

History of Mentor Timeline

1796

Area surveyed by Moses Cleaveland.

1797

Charles Parker builds a cabin at Mentor Marsh establishing the area's first settlement.

1798

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

1800

First court session appoints Moses Parks 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 the Ridge Road (Mentor Avenue).

1806

Mentor resident Charles Parker named Sheriff of the new Geauga County.

1810

The first schoolhouse opens in an abandoned barn. Katy Smith is paid 75 cents a week to teach and 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 first frame building at the NE corner of Center Street and Mentor Avenue. Became known as D. G. Branch Tavern.

1815

Mentor Township officially forms with 460 people (includes portions of Mentor-on-the-Lake and Kirtland).

1818

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

1819

Mentor Library Company opens the first subscription library in the Western Reserve.

1823

Mail and Stagecoach service instituted.

1825

Erie Canal opens and 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 the state is formed.

1851

The Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Railroad reaches Mentor.

1853

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

1854

Mentor Cemetery established.

1855

The people of Mentor Centre incorporate as Mentor Village occupying 3,000 acres in the middle of the township. Nathan Corning becomes first Mayor. Mentor Village School District is formed. 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

1250 people reside in Mentor Township; 416 in Mentor Village.

1868

Mentor's first factory constructed for the Hart Nut and Washer Company for \$11,500.

1872

Civil War Monument dedicated at Mentor Cemetery.

1876

James A. Garfield purchases the Dickey Farm (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 nominated as President at the Republican Convention, conducts the nation's first front porch campaign and is elected 20th President of the United States.

1881

President Garfield is assassinated.

1885

A two-year high school is added to the local school system in the Village.

1888

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

1889

Mentor is 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 to organize Mentor Village Library and is named President of the Library Board.

1890

The “Gay Nineties” brings development of more resorts on Little Mountain and cottages along the lake. Mentor Village Library opens in Village Hall. The Knights of Pythias, a secret society, is founded in Mentor.

1891

The Cleveland, Painesville & Erie (CP&E) interurban electric railroad extends to Mentor. From Stop 58 at Center Street, you could ride to Cleveland in one hour and 35 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 constructed in West Mentor 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 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. (Now known as Mentor Beach Park.)

1902

D.G. Branch Tavern 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 Twp. Park offers free bathing and bathhouse facilities to Mentor citizens; nonresidents are charged a nominal fee. First rural free delivery route started from Painesville to Mentor Headlands.

1905

The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern's Twentieth Century Limited hits an open switch at the Mentor Depot and crashes into the freight station killing 19 of the 75 passengers on board.

1908

President Garfield's son, Abram, 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 Twp. 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.

1912

Mentor is described as an attractive village of 650 intelligent and progressive people, with many pretty homes, fine school and church buildings, and few prominent industries. As a Mentor Township Trustee and member of Board of the Lake County Agricultural Society, Colonel Parker (Clark Parker's grandson), helps to develop the grounds and buildings at the new Lake County Fairgrounds.

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

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 that burned down. Mentor Township marks 100th anniversary of incorporation.

1916

Wayside Nursery established and C. Merkel & Sons incorporates.

1917

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

1920

Headlands Bath & Tennis Club built. Rose growing becomes big business 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 on corner of Mentor Avenue and Hart Street. Mentor Village purchases first fire truck.

1922

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

1923

Memorial High School 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 Twp. Park, although it is physically located in Mentor-on-the-Lake.

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 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. Nick Castello starts Castello's Florist, a landscaping, flower and plant growing business. 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.

1929

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

1930

Combined population of Mentor Township and Mentor Village reaches 3,542.

1931

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

1932

U.S. Patent No. 10 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 was cancelled, and the unfinished bridge became known as “the bridge to nowhere.”

1936

During the summer, close to 1,000 families signed in to use the bathing facilities at Mentor Township Park. Mentor Village purchases first Police car.

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 as a federal worker's assistance project (WPA) at Mentor Twp. Park.

1939

Mentor Women's Club formed. General Newell Bolton purchases the former Special District School on Hopkins Road for the American Legion. Wednesday is free outdoor movie night at Twp. Park, 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 constructed on Jackson Street.

1944

Freestanding bathhouses at Mentor Twp. Park are torn down.

