



MENTOR

SPRING 2025 SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor



PRESERVE & PROTECT

The Mentor Lagoons Marina and Nature Preserve is the crown jewel of Mentor's 1,200 acre parks system. With over 200,000 visitors each year, it's among the most popular of our parks serving boaters, hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts from across the region.

The property has had an interesting past and has nearly been developed several times (see inside). Fortunately, fate has shown favor and resulted in its current public use. It has been nearly 30-years since Mentor voters approved action to purchase the property through eminent domain – a first in the state of Ohio. Since then, numerous improvements have been made to protect and preserve the city's investment.

The Marina is home to over 500 seasonal boaters. The docks were originally built in the 1920s when the property was to become the "Venice of the North". Six years ago, the city initiated a program which will replace approximately 600-feet of the century-old structure annually. With over 21,000 feet of bulkhead, the project is expected to take approximately 30 more years to complete.

Over the past decade, historically high water levels have taken their toll on our shoreline as well. Last year alone, over 40 feet were lost along some portions of the shore including much of the beach as well as several sets of stairs.

Over the past decade, over 1,200 linear feet of revetment have been installed to protect the marina harbor. Today, the city is engaged with a nationally renowned consulting firm to develop a shoreline master plan for the entirety of the property. Efforts are also being made to secure federal funding to help pay for the project.

Thanks to the work of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and other partners, biodiversity has bounced back in a big way at the Mentor Marsh. The result has been ever-increasing numbers of birding enthusiasts who flock to the marsh edge during the spring and fall migrations.

In 2023, an ADA accessible boardwalk and viewing platform was installed at the marsh edge to enhance the experience for all. Plans are underway for the construction of a 95-foot tall observation tower as well.

And, that's not all; a brand-new building is currently under construction and should be ready by spring for concessions, outdoor seating at the water's edge, as well as kayak, canoe, paddle board, and pedal boat rental.

The investment made by the city three decades ago has certainly paid off. Now, we aim to continue to protect and improve the property so that generations of residents and their guests can continue to enjoy the natural splendor of our shoreline.

THIS ISSUE

MUNICIPAL TAX INFO

A PEEK INTO THE PAST

MENTOR GATEWAY

...and more!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2025 Yard Waste Program

Mentor's Yard Waste Collection Program begins April 7th. 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.

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 911 unless you are experiencing an emergency.

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.

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.

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/

FRESH IS BEST AT THE FARMERS MARKET

The Mentor Farmers Market returns Fridays from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Eleanor B. Garfield Park from June 13 through September 12, 2025.

Established in 2003 as the Old Village Market, the Mentor Farmers Market has grown to over 30 vendors per week.

Last year alone, over 24,000 shoppers enjoyed an afternoon under century-old shade trees while supporting local farmers and artisans. Indulge in variety of fresh, locally-grown produce or satisfy your sweet tooth with delicious pies and baked goods or local honey.

Early Bird Market : May 16 – Start the season early with this special market featuring spring produce and early harvests.

Fantastic Fridays : June 27, July 25 and August 29 – In addition to farm-fresh delights, the market experience is elevated with talented arts and crafts vendors, live demonstrations, music and more.

Harvest Market : October 3 – Celebrate the bounty of autumn with our Harvest Market, showcasing fall produce and seasonal items.

Eleanor B. Garfield Park is located at 7967 Mentor Avenue. Learn more at mentorfarmersmarket.com.



A PEEK INTO THE PAST

Mentor has changed a lot since it was originally settled in 1797.

Did you know that...

Mentor's first settler, Charles Parker, was a member of Moses Cleaveland's survey team. He built his cabin on the edge of the Mentor marsh in 1797 near what is today the intersection of Hopkins Rd. & Lakeshore Blvd.

The Salvation Army established a farm colony on the SE corner of Reynolds Rd. & Hodgson Rd. for impoverished families in 1898. The colony lasted for about a decade and then became a summer camp for disadvantaged youth until the 1960s.

In addition to its current use as a medical building, the property on the NE corner of Mentor Ave. & Center St. has been redeveloped several times since the early 1800s. A drug store, a mill, a library, a post office, and an inn & tavern twice stood at that location.

The original library building was moved from that corner in 1960 to the corner of Center St. & Nowlen St. and is now home to a confectionary shop.

The Matchworks Building on Station St. was originally built in 1868 for the short-lived Hart Bolt & Nut Company. Soon after, the Mentor Knitting Mills would take its place followed by the Lake Shore Chemical Co., the Columbia Match Company, and other concerns. Today it is home to nearly 30 small businesses.

The original Mentor cemetery was located on the northwest corner of Mentor Ave. & Center St. The graves were relocated in 1854 to make way for a school.

The Great Lakes Mall opened for business in 1961. It was the first mall built by the Debartolo family and the largest in the nation at the time.



The Mentor Lagoons Marina & Nature Preserve property has had a number of near-potential uses including a steelyard, a shipping dock, a housing development, a boatel, and a harness racing track.

