



# MENTOR

Fall 2024

SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor



## FALL IS FANTASTIC IN MENTOR

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. The new boardwalk located near the trailhead offers a commanding view of the marsh. 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 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 Complex**, 8500 Civic Center Boulevard. You may ask what special autumn view is to be had at the Civic Center? The complex is home to many of the City's facilities like the Municipal Center, Police Station, Mentor Civic Amphitheater, Pool, 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.

**BONUS: Mentor Cemetery**, 6881 Hopkins Road. Rich fall colors underscore the stoic atmosphere of Mentor's historic cemetery. The memorial promenade offers a place to reflect on the sacrifices made by those protecting our nation.

Visit [cityofmentor.com/mentor-parks](http://cityofmentor.com/mentor-parks) for additional information on all of our parks and facilities.

## VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The city of Mentor will host a Veterans Day ceremony at 11:11 AM on Monday, November 11, 2024, to honor the men and women who have served our country in the military.

Originally known as Armistice Day, the observance was first held on November 11, 1919, marking the first anniversary of the end of World War I and honoring the heroism of those who died in the country's service.

In 1954, Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day – a national holiday celebrating all veterans.

This year's ceremony will be held at the Mentor Municipal Cemetery memorial promenade located at 6881 Hopkins Road.

Should weather be a factor, the event will be moved to the Mentor Senior Center located at 8484 Munson Rd.

All are welcome to attend. Veteran groups are invited to participate. Please contact the Mentor Recreation Department at (440) 974-5720 or [parks@cityofmentor.com](mailto:parks@cityofmentor.com) for details.

The ceremony will be recorded and aired later on the Mentor Channel for those unable to attend.



## INSIDE

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*Signs of the Times*

*Mentor Housing Study*

*...and much more!*

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### OPEN BURNING

Burning trash, brush, or leaves is not permitted in the City of Mentor. Small, attended campfires for cooking purposes are permitted during favorable weather conditions without prior approval. Bonfires require approval from the Fire Prevention Bureau by calling (440) 974-5768.

### FALL YARD WASTE

Starting October 1, the amount of yard waste homeowners are permitted to put out each week increases from 12 to 25 units. A unit is one bag, bundle, or container of yard waste. If you have questions about the Yard Waste Program, call the Public Works Department at (440) 974-5781.

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF

Lake County residents can drop off Household Hazardous Waste at the Lake County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 21 from 8 AM to 2 PM. Accepted items include bulbs and batteries, household cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals and more. For a complete list of acceptable items visit [lakecountyohio.gov/utilities/](http://lakecountyohio.gov/utilities/) or call (440) 350-2908.

### DEAD ANIMAL OR DEBRIS IN ROAD

If you notice a dead animal or debris in the road please let the City know. Call the Public Works Department at (440) 974-5781 from 7 AM to 4 PM. Call the Police Department at (440) 255-1234 at all other times.

### 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.

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

# MEACO MAKES LOANS PERSONAL

Working with MEACO will not only benefit your business but will benefit your entire community.

The Mentor Economic Assistance Corporation (MEACO) is designed to help further economic growth as a tool for resources for gap financing for small businesses in the area and has been serving Mentor and Lake County residents since 1983.

MEACO is a certified development company (CDC) ran out of the Mentor Municipal Center. Being a CDC, they are certified by the federal government to run SBA 504 programs anywhere!

MEACO was established in 1983, but today's renewed success is driven by Executive Director Kelly Conrad. MEACO offers a Micro-enterprise Revolving Loan program which offers borrowers up to \$50,000 with a current interest rate of only 4% with no prepayment penalties or application fee. This loan program is only available for brick-and-mortar businesses located in Mentor.

MEACO also prides itself on its SBA 504 loan program which offers an exceptionally low fixed interest rate. The loan is structured with a conventional lender underwriting 50% of a project, the SBA at 40%, and the borrower at 10% equity. The SBA 504 is not limited to Lake County businesses.

A unique benefit of going through MEACO is the personal connection made between the business and the lender.

"You get more of a personal relationship I think because it's just me. I do everything from taking the application, to the underwriting, to the servicing," said Conrad. "Being government, working for the city and knowing government programs, we can layer those with loans which is a big benefit to our clients as well, having the knowledge of what other programs we can put in with the funding that they need."

