



MENTOR

Spring 2023

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor



INSIDE

THE MENTOR GATEWAY

TRAFFIC SAFETY

MENTOR MEMORIAL

PROMENADE

...and much more!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2022 Yard Waste Collection Program

Mentor's Yard Waste Collection Program begins April 3rd. 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). For more information visit cityofmentor.com and select the Waste Removal and Recycling page under the Resident Info tab.

City Tax Assistance

April 18th is the deadline to file City taxes. If you need assistance with your tax form, you may reach the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) online or by phone. Walk-in taxpayer assistance offices **remain closed at this time**. Help is available online at ritaohio.com or by calling 800-860-RITA.

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 Outage

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.

Street Tree Requirements

Just a reminder that any trees located in the public right-of-way (tree lawn) must be trimmed so they don't create an obstruction for pedestrians and motorists. Branches that hang over the sidewalk or right-of-way should be kept at 7 feet above a sidewalk, and 14 feet above a public road.

Mentor Rental Inspection Program

The City's rental inspection program ensures that rental properties are safe, habitable, and assure that properties are maintained in compliance with Mentor's Property Maintenance Codes. Learn more about the Rental Inspection Program at cityofmentor.com.

Mentor Safety Assurance Programs

A variety of programs are available for Mentor residents who may require additional care during an emergency. Learn about them at cityofmentor.com/resident-info/safety-assurance-programs/

MENTOR LAGOONS IN BLOOM

After a cold and dreary Winter, one of the best places in northeast Ohio to celebrate the arrival of Spring is at the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve.

Encompassing a total of 450 acres, the property, which includes the adjacent Mentor Lagoons Marina, was purchased 25 years ago by the City of Mentor in order to save it from a proposed private development.

The Nature Preserve includes one and a half miles of Lake Erie shoreline, and over three miles of hiking trails. These trails, which vary in terrain, encircle the preserve and provide an excellent view of the Spring blossoms that will begin to emerge with the warming temperatures.

Signs are posted throughout the Nature Preserve to guide visitors throughout the park and trail maps are also available at the Marina office, the trail head, and online at cityofmentor.com.

Springtime is a great time to explore all the different land and water habitats that the Nature Preserve has to offer. From the many

trails, guests can view the shores of Lake Erie, rare and endangered dune plants, one of the last riverine marshes in the area and also the largest mature oak bluff in Northeast Ohio.

All of these diverse areas offer many opportunities for viewing all kinds of sprouting and flowering plants as well as encountering wildlife, especially waterfowl and other birds. In fact, the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve has been named an Important Bird Area (IBA). Over 260 species of birds have been recorded, making the Preserve one of top birding locations in the region.

The warming weather of Spring also sets the stage for the return of migratory birds to the area, making bird-watching a popular activity throughout April and May.

One of the newest ways to experience the park will be with the Mentor Lagoons Boardwalk which is currently under construction.

This ADA-accessible, 442-foot boardwalk will be connected to the main trail head and will lead to a 25-foot-wide observation deck.

This new construction, funded in part from a grant received from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), provides enhanced access for residents and guests to be able to appreciate the unique natural environment that we have right here in Mentor.

The parking area has also been expanded and reconfigured to accommodate additional visitors.

Another great way to experience all the wonderful features that the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve has to offer is from the water.

Canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards can be rented by the hour and rentals run from May to September.

The Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve is located at 8365 Harbor Drive and is open from dawn to dusk. Various guided nature walks are available each Spring from the City's Natural Resource Department.

More information can be found at mentorlagoons.com.

MCRC UPDATE

The City of Mentor is pleased to announce that the new Mentor Community Recreation Center is scheduled to open this spring.

The former Heisley Racquet & Fitness Club property was purchased by the city in December 2021. Since then, the 50-year old facility has been undergoing a transformative renovation in order to bring it to 21st century standards including the addition of all new equipment.

Originally scheduled to open in the fall, the renovation project was beset by delays attributed to labor and material shortages that have affected every sector of our economy.

We think you'll agree that it will be worth the wait. Members will continue to enjoy popular programs and activities including weight training, basketball, racquetball, pickleball, soccer, and tennis.

New additions include two new golf simulators, an open concept fitness center, two new basketball courts, and a playground.

MEMBERSHIPS

Family and individual annual membership plans, as well as day-passes, will be available for residents and non-residents.

JOB FAIR

The Mentor Recreation Department will also be hosting a job fair at the facility to fill full-time, part-time, and seasonal positions. Enjoy competitive wages, great benefits, and a fun work environment. The city of Mentor is an equal opportunity employer.

