



MENTOR

Spring 2021

SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor

INSIDE

Mentor Summer Camps

Municipal Tax Info

Senior Food Distribution

...and much more!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2021 Yard Waste Collection Program

Mentor's Yard Waste Collection Program begins April 5th. Residents can put out up to 12 units of yard waste each week on their regular collection day. A unit is a biodegradable bag or up to 32-gallon reusable container (marked YW) of grass clippings, trimmings twigs and leaves, or bundles of sticks (no more than 4 feet long and 3 inches in diameter). Questions? Call 440-974-5781.

Library Shred Day

The Mentor Public Library, in conjunction with Xpress Shredding, will offer a free shred day for Library patrons and residents. Up to 5 boxes or bags of documents per car will be accepted for secure shredding on Saturday, April 10th from 9 AM to 1 PM in the library's auxiliary parking lot on the corner of Mentor Avenue and Sharon Lee Drive.

City Tax Assistance

April 15th is the deadline to file City taxes. If you need assistance with your tax form, you may reach them online or by phone. Walk-in taxpayer assistance offices remain closed due to the pandemic. Reach them online at ritaohio.com or by calling 800-860-RITA.

Lake County Special Collections

Lake County offers residents an opportunity to recycle items not accepted at the landfill. Upcoming collections include:

April 24 – Electronics Collection (no TVs) – 8 AM to 2 PM

May 1 – Scrap Tire Collection (6 tires without rims free/others for a fee) – 8 AM to 2 PM

May 8 – Television Collection (small fee for some items) – 8 AM to 2 PM

All collections are at the Lake County Fairgrounds, 1301 Mentor Avenue. The collections are for Lake County residents only. For details go to lakecountyohio.gov/utilities or call 440-350-2908.

Garage Sales

A permit is not required for a garage sale, but the city does restrict where signs can be placed. Garage sale signs are permitted only on the property where the sale is being held. They may not be posted at the street corner, on tree lawns, or utility poles. Illegally posted signs may be confiscated by city staff without prior notice.

Power Outages

Call the Illuminating Company's Automated Outage Reporting Line at (888) 544-4877. Doing so will allow the Illuminating Company to track outages and restore service. Please do NOT call the Emergency Dispatchers; the use of 9-1-1 is only to report a crime in progress, or a fire, or if an ambulance is needed.

LET'S GO NATIVE

In 2019, the state of Ohio passed a bill designating April as "Ohio Native Plant Month," to increase public awareness of Ohio's native plants and the benefits they provide to pollinators, Ohio's economy, and the health of the environment.

By incorporating native plants in our urban landscape, we can help maintain biodiversity and sustain our ecosystem.

But what exactly is a native plant? They are plants that were here before European settlement of North America in 1565. These plants evolved in different regions and are a part of each region's complex ecosystem. Removing native plants from our landscape disrupts that ecosystem and affects birds, insects, animals, and other plant species.

As the continent was settled, plants were transported from around the world as food sources or for ornamental purposes. Many of those plants became invasive due to their easy spread and not serving as a food source for local wildlife.

One intrusive non-native species that's prevalent here in Mentor is the Garlic Mustard plant. Garlic Mustard was introduced to North America for its herbal and medicinal qualities. The incredibly hearty plant can self-pollinate, produces many seeds, and grows in shade or full sun. Because it is non-native, the insects and

diseases that control the plant's population aren't present, so it spreads unabated. The only way to control the spread is by using an herbicide or pulling it up and disposing it in a plastic bag (composting will sow seeds and continue the spread).

By using native plants in our landscape, we reduce the threat of invasive plants to Mentor's unique ecosystem while supporting pollinators, birds, insects and other wildlife. It is a delicate balance that needs to be preserved. A major benefit to using a native plant is that they are usually easier to grow. Many are drought tolerant and need less care and maintenance.

In the Mentor area we are fortunate to have organizations dedicated to the promotion and preservation of native plants.

The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio's mission is to promote the study, appreciation, and conservation, of Ohio's native plants and plant communities.

The Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity (or LEAP) is a consortium of organizations, including government agencies, universities, research centers and conservation organizations to enhance the biodiversity of our habitats and ecosystems. The Partnership works to identify, protect and restore ecosystems and habitats in the region. The City of Mentor is a member.