1946

Post World War II housing boom comes to Mentor. Elmer Schultz, founder of Wayside Gardens, organizes Springbrook Gardens.

1948

Mentor Village Police Department employs five full-time policemen.

1950

Combined population of Mentor Township and Mentor Village reaches 8,492. Local authorities begin facing growth issues, such as water supply, sanitation, and roads. Mentor Local School District is formed. Garfield Public Library renamed Mentor Public Library.

1951

Established industrial zoning along Vine Street (renamed Tyler Boulevard in 1960).

1952

Eleanor B. Garfield, the granddaughter-in-law of President James A. Garfield, becomes Mentor's first woman mayor and plans 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.

1954

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

1955

Mentor Village's attempt to annex Mentor Township fails. 100th anniversary of the founding of Mentor Village.

1956

Mentor Playland across the street from Mentor Twp. Park is torn down. Mentor Village sells the waterworks to Ohio Water Service Company.

1957

Ohio Water Service begins providing water to 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 shares for \$60 for maintenance and capital improvements. Development brochure states, "Mentor area has 65 well-trained firefighting volunteers with modern equipment (and) authorization for a full-time paid fire department is near."

1960

Mentor Village adopts Council-Manager form of government and names Village Mayor Robert Brewer first acting Village Manager. Combined population of Mentor Township and Mentor Village is 21,652. New Mentor Library building, Garfield Unit, opens on Mentor Avenue. Lilla Schaefer saves 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. Mentor Chamber of Commerce incorporates. W.S. Tyler Company and others start the industrial development. Vine Street is paved and renamed Tyler Boulevard.

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 decides to remain a separate community. Mentor Township trustee Bill Boyd begins acquisition of land for Civic Center Complex in the geographic center of the combined Mentors. Adopted regional Building Code. Adopted Council-Manager form of government. Robert Moon hired as first City Manager. Interstate 90 and State Route 2 are extended to Mentor. New Mentor Post Office opens on Center Street (later became Mentor Office Supply, then demolished in 2009 as part of the Center Street Village Project).

1963

Established sanitary sewer program for the combined Mentors. Mentor Village officially incorporates as the City of Mentor on December 18, 1963. The Village Hall on Mentor Avenue at Center Street becomes Mentor's first City Hall. New Mentor Police Department consists of 12 full time officers under the direction of Chief Frank D. Hathy.

1964

Mentor businessmen Bob Kral and Jim Toncre work on design of Civic Center project, while real estate agent/ 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. Original high school renamed Memorial Junior High. Fire Station No. 3 opens across from Great Lakes Mall. Fire Station No. 4 opens with 18 volunteer firemen in a temporary, prefabricated, green and white metal building on Reynolds Road (Rt. 306). Allen Perkins, Jr. hired as City Manager.

1966

Perkins Pancake House opens at Rt. 615 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.

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

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. Robert C. Wells becomes City Manager.

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 is 39,912. Construction begins on Center Street railroad overpass.

1971

Caterpillar opens 1 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 and 28-acre pond are acquired at a cost of \$36,500 to create Veteran's Park; the pond is the largest body of water in Lake County.

1973

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History dedicates 619 acres of the Mentor Marsh as an interpretive State Nature Preserve. A handful of senior citizens meet at Mentor Beach Park to form the Mentor Senior Center.

1976

Mentor Municipal Center 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 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

City purchases Wildwood Estate from John G. Oliver's granddaughters to create cultural and educational center. Mentor's population is 42,065. City acquires the private Mentor Recreation Park and opens it to the public as the Eleanor B. Garfield Park. Mentor's Crime Prevention Bureau founded under Chief Fracci.

1981

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

1982

Railroad underpass opens on Reynolds Road. Caterpillar announces the closing of its Mentor Towmotor plant. Mentor Community Center and Ice Arena open. New Mentor Police Department and Municipal Court facility opens at Civic Center Complex.

1983

Mentor tries to recover from 4,000 lost jobs and 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.

1986

Center Street Mill is torn down.

1987

Mentor adopts slogan "city of choice" for its economic development marketing.

1988

Mentor celebrates 25th year as a city and constructs Commemorative Rose Garden at Mentor Avenue and Hart Street. Points East Shopping Center constructed at Rt. 306 and Mentor Avenue. Mentor begins free Summer Concerts in the Park.