Membership and job opportunity information will be posted soon on cityofmentor.com.



MENTOR FIRE EMT ACADEMY

It would surprise many to learn that fire departments are experiencing a labor shortage. As little as ten years ago, a full-time firefighter position would have attracted hundreds of candidates. Today, it may only attract a few dozen.

The Mentor Fire Department is considered by many to be among the most attractive places to work in Ohio, and that is no accident.

The department is among the best-trained and best-equipped in the region. But they know that they have to stay ahead of the curve to ensure that public

safety remains Mentor's top priority.

With the support of city council and administration, the department partnered with Mentor Schools in 2020 to develop a program to recruit the next generation of safety forces.

The Mentor Fire EMT Academy combines classroom and laboratory activities to provide students with a foundation in a career as a firefighter, EMT, or EMS dispatcher.

EMT, or EMS dispatcher.

The one-year program is available to seniors through the Lake Shore Compact.

The academy's inaugural class graduated in June 2022 and one student is



already engaged in new-hire training with the Mentor Fire Department.

Mentor recognizes the importance of fostering attractive career opportunities as well as retaining talent right here in our community. The Mentor Fire EMT Academy is an ideal example of how to accomplish that goal.



SNAP TO READ
EXPANDED ARTICLE

FLOWERS, SHOWERS & SURPRISE ENCOUNTERS

Spring is the time for flowers, showers, and surprise encounters. With the change in season, wildlife is in search of easy shelter and food sources for their newborns.

For a raccoon, a tool shed may seem like an excellent place to raise a family.

Skunks, opossums, chipmunks, groundhogs, and mice are also commonly seen rooting around human structures. Oftentimes, these critters find shelter in and around sheds, garages,

attics, decks, car covers and even in houses!

Surprise run-ins with wildlife can result in harm to humans, pets, the critters, and property. Avoid such encounters by watching pets around sunrise and sunset. No one wants a dog that smells like skunk!

Despite occasional issues, most wildlife provides benefits to our ecosystem. Skunks eat grubs and ground pests, while opossums eat ticks.

Living in Mentor, run-ins with wildlife are almost guaranteed. We must be good stewards of our land by reducing attractants, such as food and shelter, that lure in nuisance animals.

To help prevent furry unwanted guests, make sure to seal all entrances and gaps in structures with chicken wire. Deterrents such as motion-detecting lights can be useful. Avoid feeding wildlife intentionally and secure garbage cans and compost bins. Trimming low hanging tree limbs can help prevent critters on the roof or in the attic.

For animals that have made it in the house, contact a professional wildlife trapper to ensure the safety of your family and the animal. For more information, browse the tab "Nuisance Wildlife" on the City of Mentor Natural Resources page.

To learn more about how we can be better stewards for wildlife, attend one of the many events provided by the Natural Resources Division found on cityofmentor.com.



SPRING PLANTING

This spring, consider planting native plants in your garden to enhance biodiversity and attract birds and pollinators. It is important to understand our garden type when picking out species.

Do you have dry sunny areas or maybe shaded spots? Your answer will change which native species you should plant.

These highly beneficial species are adaptive to most conditions and also provide resources to local wildlife at varying times of the year - something to keep in mind when purchasing plants. Diversity is key, so get creative when designing your landscapes!

SMALL TREES / SHRUBS

Flowering dogwood
Arrowwood viburnum
Winterberry

GRASSES

Side oats grama
Little blue stem

FORBES

Wild red columbine
Hairy Mountain mint



SEASONAL JOBS ...APPLY NOW!

The City of Mentor ramps up the fun during the summer – but we can't do it alone! Every season, we hire hundreds of part-time workers to help in our pools, parks, and camps.

Our seasonal positions are critical for the summer because they specifically affect operations and programming that we are able to offer the residents of Mentor.

Teens and adults looking for a summer job are encouraged to apply.

Available positions include:

- LIFEGUARDS
- WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTORS
- SUMMER CAMP STAFF
- MAINTENANCE AIDES
- CASHIERS
- WAIT STAFF (21+)
- SPECIAL EVENT ATTENDANTS

The City of Mentor is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For complete job descriptions and applications visit the Employment Opportunities page at cityofmentor.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1

Adult Flashlight Dash Egg Hunt
Black Brook Golf Course
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Residents: \$20 / Nonresident: \$25
Registration required.

April 22

Earth Day Celebration
Wildwood Cultural Center
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Free.

