



MENTOR

WINTER 2021 SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

In 1963, the residents of Mentor Village and Mentor Township voted to create the City of Mentor.

The first two decades of the City's existence was a busy time with a tremendous amount of growth and activity taking place. City Council and Administration worked hard to develop infrastructure and encourage economic investment, while also paying heed to quality-of-life amenities like parks and recreation facilities which would make Mentor an attractive place to live.

In fact, from 1976 to 1982, the City purchased what would become Garfield Park, Wildwood Cultural Center, the first Senior Center building, and began construction on our city center - the Civic Center complex which consists of the Mentor Municipal Center, Police Department, Fire Station 5, Municipal Court, and Civic Center Park. Civic Center opened, and the tennis courts, ballfields, and Mentor Civic Arena soon followed.

Just two of the original seven Councilpersons remain from that influential group - James Struna and Lynne Mazeika. In a recent interview both reminisced about the construction of the Civic Center complex and count it among their proudest achievements. According to Mazeika, there was doubt about the feasibility of the Ice Arena due to cost and whether the facility would generate enough revenue to support the operation. But, after much discussion the decision to

build the facility narrowly passed and it was unveiled to the public during the It's Better in Mentor festival in September, 1982.

"I'm very proud. There was a tie vote on the Ice Arena, and I broke the tie to have us build that...it's been a tremendous asset," Mazeika recalled.

The late Gene Elkin was hired by the City as the first facility manager and is credited with establishing many of the policies and programs that remain today. Elkin realized that for the arena to achieve success, they had to establish programs and events that would bring both residents and those living in the surrounding communities back to skate again and again.

A comprehensive lesson program, a youth hockey program, and aggressive marketing made the Arena a success.

In a 1997 interview shortly before he retired, Elkin shared his memories of opening day when he had just one employee that was hired only the week before.

"I had no help", he said with a laugh, "People were lined up out the door to come in and see the facility and skate. It was wild, I had no skate guards and as people came in - if they looked like they could skate - I put a jacket on them and told them to guard."

Things have gone smoother since the excitement of that opening day and use of the facility grew enough to require expansion. In 1984, a small Studio Rink

was built and in 1998, a second regulation rink was constructed to meet the needs of Mentor's growing skating program.

Current Manager, Bill Furman, attributes the success of the arena to the many skaters and their families who have embraced the sport.

"For the past forty years, this arena has been home for generations of recreational and competitive skaters. The lessons learned, the accomplishments, and the friendships made, have been countless," said Furman, "We are privileged to have been a second home for so many people over the years and are looking forward to the next forty."

A FREE 40th Anniversary kickoff party will be held on Mentor Skate Day on Sunday, January 2, 2022, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The public is invited to join the celebration with an open skate session, as well as performances from the Intensity Synchronized Skating Team, Mentor Figure Skating Club, and members of Learn to Skate programs. There will be giveaways, prizes, and a DJ. A special ceremony with Mentor City Council and other special guests will take place at 1:15 PM followed by cake.

Skate rental is also free, but availability may be limited. All children ten and under must wear a helmet. A limited number of helmets are available at the facility, so children are encouraged to bring their own bike helmet.

The Mentor Ice Arena is located at 8600 Munson Road.

INSIDE

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CHRISTMAS TREE DROP-OFF SITES
After Christmas, recycle your live tree at a Mentor Park. Drop-off locations include:

- Edward R. Walsh Park**
7221 Bellflower Road
- Eleanor B. Garfield Park**
7967 Mentor Avenue
- Donald E. Krueger Park**
7556 Chillicothe Road
- Morton Park**
9325 Rosemary Lane

Be sure to remove all decorations and plastic bags. The drop-off locations will be open through January 31st.

YARD WASTE UPDATE
The 2021 Yard Waste Collection Program ends the week of December 13th. Residents with service through Waste Management can still set out 25 bags or bundles of yard waste through that week to be collected on your regular trash day. Curbside yard waste collection will resume in April 2022.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS
Mentor City Offices will be closed on Friday December 24th in observance of Christmas. City offices will also be closed on Friday, December 31st in observance of New Year's Day.