Individuals can join the Native Plant Society while non-profits, universities, agencies and park districts can become members of LEAP. Both organizations offer valuable educational opportunities to learn about native plants. You can find out about becoming a member and learn about the importance of native plants, how to landscape using native plants, and more, by visiting the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio's website at nativeplantsocietyneo.squarespace.com.

Every year, LEAP designates native plants of the year. In 2020 those included Purple-flowering Raspberry, Scarlet Bee Balm, and the Wafer Ash tree.

Fact sheets detailing hardiness zones, bloom time and uses is available at www.leapbio.org. The site also includes a Native Plants Nurseries Map making it easy to find and buy plants native to our region.

Often when we purchase a home, we inherit the landscaping it came with. Incorporating native plants into your landscape and replacing invasive or nonnative plants can be done over a period of years. Start small and replace or plant with natives based on the growing conditions that are found to your yard (soil type, shade or sun). Native plants enhance and create a lovely landscape and support our region's unique ecosystem.

FRESH IS BEST

The Mentor Farmers Market returns Fridays from 2 to 6 PM at Eleanor B. Garfield Park from June 18 through September 24, 2021.

You'll find locally grown produce, baked goods and more! Join us at the market and enjoy an afternoon under century-old shade trees while you shop for delicious fresh-picked fruits and vegetables, pies, plant starts, honey, and other farm-related products.

Fantastic Fridays will take place the last Friday of each month (June 25, July 31, August 27 and September 24). In addition to the wonderful

selection of produce and fresh items, Arts and Crafts vendors will be on hand with a wide variety of handmade items. It's fantastic and so much fun.

The City of Mentor is looking for local growers, bakers, and artisans, who'd like to participate. Vendor applications are available online at mentorfarmersmarket.com or by calling 440-974-5735.

Eleanor B. Garfield Park is located at 7967 Mentor Avenue, near the Great Lakes Mall.



FRIDAYS 2:00 - 6:00 PM

June 18 - September 24, 2021

Eleanor B Garfield Park
7967 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060

www.mentorfarmersmarket.com

SUMMER FUN STARTS AT A MENTOR SUMMER CAMP!

The City of Mentor is offering fun and excitement this summer for kids at our Mentor Summer Camps. We offer camps that appeal to every age and interest; from traditional day camps for younger campers, to sports camps and discovery camps that provide physical activity and a chance to improve sports skills or cultivate interests in science, art, theater and even cooking.

Mentor Parks & Recreation is dedicated to providing an outstanding, fun and safe camp environment and experience for all those who participate. We rely on a well-trained staff of adults and college students who have a passion for working with young people.

- Staff members are primarily adults and college students with a few high school students assisting
- All staff members are CPR and first aid certified
- Staff are knowledgeable and well-trained
- All staff members go through criminal background check
- Emergency and safety procedures are reviewed on a regular basis
- Staff members are available to answer your questions at any time
- We maintain low staff to camper ratios to provide the best experience possible

Visit cityofmentor.com and download the **City of Mentor Summer Camp Guide** to find out about all the camps offered. Camp sizes are limited and may fill quickly. Registration for all camps close one week prior to the start of the camp.

You may register for camps online at cityofmentor.com, by phone at 440-974-5720, in person at the Mentor Recreation Office located on the second floor of the Mentor Municipal Center (8500 Civic Center Blvd.) or by mail. Make sure your kids have a memorable summer and sign up for a Mentor Summer Camp today!

SCAN ME



MUNICIPAL TAX INFO

The 2021 Tax Season is upon us and the deadline for filing Mentor Municipal Tax forms or Exemption forms is Thursday, April 15, 2021. At this time, the RITA office located in the Mentor Municipal Center is closed due to the pandemic.

Visit the RITA website at www.ritaohio.com to file your taxes, make a payment, check your refund status, view your payment history or send RITA a secure email. They offer online access to print and download tax forms.

If you would like RITA to prepare your return for you, print an Individual Municipal Tax Drop-Off Sheet (available on their website), attach your tax documents and drop it off at select RITA locations, including the Mentor Municipal Center Lobby. The drop-off service is a contact-free option to traditional in-person assistance.

Taxpayers with questions can call **1-800-860-7482**.

Self-service phone options such as making a payment, checking refunds and estimates are available around the clock or you may speak with an agent during business hours, weekdays 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Due to continued 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/calendar for the latest information.