Learn more about the history of Mentor at cityofmentor.com/mentor-history/



THE STATE OF OUR CITY

Mentor City Manager Kenneth J. Filipiak addressed an audience at Mentor Schools Paradigm during the Mentor Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting on February 25, 2025, regarding the current state of the city.

Watch the "2025 Mentor State of the City" address to learn more about what was accomplished and what's in store for Mentor!

View the entire presentation by clicking the QR code or visiting cityofmentor.com/2025-state-of-the-city/



MUNICIPAL TAX INFO

The 2025 Tax Season is upon us and the deadline for filing Mentor Municipal Tax forms or Exemption forms is Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

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.

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.



JOIN US AT THE REC!

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 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.



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 workformentor.com.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events and activities are posted to the City of Mentor website as that information becomes available.

March 19 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Coffee with the Cops

Mentor Senior Center. Free event.

April 26 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Mentor Senior Center Garage Sale

Mentor Senior Center

April 27 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Earth Day Celebration

Springbrook Gardens. Free event.

May 11

Moms Play Free at Black Brook

Black Brook Golf Course. Cart not included.

For additional information or to register, visit cityofmentor.com.

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.

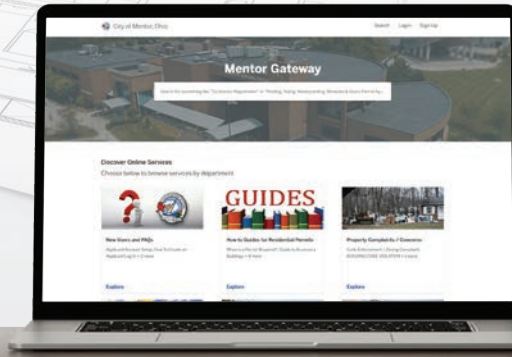
Whether you are completing a home improvement project, starting up a business, registering as a contractor, or requesting a variance with the Board of Building and Zoning Appeals, the Mentor Gateway provides the applications necessary to initiate the city's review. And that's just the beginning, additional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



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

MARCH – MAY 2025

2025 ROAD PROGRAM This annual program will resurface or repair approximately 18 asphalt and 12 concrete neighborhood streets throughout the city. In 2025, the city will invest roughly \$1.8 million in resurfacing and repairing local roads.

2025 SIDEWALK PROGRAM This annual program will replace deficient concrete sidewalk slabs in Ward 4 (Zones D) through an assessment process that were not replaced by property owners as a result of 2024 inspections by the city. This zone consisted of 12.8 miles of sidewalk. The sidewalk inspections found roughly 1,800 slabs of sidewalk to be deficient and in need of repair or replacement. The remainder of the 2024 construction portion of the sidewalk program will also be completed in 2025 in Ward 1 (Zones D and E).

MENTOR LAGOONS MARINA BULKHEAD REPLACEMENT PHASE 6 This project will repair and replace approximately 552 feet of bulkhead in the marina along E Dock with steel sheet piling and concrete walk at a cost of around \$500,000.

BELLFLOWER / MEADOWBROOK DITCH RESTORATION This project will consist of clearing out fallen trees and debris as well as removing sediment that has built up in the ditch and the connecting storm sewer, and restoring the ditch to its original design capacity. The total length of the ditch to be restored is 4,310 linear feet. The total investment in this project will be \$462,191.

FACILITIES PAVING AND CONCRETE REPAIR This project consists of resurfacing Blackbrook Golf Course parking Lot, a portion of roads within Mentor Cemetery, Wildwood Cultural Center parking lot, Mentor Community Recreation Center rear lot, and replacing the concrete driveway and parking lot at Fire Station #1. The total investment in these projects is \$940,000.

REMOVE...RAKE...RECYCLE

Several wastes can emerge from the ground, sidewalks and driveways once the snow melts and the busy season begins. Do not let it all wash away with the next rainfall.

Keep the runoff clean by following the steps below:

Sweep up the left over salt, dirt, litter, and pet waste that was left behind and properly dispose of it in the trash.

Lightly rake the lawn to remove compacted grass and snow mold that can form from excess moisture.

Consider getting a soil test done to prevent over application of

nutrients as well as save time and money. Contact the OSU Cooperative Extension Office <https://lake.osu.edu/> for more information.

If there is yard waste, leaves, and branches in your yard, start a compost pile with the first grass clippings of the season. Any clippings thereafter can be left on the lawn as a natural fertilizer.

Use your waste pickup. Never dump pet waste at the banks of streams or in a storm sewer. Pick up pet waste and properly dispose of it in the trash. The bacteria and possible parasites can be harmful to humans and critters living in the water.

Remember, storm water does not flow to a wastewater treatment plant like our household wastewater does.

Anything flowing into the storm sewers and streams in our neighborhoods will wash directly to Lake Erie untreated so help keep our waterways clean!

