In Mentor (and worldwide) the economy suffers leading to record unemployment. Stay home orders are issued, and recreation facilities, schools, churches and stores shut down. A virtual graduation is held for the 2020 Mentor High School graduating class. City Council and other public meetings are held online.

**2021**

Life returns somewhat to normal as the pandemic begins to wane. The City of Mentor purchases the Mentor Heisley Racquet and Fitness Club. Mentor High School Girls Track & Field Team wins Ohio Division 1 Title.

**2022**

The Mentor Ice Arena celebrates its 40th anniversary. Electric car charging stations are installed at Garfield Park. Additional 600-feet of revetment added to Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve to combat erosion.

**2023**

Cleveland Clinic Mentor Hospital begins serving the residents of Lake County. The Mentor Community Recreation Center opens to the public with over 4,500 members joining in the first year. The Springbrook Gardenhouse as well as two outdoor pavilions are completed at Springbrook Gardens Park. Mentor hosts last Headlands BeachFest. City leaders unveil a new boardwalk and observation deck at the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve overlooking the Mentor Marsh. Mentor Senior Center celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. EF1 tornado touches down in Mentor and causes moderate damage to homes and businesses.

**2024**

Thousands gather at the Mentor Civic Amphitheater to witness the April 8 total solar eclipse. City demolishes pool at Eleanor B. Garfield Park to make way for a new sprayground. City purchases former nursery property next to Mentor Senior Center to expand parking lot. Scenes from Superman Genesis filmed at Headlands Beach State Park. An August storm sends a series of tornadoes through Lake County causing significant power loss throughout Mentor. Mentor High School celebrates 100 years of football.

**2025**

Ron Zak appointed Mentor Fire Chief. Mentor Ice Arena hosts USA Hockey Girls 19U Tier II National Championship – Division 1A Tournament. New concessions building constructed at Mentor Lagoons Marina. Mentor named to US News & World Report Best Places to Live list, placing 138<sup>th</sup> in the nation and 1<sup>st</sup> in Ohio.

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