WILDWOOD SPRING PLANT & FLOWER SALE

The Wildwood Garden Club will host their annual Spring Plant and Flower Sale on Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 10 AM to Noon at Wildwood Cultural Center, located at 7645 Little Mountain Road.

Shop for reasonably priced plants and flowers to accent your flower gardens, naturalize your landscape, or jumpstart your vegetable garden. Plants are cultivated in Club member's gardens, and include flowering bushes, herbs, perennials, shrubs, and even tomato plants.

New to gardening? Not sure what or where to plant? Wildwood Garden Club members will be on hand to answer questions and offer advice about creating and maintaining a beautiful garden. The Spring Plant and Flower Sale will be held rain or shine.

BECOME A BUCKEYE TRAIL VOLUNTEER

Since 1959, volunteers have been building and maintaining Ohio's Buckeye Trail. Since the first 20 miles were dedicated over 60 years ago, the hiking trail has grown to 1,444 miles and spans the state, including a portion right here in Mentor.

Overseeing this growth has been the Buckeye Trail Association, a nonprofit organization made up of a strong body of members and volunteers whose mission is to maintain and promote the trail.

Residents can support the trail with a membership in the Association, or by volunteering their time and skills to maintain the massive trail that winds through the state.

Considered one of America's longest and most diverse trails, the path is

marked by Blue Blazes. In order to maintain such a large trail system, portions of the state are divided into chapters and sections - each headed by local volunteers. Maintenance tasks range from the routine like repainting the blue blaze markers, to the more extreme including removing fallen trees and improving walkways. No matter what your skill level or ability, the Buckeye Trail Association can find a job for every volunteer.

Your help will enable the association to maintain and improve the trail for future generations while preserving one of Ohio's best ideas - the Buckeye Trail.

Learn more at www.buckeyetrail.org.



DOES YOUR TREE NEED A TRIM?

Property owners are required to maintain trees in tree lawn area (right of way). Trees must be trimmed so that pedestrians and motorists can pass without obstruction. Branches that hang over the sidewalk should be kept at seven feet above the sidewalk, and 14 feet above the roadway. Branches also should not interfere with visibility of street or traffic signs.

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, "...spring is the ideal time to inspect your trees and shrubs for winter damage. It is much easier to see the structure of deciduous plants without their leaves, so pruning can be accomplished quickly and easily. Most trees are still in a state of dormancy and will bleed less sap, and insects and diseases are less active."

They do recommend waiting to prune any flowering tree or shrub until after they bloom, including dogwoods, flowering cherry, peach, plum and crabapple as well as maples, birches, walnuts, and elms. Experts recommend you wait until summer to prune these varieties.



Property owners are responsible for cutting down any dead trees or removing dead branches that would cause a hazard to a dwelling, sidewalk/pedestrians, roadways or to an adjacent property. Please note: If the dead tree is on a tree lawn tree, you are required to obtain a permit from Public Works for approval to remove it. A permit is also required to plant trees in the right-of-way or on the tree lawn.

If you have questions about trees in the right of way or would like to request a planting or removal permit, call the Public Works Department at 440-974-5781.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

MARCH – MAY 2021

ROADS

Hopkins Road Resurfacing

This project will provide full depth asphalt repairs and an asphalt overlay on Hopkins Road between Market Street and Mentor Avenue.

Lake Overlook Drive Reconstruction Project

This project will provide full reconstruction of Lake Overlook Drive from Corduroy Road to Forest Road. Storm sewer work will begin in the spring with construction anticipated to be complete by September 2021.

2021 Street Resurfacing Program

This project will provide full depth concrete repairs or provide an asphalt overlay on portions of included streets. Streets to be included this year are Becker Avenue, Brichford Road, Carolyn Drive, Case Avenue, Chase Drive, Demshar Drive, Edson Street, Farmingdale Lane, Garfield Road, Greenwood Drive, Headlands Road, Jenther Drive, Meadowbrook Drive, Milford Lane, Murray Avenue, Newton Drive, Old Heisley Road, Tea Rose Drive, W. Heisley Road and Wyant Drive. Resurfacing and curb repairs of Garden Lane and Maiden Lane will also occur as part of this project. Construction will begin in the spring and should be complete in August 2021.

