



MENTOR

Fall 2020

SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor

INSIDE

Say Hello to Sharrows

Honor Our Veterans

Slow Down in School Zones

...and much more!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DEER SEASON

2020/2021 Deer Bow Hunter Permit Applications are available at the Recreation Department on the 2nd floor of the Mentor Municipal Center, or for download at www.mentornature.com. Hunting is only permitted on properties where the owner has granted permission. An archery proficiency test form must be returned with your application. A list of test sites is also available on the website.

BURNED OUT STREETLIGHT?

First Energy is responsible for maintaining streetlights, but if you notice a burned-out streetlight, you may call Public Works at (440) 974-5781. Please have an accurate description of the location of the pole. The outage will be reported to First Energy.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Have a complaint about a Mentor property that is not being maintained? You may file a complaint with the City's Code Enforcement department. Contact them by call 440-974-5792 or download a complaint form at cityofmentor.com. You'll find it on the Code Enforcement page under the Resident Information tab.

BULK ITEM DISPOSAL

Residents with Waste Management service can dispose of appliances, furniture and other large items that might not fit in a container. Prohibited materials include tires, hazardous materials, yard waste, construction or demolition debris, large auto parts or dead animals. CFC's in air conditioners and refrigerators MUST be removed prior to pick up and the appliance must be property tagged by a certified technician.

SOLICITATION

It is unlawful to solicit within the city without first obtaining a solicitor's permit from the Police Department. Those who have obtained a solicitor's permit may solicit within the City of Mentor between 9 AM and 7 PM. It is unlawful to solicit at any premise at which a "No Solicitors" sign is displayed. "No Solicitors" signs are available at the Mentor Police Department or from the receptionist desk at City Hall. A printable version is available the Ordinances page of the city website.

To issue a complaint, please call the Mentor Police non-emergency number at (440) 255-1234.

POLITICAL YARD SIGNS

Mentor residents are reminded that our ordinances allow one ground sign per development unit (your yard) with a maximum area of 15 square feet year round. During the election cycle however, one additional ground sign is permitted per candidate and/or ballot issue for which a voter in the City may cast a ballot.

No signs are permitted to be placed in the public right of way, including tree lawns.

You can report nonconforming signs by contacting the Code Enforcement Department at codeenforcement@cityofmentor.com.

EXPLORING AUTUMN

Crisp, clean air, beautiful colors and falling leaves are some of the hallmarks of Autumn in Northeast Ohio.

In Mentor we are fortunate to have over 1,200 acres of parkland to enjoy year-round. While fall color usually peaks in mid-October, to really appreciate the transformation we invite you to explore our parks over the entire season. One week you'll notice warm yellows giving forest paths and woodland trails a golden hue. In visits to follow, warm yellows give way to fiery reds and brilliant oranges. It's not only a feast for the eyes, but all the senses. Experience the sound of the leaves underfoot as you traverse the trail and the sharp, pungent smells of earth as cools from summer heat and prepares for the coming winter.

So where are the best parks to immerse yourself in autumn color? Here are our five favorites!

Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina, 8365 Harbor Drive. With over 450 acres to explore this park is a must see in fall. The upland forest contains a wide variety of hardwoods that lends itself to an ever-changing color palette throughout the season. With an extensive trail system, you can meander through the forest experiencing nature's beautiful colors. Trails lead to stunning views of the Mentor Marsh and Lake Erie. It's truly not to be missed!

Veterans Park, 5730 Hopkins Road. Owned by the City of Mentor and managed by Lake Metroparks, the wooded park is nestled around Granger pond, the largest inland pond in Lake County (34 acres). A 1.78 mile loop trail encircles the pond affording gorgeous

views of fall foliage reflected in the water. See it from the trail or venture out on the fishing pier for an amazing 360-degree view of the surrounding trees. Don't forget your camera!