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION
If a holiday falls on a weekday, service will be conducted the day after your regular pick-up day. If the holiday falls on a weekend, your service will NOT be delayed. There will be NO DELAY in trash collection for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR
Residents and business owners are urged to assist the Fire Department by keeping clear access to their fire hydrants during heavy snowfalls. Shovel around your hydrant and be ready if an emergency occurs.

NO PARKING DURING SNOW EMERGENCY
A Snow Emergency is defined as that time when there has been an accumulation of snow, sleet, hail, or ice on any streets or roads. No parking is permitted on any city street during a Snow Emergency to allow plows to more easily clear the streets. A parking ban is automatically in effect when a snowstorm occurs. Reminders are posted on City of Mentor's Facebook and Twitter.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holidays are a time for families and friends to gather together, but it's also a time of increased risk of fire. It may surprise you to learn that over 33% of decoration fires are started by candles and nearly 33% of Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

The Mentor Fire Department offers a few simple tips to ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

- Choose holiday decorations that are flame resistant or retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other potentially flammable items. Keep children and pets away from lit candles. Extinguish candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. Replace any string lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands you

can connect. Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so cords don't get damaged. Turn off all string lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source - fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights. Add water to the tree stand daily. Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it's dry. Dried-out trees should not be left in the home or garage.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop. Keep pot handles turned to the side or the back so children cannot pull them down.

We hope you have a festive and safe holiday season.



'TIS THE SEASON

Christmas is the time to gather with family and friends and the City of Mentor is offering the perfect opportunities to make this season special. From our Holiday Tree Lighting to tours of the beautifully decorated Wildwood Cultural Center, we invite you join us for some special holiday events!

Join us on Tuesday, December 7th, at Mentor's annual **Community Tree Lighting Ceremony** as the Mentor Municipal Center Complex comes alight with holiday cheer. Santa will arrive in his horse drawn carriage and will be available for photos while choirs from Mentor Schools sing. Refreshments will be served. The event will take place from 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Mentor Municipal Center, 8500 Civic Center Boulevard.



Free Holiday Skate –

Following the Community Tree Lighting ceremony, head over to the Mentor Ice Arena for a Free Holiday Skate from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Make memories at the coolest place in town. Located at 8600 Munson Road.

Plan a visit to **Wildwood Cultural Center** for a guided historic tour of the festively decorated Manor House, a cup of hot chocolate and freshly baked cookies!

Tours are held throughout the month of December and highlights include a miniature Santa's Workshop in the Oliver Wing and the two O-scale train display provided by the Ohio Toy Train Society. Wildwood is located at 7649 Little Mountain Road. The tour is free, but space is limited. Registration is required. Call 440-974-5735 for dates and availability.

For additional information on these and other events, visit cityofmentor.com/calendar.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PORCH PIRATES

Although consumers are always encouraged to shop local when they can, online sales are expected to be at or near all-time highs again this holiday season. With this increase in purchases and deliveries, experts expect to see an increase in porch piracy as well...but we're fighting back.

The Mentor Police Department has formed a special undercover detail to combat porch pirates. Officers will be operating throughout city neighborhoods utilizing a variety of tools including unmarked vehicles, surveillance equipment, and the use of bait boxes that contain GPS tracking units.

Porch piracy is a crime of opportunity. Thieves will often follow a delivery truck or simply cruise around an area looking for an attractive target. And, they are looking for high value items that they can flip quickly.

Mentor Police are doing what they can, but residents are reminded that taking precautionary steps to protect themselves is the first line of defense. Track your online orders, remove them from your porch as soon as they are delivered, and invest in security cameras. Finally, be a good neighbor and keep an eye out for each other. If you see a suspicious car, or a theft in progress, jot down the license plate and contact the police. A description of a suspect or their vehicle, a partial license plate, stolen property, and other factors can lead to arrest. Those convicted of misdemeanor theft in the City of Mentor can face up to six-months in jail, even for a first offense.

If you think you have been a victim of theft, contact the Mentor Police Department at (440) 255-1234 to report it.

HERE COMES THE SNOW!

We want to remind everyone that it is the responsibility of the property owner or occupant to keep sidewalks in front of their property clear of ice, snow, or other nuisances. This helps protect pedestrians and school children who walk to school or a bus stop. In addition, remember that pushing snow or ice onto a public sidewalk or roadway is prohibited.