Another advantage to working with a smaller CDC like MEACO is that there is no backlog and loans are closed at a quicker rate than any large CDC.



"Our last loan closed in less than 30 days. That's practically unheard of for an SBA," said Conrad.

Through the years, MEACO loan programs have helped create over 2,000 jobs in the city of Mentor, with over \$27 million brought into our community.

For more information, Contact Kelly Conrad at [conrad@cityofmentor.com](mailto:conrad@cityofmentor.com) or (440) 974-5740 or visit [meaco.us](http://meaco.us).



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 6 /13

**Mentor Farmers Market**  
Garfield Park  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

September 7

**Just Kids Stuff Garage Sale**  
Garfield Park  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Free.

September 21

**Hazardous Waste Collection**  
Lake County Fairgrounds  
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

October 11

**Howl-O-Ween Party for Dogs**  
Mentor Dog Park  
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM  
Free.

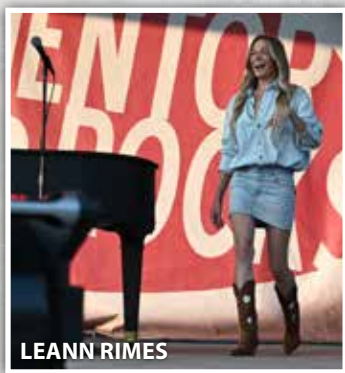
November 16

**Turkey Roll on Ice**  
Mentor Ice Arena  
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
\$120 per team of four. Registration required.

December 3

**Community Tree Lighting**  
Mentor Municipal Center  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Visit [cityofmentor.com/calendar](http://cityofmentor.com/calendar) for the latest information.



LEANN RIMES



FINGER ELEVEN



MADDIE & TAE

## MENTOR ROCKED

The Mentor Rocks summer concert series celebrated its eighth season at the Mentor Civic Amphitheater.

The schedule was highlighted by national recording artists LeAnn Rimes, Maddie & Tae, and Finger Eleven which attracted over 100,000 music lovers.

We would like to thank our 2024 sponsors, including title sponsor Prosperity Haven, presenting sponsors, Meijer and Cleveland Clinic, and supporting sponsors, CT Consultants, Western Reserve Harley Davidson, Michelob Ultra, Kona Big Wave, Just Windows, Ohio Lottery, Cross Country Mortgage – The Muro Group, Mutsko Insurance Services, LLC, Waste Management, IBEW Local 673, and Mimi Vanderhaven. Mentor Main Stage events are also generously supported through grant funding courtesy of Tour Lake County and NOPEC. This city also thanks the Community Arts Commission for their hard work and support.

Thanks to all employees and volunteers who worked hard to make Mentor Rocks a go-to experience each and every week.

Most of all, thanks to all of you who supported Mentor Rocks - not only through your attendance - but also through your purchase of food and beverage items. If you did not know, all entertainment is paid for with funds raised through sponsorships, beverage sales, and food vendor participation fees.

Your support helps us attract the best entertainment we can find and helps keep Mentor Rocks free.

We are already getting started on the 2025 schedule and look forward to announcing it during the State of the City address in February.

## MENTOR COMMISSIONS HOUSING STUDY

In early 2023, the City of Mentor established the need to conduct a study to evaluate Mentor's housing market and identify gaps in our existing housing stock.

The project began in September 2023 with the creation of a resident survey as well as stakeholder interviews which allowed our consultant to engage with the community, and grasp Mentor's true housing concerns and objectives. From that point, they went into a "deep dive" evaluating Mentor's housing inventory, demographics, and current economic conditions, to better identify the gaps in the city's housing market and formulate specific strategies for the city to consider.

The outcomes of the study are intended to guide the city's housing development policies, striking a balance between future growth, and retaining the desired character of the Mentor community.

The study can be accessed by clicking the QR code or the "quick links" toggle at [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com).



## NOW HIRING!

The City of Mentor is looking for qualified candidates to fill a number of full-time, part-time, temporary, and seasonal positions, throughout the city.

For a complete list of currently available career opportunities, visit [cityofmentor.com/employment](http://cityofmentor.com/employment).

The City of Mentor is an equal opportunity employer.