STORM DRAINAGE

Stockbridge and Dartmoor Storm Sewer Improvements Project

This project will remove approximately 1,740 lineal feet of existing 12" storm sewer on Stockbridge Road and Dartmoor Road and replace it with new 24 & 30-inch storm sewer. The project will also install approximately 760 lineal feet of new 30 & 36-inch storm sewer on Mentor Ave. to an existing box culvert that will serve as the storm sewer outfall. The storm sewer improvements will reduce the incidence of flooding that occurs in the low points at the northern end of each road during heavy rain events. The project is expected to begin mid-February 2021. The project completion date is currently scheduled for May 28, 2021.

PARKS

Mentor Lagoons Infrastructure Improvements

This project will install approximately 548 linear feet of new seawall bulkhead along Dock D in the marina. The project will continue where last year's bulkhead improvement project left off and will include the construction of a concrete walkway along the water's edge. Project completion is expected by May 1, 2021.

President's Park Pathway

This project will construct approximately 2,530 feet of new asphalt pathway that is 10' wide from Ohio St., looping around the open space area between Horvitz Pond and Buchanan Ct., and provide a 10' wide path down to the pond itself. Additionally, approximately 465 feet of existing asphalt pathway will be replaced between Buchanan Ct. and the new pathway being constructed. The project is expected to begin this spring with a completion date of June 25, 2021.

Mentor Lagoons Revetment Extension

This project will install approximately 377 lineal feet of stone revetment wall to extend the length of the existing wall along the shoreline of Lake Erie. Erosion of the shoreline from Lake Erie has caused substantial loss of land. Installation of the stone revetment wall will significantly reduce the ability of the lake to continue erosion behind it. The project is expected to start this spring and be complete this summer.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Mentor Regional Response Facility

This project is currently under construction at Fire Station Number 4 on Reynolds Rd. The Regional Response Facility building will provide a new storage building of appropriate size for Public Safety specialized equipment and supplies. It will also serve as a distribution point to coordinate state, local and federal efforts in large scale hazard responses. The anticipated completion date is August, 2021.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Over the past several months, Lake County officials have worked hard to put an effective and efficient vaccination distribution plan in place.

Phase 1A and 1B vaccinations are already underway for the most vulnerable members of our community as well as first responders, healthcare workers, and other groups. Vaccinations are taking place through select area healthcare providers and pharmacies as well as three centralized points of distribution (PODs) which can manage over 1,500 vaccinations per day.

If you currently qualify to receive the vaccine, you can register to be placed on a scheduling list at www.lcghd.org.

Right now, supply of the vaccine is limited but manufacturers have indicated that production will increase in the coming months and it will soon be available to the general public. In the meantime, let's continue to maintain our social distance, wash our hands, and mask up when in public.

We are almost there, Mentor.

SENIOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Each month, the Cleveland Food Bank partners with the Mentor Senior Center to offer curbside produce and dairy distribution for limited income seniors.

The prepacked box usually includes milk, cheese, butter and seasonal fruits and vegetables like apples, broccoli or citrus.

The curbside/contactless distribution is safe and efficient. All volunteers use gloves, face masks, practice social distancing and load the items into the trunk of your car. No reservations are needed, but please bring a photo ID, as all participants will be registered on site. Participants must certify annual gross household income is at or below \$28,727 for a household of 1 and \$38,893 for a household of 2. Income is self-declared; verification is not required. First come, first served.

Distributions occur on the third Monday of each month, from 10:00 – 11:00 AM at the Munson Road entrance of the Mentor Senior Center (8484 Munson Road). Upcoming scheduled dates include March 15, April 19 and May 17.



SPRINGTIME CARE TIPS FOR WATER QUALITY

This past year has been challenging for everyone dealing with the pandemic, and people are anxious to get outside and work in the yard or go for a walk now that the weather is shaping up. Consider following some of the following tips to help protect the quality of our watershed.

- Collect and properly dispose of blown stray trash the winter winds may have left behind. Litter can end up in sewer lines that can lead to a blockage and/or possible flooding in neighborhoods.
- If you're taking your dog along for a walk, be sure to bring dog waste bags for cleanup and disposal. Pet waste contains bacteria and nutrients that are harmful to streams and Lake Erie. When it rains, these pollutants wash directly into the storm sewers and eventually into Lake Erie, untreated.