SHOVEL SMART

Many of us hire a plow company to clear the snow from the driveway while others still do it the old-fashioned way with a shovel. While shoveling is great exercise, it can also pose serious health risks like muscle strain, back issues and heart attacks.

Remember to shovel smart by stretching beforehand, dressing appropriately, and taking breaks when necessary. If you experience persistent shortness of breath, chest pain, weakness or excessive sweating – stop and get help immediately.

If you have elderly neighbors consider lending a helping hand to keep our sidewalks clear.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining approximately 500 lane miles of roadway, utilizing 15 – 20 plows for a routine snowfall, and as many as 40 trucks during a major snow event.

During a snowstorm, plows focus on the main roads to benefit the greatest number of motorists. Once the main roads are cleared and salted, side streets and cul-de-sacs are plowed.

During the winter months, motorists should give themselves extra time to reach their destination and slow down when snow is falling.

The Mentor Public Works Department takes pride in keeping our roads clear of ice and snow, please help them get the job done by slowing down and giving them room to operate.

Here's some more tips to get ready for winter driving:

- Do a pre-winter check-up on your car. Check

the battery, wipers, and tires, to make sure they are winter road ready.

- Keep a winter emergency kit in your trunk with extra warm clothing, a flashlight, water, blankets that you can use if you get stranded
- Fill up your gas tank so you'll be prepared if you are on the road longer than expected.

If you are following a Mentor snowplow, please remember to keep a safe distance behind them. If you must pass, please use extreme caution. Blowing snow can cause reduced visibility and usually the unplowed road in front of the plow is worse than what is behind it.

Let's all stay safe this winter season!



CHILL OUT RETURNS

Chase away those mid-winter blues at Mentor Chill Out – a winterfest-style event at Civic Center Park on Saturday, January 22nd from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

All day activities include wagon rides, snowman building contests, ice sculpting demonstrations, popsicle eating contests, and ice skating on an outdoor skating rink. A DJ will be on hand all day to warm you up spinning your favorite cool tunes.

Be sure to come hungry and take part in the Chili Cook Off or partake in some gourmet fare from some favorite area food trucks. And, those 21+ can slide over to visit our whiskey tasting bar, offering a selection of bourbons, ryes, and vodkas, to experience.

Festivities will be capped off by a fabulous fireworks show at 5:45 PM.

Mentor Chill Out will go on, snow or shine! Admission and most activities are free so be sure to join us! Civic Center Park is located at 8600 Munson Road. Learn more at mentorchillout.com.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

December 10 | 2- 3:30 PM
Winter Wanderers Nature Hike
Mentor Lagoons

December 14 | 6:30 – 8 PM
Presentation: The Making of "It's a Wonderful Life": An American Classic
Mentor Public Library
Register: mentorpl.org

January 2 | 1 - 4 PM
Ice Arena 40th Kickoff Party
Mentor Ice Arena

January 29 | 9 AM
Lake County Chili Open
Black Brook Golf Course

February 4 | 7 – 9 PM
Little Princess Valentine's Dance
Mentor Senior Center

February 5 | 1:30 – 3:30 PM
Olympic Themed Open Skate
Mentor Ice Arena

February 19 | 6:30 PM
Family Feud (21+)
Mentor Senior Center

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



IT'S SNOW MUCH FUN!

Golfers – mark calendars for the Lake County Chili Open on January 29th! Here's your chance to play in the biggest golf event this winter with nine holes of golf followed by a warm bowl of chili, hot dogs, and hot chocolate. It's snow much fun! If the course is not covered with snow, we will play the normal yardage so bring your whole set of clubs. Sponsored by the City of Mentor with proceeds benefiting the United Way of Lake County. \$20 entry fee. For more information or to register, call Mentor Recreation at (440) 974-5720. Must register by January 26.

HELP FOR LAKE COUNTY SENIORS

According to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, one in five people in their service area is food insecure. In Lake County alone, the United Way reports that Lifeline's help referral hotline received 9,223 inquiries for food assistance in 2020. Inquiries for food rank first among all inquiries received.