## MENTOR FIRE DEPARTMENT FALL SAFETY CHECK LIST



While house fires occur year-round, they're most common in the fall and winter. As temperatures drop and leaves fall, it's important to prepare your home for cold weather. Clip this handy list from the Mentor Fire Department.

- Have your furnace and chimney cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional. Make sure they check your flue. If you turn your furnace on and then see water on the inside of your windows, that may indicate that your flue is blocked which is a risk for carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure your carbon monoxide detector is properly placed, has working batteries, and is not expired (most expire in 5-10 years and should have an expiration date on the unit).
- Do a thorough clean-out of your dryer vent.
- Exercise your main water shut-off. This will help ensure that the valve will operate if you need to shut the water off during an emergency or repair.

If you have questions about fire safety, call the Mentor Fire Department's Public Education Office at (440) 974-5769 or [garey@cityofmentor.com](mailto:garey@cityofmentor.com).



# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

SEPT - NOV 2024

## 2024 ROAD PROGRAM

This annual program will resurface or repair approximately 20 asphalt and concrete neighborhood streets throughout the City. In 2024, the City will invest roughly \$1.5 million in resurfacing and repairing local roads.

## 2024 SIDEWALK PROGRAM

This annual program will replace deficient concrete sidewalk slabs in Ward 1 (Zones D and E) through an assessment process that were not replaced by property owners as a result of 2023 inspections by the City. These zones consisted of 17.6 miles of sidewalk. The sidewalk inspections found roughly 2,300 slabs of sidewalk to be deficient and in need of repair or replacement.

## HOPKINS ROAD RESURFACING

This project consists of milling and resurfacing the asphalt pavement on Hopkins Road from Plains Road to Lakeshore Boulevard. The total investment in this project is \$468,000 of which half will be covered by OPWC.

## MENTOR MARINA DOCK ROAD

This project consists of rehabbing the access road in certain areas. The total investment in Marina Road Rehabilitation will be about \$225,000.

## OTHER PARKING LOT RESURFACINGS

Blackbrook Golf Course, Krueger Park, Cemetery Road, and Civic Center Path behind the Ice Arena.

For additional information, visit [cityofmentor.com/construction](http://cityofmentor.com/construction).

## ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE NEXT STORM?

The storm that raced through Northeast Ohio on August 6th spawned several tornadoes and caused significant power outages throughout northeast Ohio including right here in Mentor. Although crews scrambled around the clock to restore service, much of the city was without power for upwards of five days.

September is National Preparedness Month and now is the ideal time to prepare for the next storm.

### MAKE A PLAN

Knowing what you and your family will do during an emergency is important. Discuss how you will communicate with each other and receive information should your cell phone die or you have no access to news.

### BE PREPARED

Assemble a preparedness kit including bottled water, nonperishable food, and other necessary supplies like medications, first aid supplies, flashlights, an emergency radio, and blankets. Consider purchasing a generator for potential long-term outages and learn how to properly use it.

### DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Is your home covered against potential disasters? Know what your insurance will cover if you need to make repairs and know who to call. Now is also a good time to ask family and friends about reputable contractors instead of after a storm.

### SUBSCRIBE TO WENS

The City of Mentor utilizes Lake County Ohio's Wireless Emergency Notification System (WENS) to help keep residents informed during emergencies and other events in our city. Sign up takes less than 60-seconds. Do it today at [lakeohioalert.com](http://lakeohioalert.com).

Last month's storm caught everyone by surprise but one thing we can predict is that another damaging storm will be on its way. Winters can be harsh here on the northcoast and its best to be ready. Take the time this September to plan and prepare.

Visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) or [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) for tips and additional information.



## HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT

Trick or treat will be held on October 31, 2024, from 6 PM to 8 PM in the City of Mentor.

Here are some Halloween safety tips from the Mentor Police Department

- Avoid walking alone. Walk with an adult
- Wear bright, flame-resistant costumes or use reflective tape
- Use sidewalks when you can and be on the lookout for cars
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods
- Avoid wearing masks that block your vision and costumes that are tripping hazards
- Examine treats before you eat them

As always, the Mentor Police Department has extra officers on patrol Halloween night so have fun, stay safe, and have a Happy Halloween.



## HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AT WILDWOOD CULTURAL CENTER

Sunday, December 1, 10:00 AM - 4 PM

Complete your holiday shopping here! Many wonderful holiday items are for sale from 40+ vendors including greenery, teas, stained glass, jewelry, holiday figurines, wood and metal items, ornaments, stockings, gnomes, specialty baked goods and sweets, live and faux greens from the Wildwood Garden Club and much, much more! No strollers allowed! \$2 admission at the door. Children 8 and under are free.



## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Election season is in full swing and the City has received a number of inquiries related to what is and what isn't permitted related to political yard signs. The City's sign ordinances allow for the following:

- One ground sign per development unit (your yard) may be displayed year-round.
- During the election cycle, additional ground signs are permitted up to, but not more than, the total number of candidates and ballot issues for which a voter in the City may cast a ballot.
- Yard signs are limited to a maximum of 15 square feet.
- Yard signs may not be illuminated.
- No signs are permitted to be placed in the public right of way, including tree lawns.
- Signs cannot be posted within 15 feet of a side lot line.
- Temporary signs are not permitted on commercial properties where a ground sign already exists.

Sign content is protected under the First Amendment. Although a message may be considered disagreeable, it is a matter of free speech. Signs are also considered personal property. Trespassing, as well as theft and/or destruction of yard signs are punishable offenses.

Let's continue to respect each other's right to free speech as well as property for the duration of this election season.

If you have additional questions on what is permissible, or if you wish to report a nonconforming sign, please contact the Code Enforcement Department at [codeenforcement@cityofmentor.com](mailto:codeenforcement@cityofmentor.com).

## PLASTIC POLLUTION IN OUR GREAT LAKES

According to the Rochester Institute of Technology, 22 million pounds of plastics enter the Great Lakes each year, which accounts for 90% percent of the litter profile on our beaches.

Scientists have found plastic in every living organism they have studied from our largest creatures, whales, to the smallest, zooplankton. Large pieces of plastic frequently entangle animals like snakes, birds, and marine and land mammals.

In Ohio, the most common items entangling our wildlife are fishing line, nets, and landscape mesh. Microplastics (plastic pieces that are 5mm or smaller) are being found in the gut contents of birds, fish, mammals and even humans.

The most commonly found microplastics in organisms are plastic fibers from our synthetic clothing such as fleece jackets or other polypropylene materials.

A plastic littered planet does not need to be the norm. If we use less plastic and use more reusable items instead of disposable items, plastics, and more importantly, single-use plastics, we can make a difference together.

We are the solution to plastic pollution. It is time we work together to move away from single use plastics and a throwaway society and move towards sustainable living and improved waste management practices.



**City of Mentor**  
8500 Civic Center Boulevard  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

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ECRWSS  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 161  
Mentor, Ohio

## Residential Customer ECRWSS

# MENTOR

FALL 2024 SPECIAL EDITION

### WELCOME!

Are you new to Mentor?  
Visit [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com)  
and click on New Resident  
Resources under the  
Resident Info tab.

**Published by the City of Mentor**  
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(440) 974-5794  
[logarusic@cityofmentor.com](mailto:logarusic@cityofmentor.com)  
  
[www.cityofmentor.com](http://www.cityofmentor.com)



*"Real political issues cannot be manufactured by the leaders of political parties, and real ones cannot be evaded by political parties. The real political issues of the day declare themselves and come out of the depths of that deep which we call public opinion. The nation has a life of its own, as distinctly defined as the life of an individual."*

- James A. Garfield



## MENTOR CITY COUNCIL

Seated: (L-R) Janet A. Dowling – Councilperson at Large; Sean P. Blake – President of Council, Councilperson, Ward 1; and John A. Krueger – Vice-President of Council, Councilperson, Ward 4.

Standing: (L-R) Ray Kirchner – Councilperson at Large; Mark T. Freeman – Councilperson, Ward 3; Scott J. Marr – Councilperson at Large; and Matthew E. Donovan – Councilperson, Ward 2.

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](mailto:citycouncil@cityofmentor.com).