Wildwood Cultural Center, 7645 Little Mountain Road. Comprised of 34-acres, Wildwood is one of Mentor's true cultural gems. The stunning 25-room English Tutor manor house is surrounded by mature trees. A wide trail beckons hikers to walk in the cool forest, kicking up an abundance of fallen maple, oak and beech leaves, while shimmers of sunlight break through the brilliant leaves that remain on the trees.

Eleanor B. Garfield Park, 7967 Mentor Avenue. This 65-acre park is in the heart of Mentor and is among our most popular parks for recreation due to its many baseball fields, tennis courts, playground, and as the location for the City's weekly popular Farmers Market. What sets it apart in fall is the 5-acre fishing pond which offers beautiful backdrop for family photos. The park is open between dawn and dusk – visit early when the mist is rising off the pond and the fall colors are reflected in the still water. It's a view you won't forget.

Civic Center Park, 8500 Civic Center Boulevard. You may ask what special autumn view is to be had at Civic Center Park? The Park is home to many to the City's facilities like the Municipal Center, Police Station, Mentor Civic Amphitheater, Civic Center Waterpark and Mentor Ice Arena. While many trees surround the buildings, the real view is down the Civic Center Bike Path which winds its way from the park near the Ice Arena to Hopkins Road. Bike or walk down the path lined with the colors of fall.

A WORD FROM THE CITY MANAGER

For most of us, the year 2020 started out with great promise and quickly turned to uncharted territory with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus introduced to the world. The subsequent pandemic now confronts all nations and communities, including Mentor.

I am glad to say we are meeting this challenge. There is unparalleled cooperation and focus in Lake County among our local communities, health officials, first responders, hospitals, and with our state and federal counterparts. Among populous Ohio counties, Lake is among the lowest in cases per capita and mortality rate. Our collective sympathies run deep for those who are ill, isolated, scared, or who otherwise have had their world

turned upside down from job or business loss. We've all felt the heavy economic toll and frustration with the partial and full shutdowns, and patience is running thin.

But there is great cause for optimism. In an ever-evolving environment, we've seen American ingenuity find ways to keep our businesses afloat, to educate our children, and safely enjoy the company of family and friends. We see the bravery of our police officers, firefighter/paramedics, and so many other public and private employees who go to work every day, despite the risk, to provide for their families and their community.

We are not quitters, and in places like Mentor, Ohio we

look to the future as we make the best of today. We continue to seek the balance between protecting public health, always our first priority, and returning to the daily activities we take for granted. We will continue to encourage the application of common-sense health measures, work with our business community on flexible ways to sustain them, and offer the basic services our residents have come to expect. We are preparing for the days, not far ahead, when vaccine distribution within our city becomes the priority. For whatever the next health and safety priority is, you can be confident Mentor will take a leading role.

Americans persevere, Mentorites persevere. 2021 is just around the corner, and I can't wait!



SLOW DOWN IN SCHOOL ZONES

School is back in session. and motorists need to exercise more caution when driving, especially in school zones. Watch for children walking to school and be prepared to stop when approaching school buses picking up or dropping off students.