1989

City creates Public Information Office to improve communications with residents, businesses and city employees. Bellflower Park opens. Construction of Market Street begins. Mentor receives its first Tree City USA award.

1990

The Mentor Channel is created as a government access channel to enhance communications with residents. Population reaches 48,960. Grand opening held for new Fire Station No. 1 on Heisley Road. Mentor becomes one of only four Ohio cities to attain Class 2 insurance classification rating. City Council adopts new official City of Mentor seal. Julian M. Suso hired as City Manager.

1993

Mentor Schools Fine Arts Center opens. City celebrates 30th anniversary with special events held during It's Better in Mentor Days, including a balloon release in front of City Hall.

1995

New 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, which becomes first such referendum action in the State of Ohio. Renovation of Mentor City Hall and construction of two-story addition begins.

1997

Mentor celebrates 200th anniversary of first settlement with many special activities including publication of "Mentor: The First 200 Years." City assumes ownership and operation of 380-acre Mentor Lagoons Marina & Park. City acquires 14 acres to expand 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. The Mentor Channel receives unprecedented eight national awards for excellence in video programming. City opens new Municipal Maintenance Facility on Heisley Road combining all maintenance operations into a single facility.

1999

City's second Skatepark opens at Bellflower Elementary School. City opens system of trails at Mentor Lagoons Park. Mentor named Bicycle Friendly Community. Mentor receives 1999 Ohio Lake Erie Commission Award for environmental stewardship of Lake Erie -- the first government 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

The city survives the much-hyped Y2K without incident. Continues expansion of Bikeway System. Tiefenbach Memorial Park expanded. Tyler Boulevard extension opens between Hopkins and Heisley Roads.

2001

Completed addition of bike lanes along Hopkins Road between Market Street and Mentor Avenue; widened Route 615 between Mentor Avenue and State Rt. 84; opened Civic Center Skatepark; opened water sprayground at Bellflower Park; Councilman Jim Struna retires after 21 years of public service.

2002

Mentor Lagoons named one of eight portal sites in Ohio by Lake Erie Coastal Ohio. Ground is broken for long-awaited I-90 / State Route 615 interchange. Archaeologists with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History return to Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and make additional discovery of artifacts that date to 1500 BC.

2003

Daniel W. Llewellyn sworn in as new Chief of Police. 40th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Mentor marked with the creation of a Historic Poster by artist Lynn Vandevort. Opened new Water Spraypark at Morton Park; Fire Station No. 5 expansion completed with new living quarters, expanded offices and relocation of Dispatch Center. Dedicated opening of new interchange at I-90 and Route 615 on November 24. Ohio Bicentennial Commission painted barn on Munson Road to mark Ohio's 200th birthday.

2004

Celebrated the completion of the Heisley Road Railroad Overpass.

2005

City purchases 150-acre Black Brook Golf Course. Independent film, “Bigfoot,” has premier showing during the 7th Annual Festival on the Lagoons. The Mentor Channel celebrates 15 years of informative, entertaining and award-winning programming.

2006

John W. Konrad hired as Mentor City Manager. July 27 and 28 marks the Flood of 2006 – the worst in 1,000 years; 9.7 inches of rain fell causing roads and businesses to close and the evacuation of homes. Mentor named to the list of “100 Best Places to Live in America” by Money magazine. 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.

2007

Mentor joins with Fairport Harbor, Grand River and Eastlake to form the Association of Municipal Port Authorities. 30th annual It’s Better in Mentor festival is held. City survey reveals 92% of residents are satisfied with Mentor as a place to live. 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 by converting privately run restaurant space into senior activity use. City introduces online registration for recreation classes and activities.

2008

Voters approve the construction of new restroom facility at Mentor Lagoons. Expansion of Mentor Municipal Court begins. City demolishes the condemned Flagship Lounge at the Mentor Lagoons. The Mentor Channel is now carried on AT&T U-verse channel 99.