April 23

Golf Clinic & Open House
Black Brook Golf Course
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Free but registration required. (440) 951-0010.

April 29

Senior Center Garage Sale
Mentor Senior Center
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Free for shoppers. Sellers call to register (440) 974-5725.

May 13

Wildwood Garden Club Plant Sale
Wildwood Cultural Center
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

May 19

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

May 30

Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
Mentor Cemetery 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Visit cityofmentor.com/calendar for the latest information.

TRAFFIC SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

Mentor city streets are patrolled by Mentor Police officers 24/7, but with over 250 miles of roadway, it's clear that officers can't be everywhere at once.

Residents are reminded that traffic safety starts with you. Be mindful of existing traffic conditions, drive defensively, and try to anticipate potential hazards. But the best thing you can do is to simply observe the posted speed limit. Even just a few miles over the speed limit can make a huge difference in braking distance, and potential tragedy.

Consider this: In good conditions, it takes the average driver 85 feet to come to a complete stop when

traveling at 25 MPH. At 35 MPH, that distance increases to 136 feet, and at 45 MPH, it increases to 196 feet.

In many areas of the city, that's the distance between 4 driveways.

Speed limits are calculated and posted for a reason. Mentor Police monitor speeders in the interest of public safety, particularly in targeted enforcement areas including school zones and neighborhoods.

In order to reinforce driver behavior in these most sensitive speed control areas, the Police Department has undertaken a more rigorous approach to controlling speeding

in our neighborhoods. Residents can expect more frequent traffic enforcement closer to home.

If you are caught speeding, you may be ticketed, and depending on the infraction, you can lose your license as well.

Take your time and drive safely. The few minutes you save could save a life instead.



THE MENTOR GATEWAY

Those looking to access construction permits & related documents, schedule building inspections, submit applications, and other city services, can now do so through the Mentor Gateway.

This new online resource center provides users with 24/7 access from the comfort of their home or office.

The system is user-friendly with easy-to-follow directions. Advanced digital document management, secure online payment, and automatic email notifications, enable you to track the status of your project from submission to decision with convenience and confidence. First-time user links and how-to guides can introduce you to the various online resources available.

The Mentor Gateway is powered by OpenGov's Viewpoint Cloud, which is utilized by hundreds of communities across the country. Existing OpenGov users can use their current account.

In addition to construction related queries, residents are also able to directly file property maintenance complaints. Upon completing the proper form online, the City's Code Enforcement Division will investigate for code compliance.

Whether you are completing a home improvement project, starting up a business, registering as a contractor, or requesting a variance with the Board of Building and Zoning Appeals, the Mentor Gateway provides the applications necessary to initiate the city's review. And that's just the beginning, additional online services will be added in the future.

For additional information or for assistance, contact:

Engineering & Building Department

building@cityofmentor.com

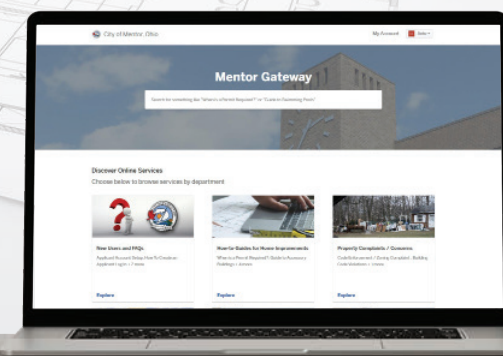
(440) 974-5785

Planning, Development, & Code Enforcement

planning@cityofmentor.com

(440) 974-5740

Access the system now at thementorgateway.com.



SMART RECYCLING

Recyclable items are collected every other week for Mentor residents with curbside service through Waste Management.

The easiest way to know if an item is recyclable is to look for the recycling logo. Items which can be recycled include plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and containers, food and beverage cans and cartons, paper which is free of glue, glitter, and/or crayons, and flattened cardboard and paperboard. No pizza boxes please as the grease and cheese can become caught in the machinery. Please remember to rinse your plastic, glass, cans, and cartons. Clean off any residual food before placing it in the container.

WISHCYCLING

Wishcycling is putting something in the recycling bin and hoping it will be recycled...and it can actually be harmful because it can contaminate the waste stream. This can include items like plastic bags, styrofoam, greasy pizza boxes, garden hoses, and even shredded paper!

The wrong item in the recycling bin can seem like a trivial detail but it really can mean that an entire batch ends up in a landfill instead of being re-purposed. Help us ensure that these materials see a second life by recycling smart...but if in doubt, throw it out.