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

WE ARE VIGILANT ABOUT VAPING

As vaping continues to gain in popularity, especially among young people, many question whether it's a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes. At face value, e-cigarettes seem less harmful due to the lack of smoke, but scientific data reveals otherwise.

A typical cigarette burns out after 10 to 12 puffs. A vape pen, on the other hand, allows up to 50 puffs per cartridge. Vape pens deliver the same highly addictive drug – nicotine – along with harmful toxins directly into the lungs. These substances can cause long-term damage to the respiratory system, cardiovascular health, and even brain development in young users.

The ability to vape indoors or in places where smoking is prohibited further increases usage, often without the immediate awareness of those around.

Vaping devices are often disguised as everyday items including usb drives, pens, smart watches, hoodie strings, and phone cases.

Vape liquid packages also often disguised as well with some resembling popular candies and even juice boxes! The colorful packaging and sweet flavors mask



the danger, making it all too easy for kids to get hooked.

And, with the legalization of marijuana products in Ohio last year, it's easy to see why the Mentor Police Department takes underage vaping seriously. Kids are naturally curious and vape devices offer a convenient and concealed means of experimentation which can lead some down the path of substance abuse.

Thanks to a grant from the Lake County General Health District, the Mentor Police Department, in partnership with the Lake County Safe Communities Coalition, brought ThinkFast Interactive Vaping to Mentor High School this past fall. This engaging, game show-style educational program was designed to teach teens about the dangers of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products

and ensure that those important lessons go beyond the classroom.

While we're not here to scare, we are here to protect.

We urge everyone to educate themselves and their loved ones about the risks of vaping.



SPONSOR A MENTOR EVENT

Each year, the City of Mentor hosts dozens of events which attract over 150,000 guests. Our goal is simple: We want to provide an opportunity for friends and neighbors to enjoy shared experiences and bond as a community.

Whether it's the boisterous energy of a Mentor Rocks concert or the relaxed air of an art reception at the Wildwood Cultural Center, our experienced Parks & Recreation team is committed to making every event memorable.

Most events are hosted free of charge and would not be possible without the support of our corporate sponsors. Visit cityofmentor.com/events and download the 2025 Mentor Event Sponsorship Packet to find out how your organization can be a part of this summer's excitement!





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Mentor, Ohio 44060

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WELCOME!

Are you new to Mentor?
Visit cityofmentor.com
and click on New Resident
Resources under the
Resident Info tab.

Published by the City of Mentor
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"If the superior beings of the universe would look down on the world to find the most interesting objects, it would be the unfinished, unformed character of young men and young women."

- 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. Marn – 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.

MEETING INFORMATION

Mentor City Council*
Mentor Municipal Center, 7:00 PM
March 4, 18
April 1, 15
May 6, 20

Board of Building & Zoning Appeals
Mentor Municipal Center, 7:00 PM
March 11
April 8
May 13

Municipal Planning Commission*
Mentor Municipal Center, 7:00 PM
March 20
April 10
May 1, 22

Tree Commission
Mentor Municipal Center, 4:30 PM
March 12
April 9
May 14

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

*These meetings are broadcast live on Spectrum Channel 1024, U-Verse Channel 99, online at thementorchannel.com and on the Mentor Channel ROKU, Google, Apple, and Fire app.



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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www.cityofmentor.com

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

All are invited to attend the city of Mentor's annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 26, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Mentor Municipal Cemetery.

The ceremony will be preceded by a solemn parade which will step-off at 9:30 AM from Memorial Middle School located at 8979 Mentor Avenue. It will proceed north to the cemetery, arriving at the Mentor Memorial Promenade.

Members of city council and administration, county and state elected officials, and other veterans and civic groups will be in attendance.

Mentor Municipal Cemetery is located at 6881 Hopkins Road.



SPRING CLEAN UP FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

As warm weather approaches, we'll soon find ourselves performing a variety of projects around our homes. The Mentor Fire Department would like you to follow some safety guidelines assuring a safe and happy spring.

When performing deep cleaning around the home, don't forget your dryer vent. Lint buildup can easily ignite, so make sure the vent is properly protected from birds and other animals looking for a new summer home.

Cleaning up yard debris around the perimeter of your home can help prevent the spread of brush fires as well as infestation by mice and other critters.

When performing home repairs, be sure to use protective equipment such as safety goggles, dust masks, and gloves.

If using a contractor, make sure they are reputable and certified by the city to perform work. Unprofessional home repairs are a common cause of residential fires!

Finally, follow proper safety precautions when using or storing flammable liquids. Gasoline for yard equipment should be stored in a proper container free of damage and with spout covers in place. Oil-based products can result in spontaneous combustion if rags and brushes are not cleaned, stored, or disposed of properly. Never discard oil-soaked rags into a garbage can. They should be cleaned or allowed to hang dry before doing so.

These are just a few tips to follow to have a safe and happy spring and that can ultimately affect the quality of your summer as well!