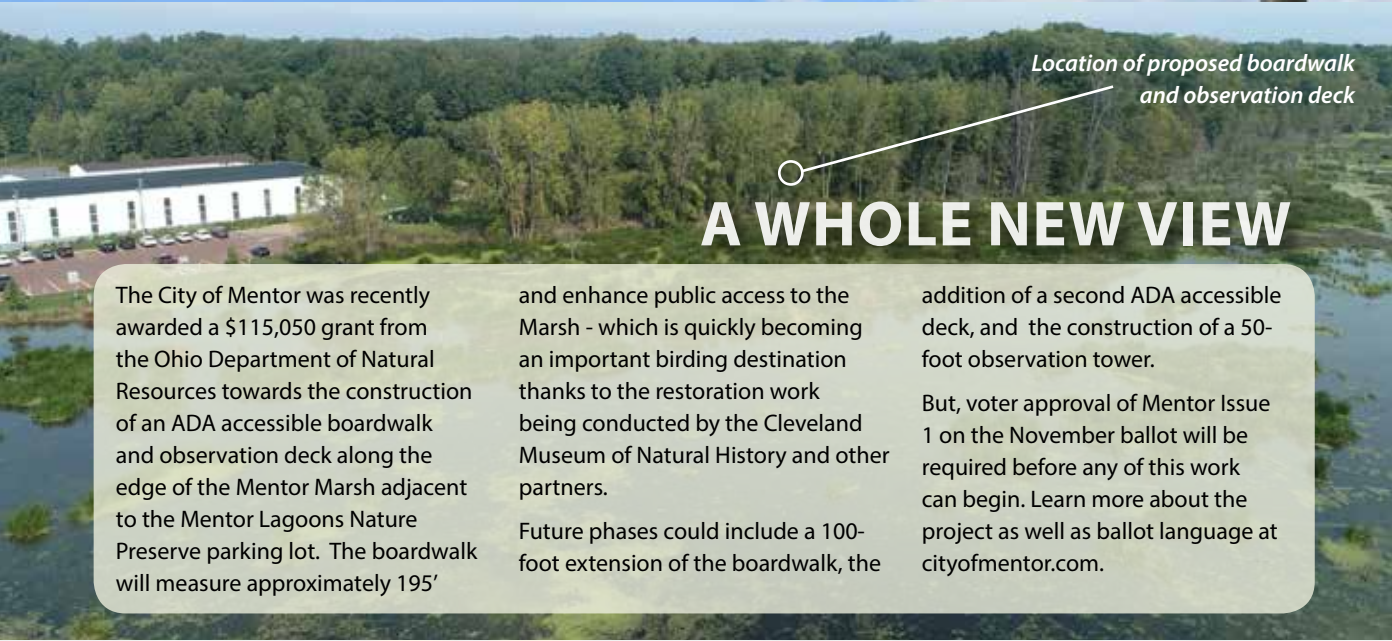
Remember that on a two-lane road, drivers going in both directions must stop whenever a school bus's stop arm is extended, and the lights are flashing. They must remain stopped until the bus is in motion again or until the bus driver signals that traffic can continue.

On roads with four or more lanes, only

traffic moving in the same direction as the bus must stop when the school bus releases passengers. Traffic coming from the opposite direction does not stop.

According to Police Chief Ken Gunsch, "The safety of our children is important to the Mentor Police Department, and the speed limit of 20 mph during the times school zones are active will be strictly enforced."

So, when you see the flashing lights warning you that you have entered a school zone, slow down, and do your part to help keep Mentor students safe.



Location of proposed boardwalk and observation deck

A WHOLE NEW VIEW

The City of Mentor was recently awarded a \$115,050 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources towards the construction of an ADA accessible boardwalk and observation deck along the edge of the Mentor Marsh adjacent to the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve parking lot. The boardwalk will measure approximately 195'

and enhance public access to the Marsh - which is quickly becoming an important birding destination thanks to the restoration work being conducted by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and other partners.

Future phases could include a 100-foot extension of the boardwalk, the

addition of a second ADA accessible deck, and the construction of a 50-foot observation tower.

But, voter approval of Mentor Issue 1 on the November ballot will be required before any of this work can begin. Learn more about the project as well as ballot language at cityofmentor.com.

SAY HELLO TO SHARROWS

Mentor is proud to be a Bicycle Friendly Community. Over the years, the city has worked to incorporate bike lanes and multi-purpose paths in road construction projects whenever feasible and financially possible. With over 19 miles of bike lanes and paths, biking is a great way to get from one place to another in our City. But safety comes first and one of the latest innovations that has made its way around the country and now to Mentor, are sharrows.

A sharrow is a marking on the roadway that indicates that vehicles and bicycles share the lane.