## MEETING INFORMATION

**Mentor City Council\***  
Mentor Municipal Center, 7:00 PM  
September 3, 17  
October 1, 15  
November 5, 19

**Board of Building & Zoning Appeals**  
Mentor Municipal Center, 6 PM  
September 10  
October 8  
November 12

**Municipal Planning Commission\***  
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM  
September 5, 26  
October 17  
November 7

**Tree Commission**  
Mentor Municipal Center, 4:30 PM  
September 11  
October 9  
November 13

**Community Arts Commission**  
Wildwood Cultural Center, 3:30 PM  
September 5  
October 3  
November 7

\*These meetings are broadcast live on Spectrum Channel 1024, U-Verse Channel 99, online at [thementorchannel.com](http://thementorchannel.com) and on our ROKU, Apple, Android, and Fire apps.



## CITY OF MENTOR IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
LAKE CTY 211 GOV SERVICES & PROGRAMS	211
AQUA OHIO WATER	(877) 987-2782
CITY HALL MAIN SWITCHBOARD	(440) 255-1100
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE	(440) 974-5755
CODE ENFORCEMENT	(440) 974-5792
DOMINION /EAST OHIO GAS	(800) 362-7557
ENGINEERING/BUILDING PERMITS	(440) 974-5785
FIRST ENERGY POWER OUTAGES	(888) 544-4877
FIRE NON-EMERGENCY	(440) 255-1212
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	(440) 350-2543
ICE ARENA	(440) 974-5730
LAKE COUNTY MAIN	(800) 899-5253
LAKE COUNTY LANDFILL	(440) 350-2644
LAKE COUNTY UTILITIES SEWER 24/7	(440) 350-3431
LAKETRAN	(888) 525-3872
MENTOR COMMUNITY REC CENTER	(440) 205-3608
MENTOR PUBLIC LIBRARY MAIN	(440) 255-8811
MENTOR SCHOOLS MAIN	(440) 255-4444
MUNICIPAL COURT	(440) 974-5744
PARKS & RECREATION	(440) 974-5720
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	(440) 974-5740
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	(440) 255-1234
PUBLIC INFORMATION	(440) 974-5794
PUBLIC WORKS PLOWING / ROAD REPAIR	(440) 974-5781
RITA REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCY	(800) 860-7482
RECREATION CENTER	(440) 205-3608
SENIOR CENTER	(440) 974-5725
WASTE MANAGEMENT	(866) 797-9018
WILDWOOD CULTURAL CENTER	(440) 974-5735



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ROKU • Fire • YouTube • iTunes • Play  
[www.thementorchannel.com](http://www.thementorchannel.com)

[www.cityofmentor.com](http://www.cityofmentor.com)



The inaugural Headlands Birding Festival will take place September 20 – 22, 2024, at Headlands Beach State Park. The event will celebrate the fall migration of bird species as they travel to their wintering grounds as far away as South America.

The Headlands / Mentor Marsh region hosts some of the highest diversity and volume of migratory birds in the state, with 352 species documented in Lake County.

Bird experts will lead field trips to some of the region's best migratory bird hotspots as well as a boating 'pelagic' on Lake Erie. There will be presentations on bird identification, migrations, and related topics.

Jim McCormac, author of 'Birds of Ohio' and renowned nature photographer will give a keynote speech at the Springbrook Gardenhouse on Friday night. Greg Miller, known for breaking the record for most bird species seen in North America in a single year, will give the keynote speech on Saturday night. Greg's record-breaking year was adapted into the film "The Big Year" starring Jack Black and Owen Wilson. Participation from a wide range of experience levels is welcomed.

Learn more at [headlandsbirdingfestival.com](http://headlandsbirdingfestival.com).

Headlands Beach Park is located at 9601 Headlands Road, Mentor, OH 44060.

## JOIN THE MENTOR COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER TODAY!



The 128,000 SF Mentor Community Recreation Center is one of the largest facilities of its kind in Northeast Ohio and includes an indoor soccer field, basketball, tennis, racquetball, and pickleball courts, golf simulators, an open concept fitness center, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, cardiovascular and weight training areas, group exercise rooms, a childcare room, an outdoor playground, and other amenities.

Members can enjoy a variety of year-round programs and activities.

Family and individual annual membership plans are available for both residents and non-residents. Memberships can be paid in full or through a payment plan.

For membership rates, terms, and additional information, visit [mentorrec.com](http://mentorrec.com) or call (440) 205-3608.

**Single-day admission** is available for \$10.00 per person (age restrictions apply).

The Mentor Community Recreation Center is located at 6000 Heisley Road.