LAKE COUNTY MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The Lake County Mobile Food Pantry was established during the pandemic to combat food insecurity by providing a box of fresh produce to qualifying, limited-income Lake County Seniors. Distribution occurs Tuesdays from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Laketrans Park-n-Ride lot located at 8650 Market Street in Mentor and based on the ongoing need, will continue to operate through at least January 25, 2022.

Registration is required, and 100 spots are available per week. Lake County seniors, 60 years and older, may register by calling Lifeline at 2-1-1 or the Lake County Council on Aging at (440) 205-8111.



Participants must certify annual gross household income is at or below \$25,759 for a household of 1 and \$34,839 for a household of 2. Income is self-declared; verification is not required. Pick-up is contactless. Volunteers place the box of produce in the recipient's car trunk.

Free transportation to the Lake County Mobile Food Pantry is available through Laketrans' Dial-a-Ride service. Call Laketrans Customer Service at (440) 354-6100 to arrange transportation to the produce pick-up. Reservations can be made 1-12 business days in advance.

This program is made possible by a partnership between Avery Dennison, Lake County Council on Aging, Board of Lake County Commissioners Senior Services, Lifeline, RSVP of Lake County, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

MENTOR SENIOR CENTER

The Mentor Senior Center and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank also partner to offer monthly food distribution to limited-

income seniors in our area. Packages includes 90% produce such as apples, cabbage, greens, sweet potatoes, onions, carrots, oranges, and melons. The remaining 10% is usually bread, dairy, or frozen products.



Additional packaged foods such as pasta and rice are included when available.

Preregistration is not required 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 \$25,759 for a household of 1 and \$34,839 for a household of 2. Income is self-declared; verification is not required. First come, first served.

Upcoming distribution dates are as follows:

December 20 – 10 to 11 AM

January 24 – 10 to 11 AM

February 28 – 10 to 11 AM

Even if you receive food from other distributions, you may still come to the Senior Center if you meet the qualifications.

Call the Mentor Senior Center at 440-974-5725 with any questions.

MELTING SNOW IS STORMWATER TOO!

Winter snow puts a white coat over every surface that makes for beautiful photos and fun activities. But, as it melts, it can impact the environment. Standing and flowing water on the ground can pick up all kinds of debris. Pollutants such as dog waste, litter, and especially deicing salts and chemicals on the ground, find their way into nearby streams.

Follow these tips for managing your property for the winter stormwater season:

- When piling your snow after shoveling and plowing, choose locations where the snow will have the most opportunity to infiltrate instead of becoming stormwater runoff. Pile your snow in areas where you don't usually have ponding in the spring rains, on relatively flat areas, and away from sensitive areas like streams, ponds, and your private septic system if you have one.
- Use deicing chemicals and salts sparingly. Use only what you need to make your walkways and driveways safe. Again, avoid those sensitive areas near waterways.
- Help keep the nearest storm drains clean. Do not pile snow on

storm drains and make sure your plow service is not piling snow over the drains too.

- If possible wait until the spring for outdoor construction projects when you can establish new vegetation that will reduce soil loss and sediment runoff.
- Pickup your dog's waste that was left in the snow. Don't wait for a snow melt or spring to come around.
- Clear your downspouts, allowing for melting roof snow to flow and not collect at your foundation.
- Plan to improve balding or eroding areas on your property this spring. Plants like native grasses and meadow plants or native trees and shrubs can slow and stop erosion.

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



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

continued

POWER OUTAGE - WHO DO I CALL?

If your power goes out call the Illuminating Company's Automated Outage Reporting Line at (888) 544-4877. Doing so will allow the Illuminating Company to restore service that much quicker. Please do NOT call 911. Only call 911 to report a crime in progress, or a fire, or if an ambulance is needed.

JOIN THE MENTOR SENIOR CENTER

Become a member of the Mentor Senior Center to participate in programs and use the facility. The cost of membership for Mentor residents 55+ is just \$7.00 and \$10.00 for nonresidents. The membership period is January through December. There is no cost for a Silver Sneakers Membership. Learn more at mentorseniorcenter.com.

ELECTRIC UTILITY CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

There are many programs available to Ohio customers who are having difficulty paying their electric utility bills. First Energy has information on different programs which you may qualify for. Contact The Illuminating Company at (800) 589-3101 or visit cityofmentor.com and click on the Resident Info menu for details.