Roads in Mentor that have been designated sharrows include; Bellflower Road, Corduroy Road, Center Street (between Hendricks and Hopkins), Hopkins Road (portion), Chillicothe Road, Hoose Road, Market Street, Little Mountain Road, and Jackson Street.

Motorists on these routes will notice sharrow markings painted on the roadway. Most of the roads selected have no berm, so the cyclist has no place to move over if cars

come up behind them. The markings are a reminder to motorists to be aware of bike traffic, and to only pass when the opposite lane is clear of oncoming traffic.

Sharrow routes connect areas in Mentor that already have bike lanes or paths to allow access throughout the City. One of the main reasons to add road markings is to promote safety. Whether you're riding a bike or driving a car in Mentor, traffic safety is a priority and the sharrow markings are just one way more way to remind everyone to safely share the road.



MIGRATION MAGNIFICENCE

In Northeast Ohio, fall is a great time to go birding. The Fall Migration, when birds start their long journey south, typically begins in late-July, but the best time to see migrating songbirds, like Vireos, Thrushes and Warblers begins in September.

Because of Mentor's unique location on the shores of Lake Erie with close proximity to the Mentor Marsh and Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve, we have a front row seat to view this amazing yearly event.

With the ongoing restoration of the Mentor Marsh, a wide variety of birds now stop in the area that now features native plants and access to grasslands.

Another excellent viewing site is the Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, located on the eastern edge of Headlands Beach State Park. Beach grass, cottonwood, Canada wild-rye, goldenrod and an abundance of other plants makes the area a popular destination for our feathered friends to rest and refuel before continuing their arduous journey.

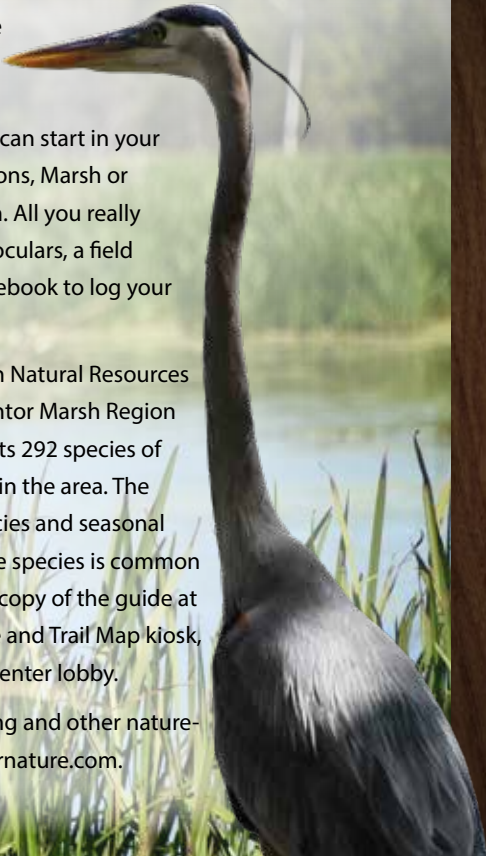
Likewise, the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and its access to marsh waters, Lake Erie and forest draws

those along the migration trail.

Over 47 million people are actively involved in the hobby of birdwatching. Birds are everywhere! You can start in your backyard or visit the Lagoons, Marsh or Headlands Dunes to begin. All you really need is a good pair of binoculars, a field guide or bird app and notebook to log your discoveries.

Mentor's Park & Recreation Natural Resources Division has created a Mentor Marsh Region Bird Field Checklist that lists 292 species of birds that may be sighted in the area. The pocket guide lists the species and seasonal information detailing if the species is common or rare. You may pick up a copy of the guide at the Mentor Lagoons office and Trail Map kiosk, or the Mentor Municipal Center lobby.

To learn more about birding and other nature-related topics, visit mentornature.com.



FALL YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Autumn is here and soon the leaves will be falling. The City of Mentor Yard Waste Program runs from the first full week of April through the second full week of December.