UPCYCLING

You can always drop off old clothes and household items at area Salvation Army or Goodwill locations where they have the opportunity to be reused and kept out of the landfill.

LARGER BINS NOW AVAILABLE

Under the new contract agreement between the City of Mentor and Waste Management, residents that participate in the curbside waste and recycling collection program may now opt for a larger recycling container for the same cost as the smaller, current bin. This container is approximately the same size as the garbage container and will still be collected every other week. Residents interested in switching to a larger recycling container should contact Waste Management directly at (866) 797-9018.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE CURBSIDE SERVICE?

Condominium and apartment dwellers can drop off recyclable items at the Lake County Landfill & Recycling Center located at 2039 Blase Nemeth Road in Painesville Twp. Hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. All vehicles must be inspected for hazardous materials and check-in at the scale house. For additional information, call (440) 350-2644.

For more information, visit cityofmentor.com and click on the Waste Removal & Recycling tab under the Resident Info menu tab.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

MARCH – MAY 2023

ROADS

ANNUAL CITY STREET REPAIR PROGRAM

This project will provide full depth concrete repairs or an asphalt overlay on portions of the following streets: Ashton Court, Aster Drive, Baythorne Drive, Belgio Lane, Briarwood Drive, Carpenter Drive, Chapelway Drive, Churchill Square, Hamilton Drive, Hayes Boulevard, Lucretia Court, Maiden Lane, Meldon Drive, Pepperwood Court, Presley Avenue, Prospect Street, Quail Point Lane, Robinwood Drive, Saddle Lane, Sea Pines, Sheltered Cove, St James Drive and Zinnia Court. Construction will begin in the spring and should be complete by August 2023. Additional work will occur on streets within Mentor on the Lake.

CENTER STREET BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT

The Ohio Department of Transportation will be replacing the SR 615 (Center Street) bridge deck over the railroad tracks. The project will require the detour of southbound traffic for a majority of the two-year project while the bridge deck is replaced one half at a time. Motorists can expect periodic lane closure. The posted detour will utilize SR2, SR 306, and Mentor Avenue. Construction is anticipated to begin this spring with a late 2024 completion.

SIDEWALK PROGRAM

Sidewalk replacement work will take place on 31 streets in Ward 4 of the City of Mentor. The streets are Angelina Cr., Birdie Ln., Bluejay Ln., Cardinal Dr., Clopton Ct., Eaton Cr., E. Heisley Rd., Goldfinch Ct., Hathaway Dr., Heather Hill Dr., Ivan Pl., Jovanna Ct., Lakeshore Blvd., Liberio Ct., Lorrach Dr., Mallard Ct., Megan Ct., Oriole Ct., Orvos Ct., Oxford Glen Dr., Pekin Ct., Primavera Dr., Snell Dr., St. Peter's Way, Tanager Ct., Thomas Ct., Trillium Ln., Welk Ct., Wilkenson Cr., Wixford Ln., and Wren Ct. Construction will begin this spring and should be complete by the end of August this year.

MENTOR MARINA

MARINA ROADWAY MAINTENANCE

This project will rehabilitate selected roadways within the Mentor Lagoons Marina with a new double chip seal surface. Work is anticipated to begin this spring with completion by the end of June.

MENTOR MARINA PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT

This project will construct approximately 430 feet of ADA accessible boardwalk along with an ADA accessible observation deck along the bank of the Mentor Marsh for visitors and nature enthusiasts to enjoy year-round. The boardwalk will be connected to the existing trail system providing an accessible loop. The project is currently under construction and is expected to be complete by April 2023.

MENTOR MARINA BULKHEAD REPLACEMENT

This project will replace approximately 456 lineal feet of steel bulkhead along Dock D. The project will also include the construction of an 8-foot concrete walk adjacent to where the bulkhead is being replaced. Project completion is scheduled for April 1, 2023.

MENTOR MARINA FLOATING DOCKS

25-double slip floating docks will be constructed in the Mentor Marina between Docks B & C. The floating docks will include water and electric service. Four separate jet ski docks that will hold up to 8 jet skis will also be constructed with the project. The project is expected to begin in March and be complete by April this year.

STAY UP TO DATE



Watch the Mentor Channel

Spectrum 1024 • U-Verse 99
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YouTube • thementorchannel.com



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WELCOME!

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

On May 30, 1868, Congressman James A. Garfield delivered the first Decoration Day address at Arlington National Cemetery. The holiday has since become known as Memorial Day.