2009

The Ohio Dept. of Transportation begins construction of third lane on State Route 2 from Rt. 91 to just east of Rt. 306. New restroom completed at Mentor Lagoons. Mentor Radio 1620 AM debuts in November as a low powered radio station to broadcast emergency and public announcements. Mentor named #10 in *Cleveland* magazine’s list of top 20 Suburbs. Kenneth J. Filipiak hired as City Manager.

2010

City Council proclaims May 18th “Katie Spatz Day” to honor the Mentor native on becoming the youngest person to row solo across an entire ocean. City creates the Mentor Technology Greenhouse, a new economic development tool, to advance manufacturing start-ups. “Money”

magazine names Mentor “One of the 100 Best Places to Live.” The Mentor Channel celebrates 20 years. The Mentor Chamber of Commerce celebrates 50 years. City launches Facebook page to connect with residents and others.

2011

The Mentor Ice Arena hosted the Eastern Great Lakes Regional Championships attracting 600 competitors, over 1,500 visitors and adding \$1 million to the local economy. The Mentor Police Department launches Facebook page. The Garfield \$1 Presidential Coin was released in a ceremony at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site. ODOT completes construction of third lane on State Route 2 from Rt. 91 to just east of Rt. 306. City Council renames Bellflower Park the Edward R. Walsh Park in honor of the Ward 3 Councilman who served for nearly 35 years, the longest in Mentor history.

2012

New Practice Center opens at Black Brook Golf Course. City begins Sidewalk Maintenance Program to regularly inspect, repair or reconstruct damaged sidewalks. Route 2 expanded to three lanes from Rt. 306 to Rt. 44 with new interchanges at Rt. 306 and Rt. 615. City begins addressing deer overpopulation with limited bow hunting. City holds 35th and final It’s Better in Mentor Days Festival.

2013

City plans a year of events to celebrate Mentor’s 50th year as a city – including Final Fridays at Civic Center, Headlands BeachFest and Mentor CityFest. Kevin Knight sworn in as new Mentor Police Chief.

2014

Mentor adds International Trade Administrator to promote foreign direct investment and export opportunities for Mentor businesses. Mentor Lagoons’ “Bridge to Nowhere” demolished due to safety concerns. The City purchases Springbrook Gardens Nursery (founded in 1946) to become a new City park. Bob Searles sworn in as new Mentor Fire Chief.

2015

Council representatives along with City administration travel to Germany for Hannover Messe, the world’s leading trade fair for industrial technology. Heisley Road between Jackson Street and Mentor Avenue is widened to four lanes. Resident Tom Matowitz’s book “Mentor” detailing the history of our community is published.

2016

Janet Dowling is elected by her peers as the first woman 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, following in the footsteps of his father, the late Don Krueger. RNC held in Cleveland, Mentor hotels house delegates and staff for convention. First Garfield Gallop 5K (complete with beards) is held. Construction begins on the City's state of the art Amphitheater at Civic Center Park.

2017

Mentor's new 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. Mentor High alum Mitch Trubisky is drafted as a quarterback by the Chicago Bears.

2018

Mentor is designated as a "Buckeye Trail Town." Professional Hockey comes to Mentor as Expansion Team Mentor Ice Breakers is added to the Federal Hockey League and takes up residency at the Mentor Civic Arena. The City mourns as Mentor Police Officer Mathew Mazany is killed in the line of duty by a hit and run driver.

2019

Springbrook Gardens Park is dedicated on April 23, 2019. The new park (formerly Springbrook Gardens nursery) features 53 acres of greenspace, 1.7 miles of asphalt walking trails, a stocked pond and an all-access boardwalk. Kenneth Gunsch is sworn in as Mentor Police Chief. Over 100,000 people attend the 2019 Mentor Rocks Concert series at the Mentor Civic Arena.

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

The pandemic continues as life returns somewhat to normal. City facilities including Wildwood, the Ice Arena and Senior Center reopen to the public. Mentor City events resume including Mentor Rocks and CityFest. Mentor's unemployment rate drops as people return to work. The City of Mentor purchases the Mentor Heisley Racquet and Fitness Club with

plans to open the facility to the public as the new Mentor Community Recreation Center.

2022

The Mentor Ice Arena celebrates their 40th Anniversary. Work begins on a new Pavilion at Springbrook Gardens Park. Electric car charging stations are installed at Garfield Park. The Mentor Community Recreation Center undergoes renovations.