The amount of yard waste homeowners can put out each week increases from 12 to 25 units the week of October 19th. A unit is one bag, bundle or container of yard waste.

A few reminders of requirements: Each unit should weigh less than 35 lbs. Branches should not exceed three-inches in diameter and must be cut into 4-foot lengths and tied in bundles. Only biodegradable paper yard waste bags should be used. Plastic bags are not accepted. Waste can also be placed into reusable containers of up to 32-gallon capacity with holes drilled on the side near the bottom to allow for water drainage. Please leave the lid off and ensure that the container is prominently marked YW.

If you have questions about the Yard Waste Program, call the Public Works Department at 440-974-5780.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Due to uncertainty over the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's impossible to determine which events will be able to be held at the time of this printing.

Events and activities will be posted to the City of Mentor website as that information becomes available. Visit cityofmentor.com/events for the latest information.

SHOP & DINE

With over 175 eateries, taverns and independent shops – as well as most major retailers – Mentor is at the heart of the Lake County shopping & dining experience.

Whatever your taste, you'll find it right here...and we've made it easier to find!

Go to visitmentor.com to download a copy of our Visitor's Guide which contains information on restaurants, shopping, events, activities and more.

Thank you for supporting our businesses!



GET A JUMPSTART ON SPRING

With more time at home this year, we've all had time to look around and plan improvements to our home and property. Fall is the perfect time to get busy in the yard so that it will look fabulous in the spring! A little trimming, fertilizing and planting now will make a huge difference next year.

Let's face it, after a year like this, we all need something to look forward to.

PLANT A TREE

Gardening experts say Fall or Spring is the best time to plant a tree. Whatever season you choose to plant, you want to make sure the new tree has plenty of time to establish its root system before it is stressed by weather that's either too hot or too cold. If you want to plant a tree in your tree lawn, be aware that the City of Mentor has specific ordinances that property owners must follow when trimming, removing and planting trees located in the right-of-way or on the tree lawn. Call the Public Works Department at 974-5780.

Reminder: Whether you're planting a tree, shrub or garden, contact OHIO811 before you dig. They will come out and mark underground utility lines. Creating a utility location through OHIO811 is FREE!

FERTILIZE

Fall is an important time to fertilize lawns, trees, shrubs, and perennials. Fertilizer helps promote root growth and prepares the plant for the upcoming winter. Be sure to only use the recommended amount. Overfertilizing can damage plants and runoff will wash into the storm sewer and contaminates local waterways.

ADD SOME COLOR

This is the season to plant spring flower bulbs like tulips and daffodils. If you're concerned about critters eating the bulbs stick to planting daffodils, grape hyacinths, and alliums. You can also enhance your landscape with perennials and shrubs. Perennials are a great investment because they come back year after year. Just be sure to water new plantings regularly until the ground freezes so their roots establish before winter.

HONOR OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11th and the City of Mentor is asking all residents to fly the flag to honor the brave men and women who have served in the military.

The City of Mentor will be commemorating this with a Veteran's Day ceremony to be held on at the Veteran's Memorial.

The event will be broadcast live on the Mentor Channel and will be streamed

on Facebook for those unable to attend in person.

Originally known as Armistice Day, this holiday was first commemorated in 1919 to mark the end of World War I, which occurred with the signing of the armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, in 1918.

In 1936, Armistice Day became a national holiday. Following World War II and the Korean War, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars.

We thank all veterans for their commitment to our nation and we ask all to come together in honoring their efforts to preserve our way of life by celebrating Veterans Day with us.



FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAKE

Let's take a moment to think about some of our regular activities like walking our dogs, working in the yard or washing our cars...and the impact it may have on our watershed.