MENTOR CITY COUNCIL

Seated: (L-R) Janet A. Dowling - Councilperson At-Large; Matthew E. Donovan - President of Council, Councilperson, Ward 2; and Scott J. Marn - Vice-President of Council, Councilperson-at-Large.

Standing: (L-R) Ray Kirchner - Councilperson at-Large; Mark T. Freeman - Councilperson, Ward 3; Sean P. Blake - Councilperson, Ward 1; and 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, 7:00 PM
March 7, 21
April 4, 18
May 2, 16

Board of Building & Zoning Appeals

Mentor Municipal Center, 7:00 PM
March 14
April 11
May 9

Municipal Planning Commission*

Mentor Municipal Center, 7:00 PM
March 2, 23
April 13
May 4, 25

Tree Commission

Mentor Municipal Center, 4:30 PM
March 8
April 12
May 10

Community Arts Commission

Wildwood Cultural Center, 3:30 PM
March 2
April 6
May 4

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

NEW MENTOR MEMORIAL PROMENADE

Progress is being made on a project at the Mentor Municipal Cemetery intended to better honor those who have served in the armed forces from Mentor and Lake County.

The creation of the "Memorial Promenade" will align the existing Civil War Monument, the all-branch memorial formerly at the south end of the cemetery, and the historic 1879 structure that will be opened periodically as a reflection room. The structures will be tied together with decorative pavers forming a continuous walkway lined with bollard lighting and landscaping.

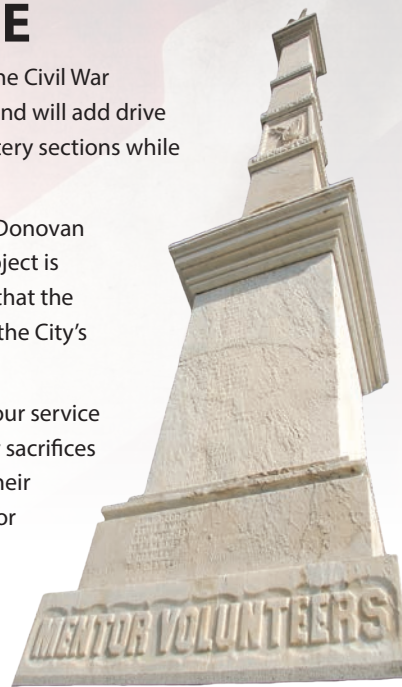
"We want to create a memorial that is not just a place, but more of an experience, where those who served our country and the families of those who were lost in service can remember their loved ones in a setting that is representative of our community's appreciation," commented Mentor City Manager Kenneth Filipiak.

The project includes renovation of the Civil War monument and the 1879 structure and will add drive lanes to maintain access to all cemetery sections while isolating the promenade.

Mentor City Council President Matt Donovan indicated that completion of the project is planned by next Memorial Day and that the promenade will serve as the site for the City's future Memorial Day services.

"We can never do enough to thank our service members, past and present, for their sacrifices and those of their families, and for their contributions on behalf of the Mentor community toward the cause of freedom," said Donovan.

The Mentor Municipal Cemetery is located at 6881 Hopkins Road.



GO GREEN, MENTOR

As we watch the snow melt and the temperature slowly go up, we get that itch for spring cleaning inside and spring cleanup outside. When it comes to protecting water quality, think green!

Fertilizers and household chemicals such as paints, oils, and cleaners can potentially cause water pollution if used improperly or if stored outside during a rain event. As we use or dispose of chemicals, we need to be careful not to harm Lake Erie by way of storm water runoff to local streams and waterways.

As an alternative, consider using natural cleaning products and fertilizers and take advantage of the free disposal offered to all Lake County residents at the Lake County Fairgrounds. Learn more at www.lakecountyohio.gov/utilities/special-collections/

You can save money, protect yourself and protect your watershed!

A CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE



50,000 people a year visit the emergency room due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Mentor Fire Department urges you to install a carbon monoxide alarm in your home.

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide. It can cause sudden illness and even death in closed, unventilated spaces. Symptoms

can include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

Get help quickly if your family shows signs.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is preventable and can be discovered early by installing an alarm. Follow important tips.

- Change the batteries every six months.
- Have your furnace and water heater serviced every year.
- Keep vents and flues clear.
- Never leave the car running in the garage.
- Don't run generators inside and keep them away from open windows.
- Never cook with propane or charcoal in closed spaces.

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, call 911 right away.

Protect your family and install your carbon monoxide alarm today.