- Mulch your yard this spring to add free nitrogen to your yard instead of paying for fertilizers. If you fertilize, do so carefully. Too much fertilizer or if it's applied at the wrong time can easily wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains. Avoid applying fertilizer close to waterways. These nutrients can lead to an increase in the growth of algae that depletes the oxygen in the water needed by fish and other organisms to survive. Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) can produce toxins, making the water undrinkable.
- Capture the discharge from your downspouts with a rain garden, or rain barrel; or redirect any downspouts you have that currently spill onto sidewalks or a driveway into your lawn so the storm water soaks into the ground instead of running off.

For more information, contact the City of Mentor Building and Engineering Department at (440) 255-1100.



City of Mentor
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Mentor, Ohio 44060

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MENTOR

SPRING 2021 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



"Man cannot live by bread alone;
he must have peanut butter."

-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
March 2, 16
April 6, 20
May 4, 18

Board of Building & Zoning Appeals ±
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
March 9
April 13
May 11

Municipal Planning Commission* ±
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
March 4, 25
April 15
May 6, 27

Tree Commission ±
Mentor Maintenance Facility, 4 PM
March 10
April 14
May 12

Community Arts Commission ±
Wildwood Cultural Center, 3:30 PM
March 4
April 1
May 6

*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.

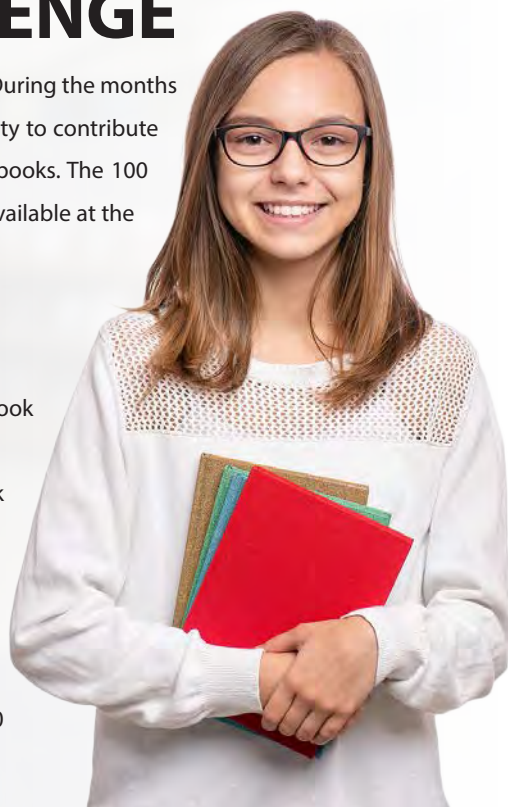
MPL 100 BOOK CHALLENGE

When does reading become art? This spring at the Mentor Public Library! During the months of April and May, Kids in sixth grade and younger will have the opportunity to contribute to a unique mural at the Library's Main Branch by reading their favorite books. The 100 Book Challenge was created to showcase the wide variety of kid's books available at the Library.

Here's what to do if you'd like to participate:

1. Come to MPL's Main Branch and pick out a favorite book to read.
2. Tell the Children's Librarians that you want to participate in the 100 Book Challenge and what book you picked to read.
3. When you're finished reading the book, come back to the library. Ask the librarian for the cover of that book and place it in the library's 100 Book Mural that will be displayed in the Children's Area.
4. Kids can read as many books as they want as part of the challenge.

Be sure to stop in at the Children's Area on the second floor of the Mentor Public Library's Main Branch (8215 Mentor Avenue) and check out the 100 Book Challenge mural.



WATCH IT YOUR WAY

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.

Watch it your way on Spectrum 1024, AT&T U-Verse 99.9, YouTube, or by downloading the free Mentor Channel app available for ROKU, Apple and Android devices.

Download it today at thementorchannel.com.

NEW REVERSE 911 ALERT SYSTEM

Implemented in January, Lake County's new reverse 911 system will help get critical information to Lake County residents in a timely manner.

The new system will send alerts via voice, text or email and it works with cell phones and landlines.

Additional new features allow Lake County residents to sign up to receive weather warning alerts including Lake Effect Snow Warnings, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and more. as well as specific notifications from Mentor or other surrounding communities.

If you had previously registered to receive alerts via phone, your information has been transferred to the new system. If your phone number has changed or you would like to add text alerts, weather and community alerts, you will need to register again.

Registration takes less than 60 seconds, so visit reverse911signup.info right now to make sure you get the message in the event of an emergency.