SENIOR SERVICES

The Lake County Council on Aging of Ohio offers a wide array of programs for those 60 and older including information and referral, support services, nutrition services, case management, in-home safety, homemaker services, and much more. For additional information, call (440) 205-8111 or visit lcco.org.

JUST DIAL 211

Lifeline is your resource for health and human services available in Mentor. Just call 211 or visit lclifeline.org to find out about available programs.

RECYCLE RIGHT

One non-recyclable item can spoil an entire batch of otherwise good materials. Visit the Waste Removal & Recycling page on cityofmentor.com to review and download Single Stream Recycling Guidelines.

NO ICE IS SAFE ICE

Mentor has 241 ponds, Lake Erie, and the Lagoons. They are beautiful in the winter but if you walk on the ice, one misstep can be the difference between enjoying the view and fighting for your life. Please stay off the ice this winter.

HELP PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS

Dispose of FOGs (fats, oils and greases) by allowing them cool and then placing in the trash instead of pouring down your sink. Hardened FOG can build up, causing unwanted clogs. Contact the Lake County Department of Utilities at (440) 350-2645 or visit lakecountyohio.gov/utilities for more info.

WATCH IT YOUR WAY

The Mentor Channel is available on Spectrum 1024, AT&T U-Verse 99.9, as well as the Mentor Channel App for ROKU, Apple, and Android. We've also stream live to YouTube so you can watch it your way 24/7. Visit thementorchannel.com for details and download links.





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Mentor, Ohio 44060

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WELCOME!

Are you new to Mentor?
Visit the NEW RESIDENT
RESOURCES section on our
website for helpful links and
more.

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/cityofmentor



"Things don't turn up in this world until
somebody turns them up."

-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 - details available at cityofmentor.com. 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
December 7
January 4 (at 7:30 PM), 18
February 1, 15

Municipal Planning Commission*
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
December 9
January 20
February 10

Board of Building & Zoning Appeals
Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
December 14
January 11
February 8

Tree Commission
Mentor Municipal Center, 4 PM
December 8
January 12
February 9

Community Arts Commission
Wildwood Cultural Center, 3 PM
December 2
January 6
February 3

*These meetings are broadcast live on Spectrum Channel 1024, U-Verse Channel 99, online at thementorchannel.com, YouTube, and our 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 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
SENIOR CENTER	(440) 974-5725
WASTE MANAGEMENT	(866) 797-9018
WILDWOOD CULTURAL CENTER	(440) 974-5735



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THINK SUMMER...THINK CAMP!



Yes, we know that summer is still two seasons away BUT registration for Mentor Summer Camps begins on Tuesday, February 1st for residents and Friday, February 4th, for nonresidents.

Space is limited and camps fill quickly and so we encourage you to register early.

Mentor Recreation offers traditional day camps, sport camps, and discovery camps where kids can swim, skate, take cool field trips, improve basketball skills, learn to fence, make crafts, draw, paint, cook and just have fun! Camps are managed by a well-trained staff of adults and college students who have a passion for working with young people.

Look for the Mentor Summer Camp Guide in your mailbox in mid-January, and then register your child for some summer fun in 2022!

SHOPPING LOCAL MAKES SENSE

With the holidays nearly upon us, we're all checking gifts off our lists and looking for the best deals we can find. We'd like to remind you to please shop local when you can. Why? Because 68 cents of every dollar spent local, stays local. And, with the impact that the COVID pandemic has had on the global economy, it's more important than ever to support our local businesses.

It's no secret that shopping and dining is a big deal in the City of Mentor. Over 325 retailers and 175 eateries generate over \$1.6 billion in annual sales and employ over 9,500 people in our city.

The direct impact is evident, but the indirect benefit is that income tax dollars generated through these jobs help pay for safety forces, road construction, parks and facilities, senior programs, and many of the other things that make Mentor such a great place to live.

Municipal income taxes account for over 66% of the City's annual budget which is why shopping local makes so much sense. Although, you may save a few bucks when ordering gifts online, you support the local economy and help enhance the quality of life for everyone in our community every single time you purchase from a Mentor business.

Visit shopintmentor.com and download a copy of the Mentor Visitor Guide which contains information on shopping and dining options in our City.