Pet waste contains bacteria, parasites, viruses and nutrients that wash directly into storm sewers, area streams and rivers, and right to Lake Erie during rain events - all of which impacts human health and the environment. When walking your pet, just make sure to bring a bag, clean up the waste, and then dispose of it in a trash receptacle. At home you can set a schedule to clean your yard once a day or every other day - especially before a rain event.

Grass clippings or fertilizer granules on your driveway or in the street wash directly into nearby catch basins and streams, where they decompose and cause pollution (nitrogen) at unsafe levels for fish and other aquatic life.

Fertilize when there is no rain in the forecast and use only what is needed. Don't over fertilize. Immediately sweep any granulated chemicals off hard surfaces and put back onto your lawn. Consider an organic alternative to your fertilizer.

Use a mulching lawn mower to retain and spread clippings on your lawn. The clippings decompose quickly and provide a nutrient rich organic layer on your soil that encourages infiltration of storm water. Be sure to sweep up any grass clippings off the driveway and street that may get away from you during mowing.

Raise your mower height. Taller grass will produce a deeper and denser root system which slows the rate of runoff and can help prevent erosion. Deeper roots have access to more water stored in the ground and can reduce irrigation need during droughts. You may even notice fewer weeds using this practice.

If mulching is not possible for you, bag your clippings and start a compost pile with your yard waste and leaves, or properly dispose of them with your curbside pickup or a registered compost facility.

When washing your car consider using a car wash facility. The wash water is drained to a sanitary sewer where it can be treated before released to Lake Erie.

Use your lawn - washing your vehicle in grass prevents the dirty water and soapy water from running straight into storm drains and local waterways.

Take advantage of your free community yard waste collection service running now through the second full week of December. Any questions regarding yard waste pickup can be directed to the City of Mentor's Public Works Department at (440) 974-5780 or pubworks@cityofmentor.com.

These storm water tips are brought to you by the Lake County General Health District and City of Mentor Engineering Department. For more information, contact the City of Mentor at (440) 974-5785.



Only use as much fertilizer as is instructed on the bag and be sure to sweep any granules on your driveway or sidewalk back into your lawn.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The Mentor Fire Department invites citizens to observe Fire Prevention Week October 4-10, 2020. This year's theme is "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen™". According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, with nearly half of all home fires being caused by cooking.

Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed during the week in which October 9 falls to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Mentor Fire Chief Robert Searles says the most common causes of fires they see reoccur in Mentor are caused by "unattended candles, unattended cooking on the stove and improper disposal of ashes," so educating people on safe cooking is an important message for the Mentor community.

Keep these cooking safety tips in mind while preparing meals in your home:

- Do not leave the stove unattended, especially when preparing food late at night.
- Keep cooking areas clear of clutter, and those materials which can ignite -- such as oven mitts, dish towels, wooden utensils, and food packaging.
- Always keep a lid close by in case a grease fire starts when frying, so that you can slide the lid over the pan and smother the flame.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing while cooking and do not cook if you are drowsy.
- Test your smoke alarms regularly so that if a fire starts, everyone knows to get out and stay out!

Learn more at cityofmentor.com/fire.



CITY OF MENTOR

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	DIAL 911
CITY HALL MAIN SWITCHBOARD	255-1100
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE	974-5755
CODE ENFORCEMENT	974-5792
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	974-5740
ENGINEERING/BUILDING	974-5785
FIRE NON-EMERGENCY	255-1212
ICE ARENA	974-5730
MUNICIPAL COURT	974-5744
PARKS & RECREATION	974-5720
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	255-1234
PUBLIC INFORMATION	974-5794
PUBLIC WORKS	974-5781
RITA REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCY	526-0900
SENIOR CENTER	974-5725
WILDWOOD CULTURAL CENTER	974-5735



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FALL 2020 SPECIAL EDITION

WELCOME!

Are you new to Mentor?
Let us know and we'll send
you a New Resident Packet.
Call (440) 974-5794 or email
pubinfo@cityofmentor.com.

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    /cityofmentor



"If wrinkles must be written on our brows,
let them not be written upon the heart.
The spirit should never grow old."

-James A. Garfield



MENTOR CITY COUNCIL

FRONT (left to right): Janet A. Dowling – Councilperson-at-Large; Bruce R. Landeg - President of Council, Councilperson, Ward 3; Scott J. Marn – Councilperson -at-Large

REAR (left to right): Matthew E. Donovan - Vice-President of Council, Councilperson, Ward 2; Ray Kirchner – Councilperson-at-Large; Sean P. Blake – Councilperson, Ward 1; John A. Krueger – Councilperson, Ward 4

Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Mentor Municipal Center. Meetings are open to the public. To reach a member of City Council call 440-974-5755 or email citycouncil@cityofmentor.com.

MEETING INFORMATION

Mentor City Council* ±
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
October 6, 20
November 4 (Wednesday), 17

Board of Building & Zoning Appeals ±
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
October 13
November 10

Municipal Planning Commission* ±
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
October 1, 22
November 12

Tree Commission
Mentor Maintenance Facility, 4 PM
October 14
November 11

Community Arts Commission
Wildwood Cultural Center, 3:30 PM
October 1
November 5

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

± Meetings are virtual. For instructions on how to participate, visit cityofmentor.com.

NEW ROUTES...NEW DESTINATIONS

Laketrans is launching two new bus routes to improve access to jobs along Tyler Boulevard and serve new neighborhoods including the Mentor Headlands.

Starting September 14, Route 8 will connect major destinations including Lakeland Community College, Great Lakes Mall, Tyler Boulevard, Mentor Park-n-Ride, Mentor High School, Mentor Civic Center, Mentor-on-the-Lake, Headlands and Laketrans Headquarters, operating hourly on weekdays and every two-hours on Saturdays. Service will operate from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Look for the bright orange bus!

Route 9 will provide peak service connecting downtown Painesville and Tyler Boulevard with service to Diamond Centre. Service will operate weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Route 9 service will operate with a smaller blue bus equipped with amenities of a traditional transit bus including bike racks, a destination sign and a fare box. For more information about the new routes, visit www.laketrans.com.

WATCH IT YOUR WAY

With traditional pay-TV subscriptions on the decline, the City of Mentor made the decision several years ago to launch the Mentor Channel App for ROKU, Apple, and Android...and this past year, we've started streaming live to YouTube so you can watch it your way 24/7.

Stay on top of what's happening in the City of Mentor including live broadcasts of City Council and Planning Commission Meetings, community bulletin boards, community news, and other great content.

Of course, you can continue to watch on Spectrum 1024 or AT&T U-Verse 99.9 if you prefer. The **FREE Mentor Channel App** offers you the extra flexibility of watching at home or on the go on your TV, computer or favorite hand-held device. Download it today at thementorchannel.com.



SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNUSED PRESCRIPTIONS

Pharmaceutical drugs can be safely disposed of in the special collection bin located at the Mentor Police Department at 8500 Civic Center Boulevard. Accepted Items include prescription and non-prescription drugs, cold/flu medications, pain relievers, pet medications, vitamins, creams, cough syrups, pills and prescription pain killers. Remove, or black out the personal information printed on the pharmacy labels but leave the medicines in their original package or container. Absolutely no needles or syringes are permitted in these bins.

Never dispose of drugs by pouring them down the drain or flushing them down the toilet. Waste-water treatment plants

are not designed to remove these contaminants, and drug residue has been found in our rivers, streams and ground water.

Removing expired or unused prescription medicines from your home will help to reduce the chances of drug abuse and accidental misuse.

Drop off hours at the Police Department are weekdays 7 AM to 8 PM, Saturdays 9 AM to 5 PM and Sundays 1 to 5 PM. For additional Lake County Drug Disposal locations, visit www.lcghd.org.



STAY UP TO DATE

The Mentor Channel

cityofmentor.com

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1620 AM