



# MENTOR

WINTER 2022 SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor



## TAKE A WINTER HIKE

Experience the Mentor park trails in winter. The sounds your footsteps make as you crunch through the snow. The sunlight as it is filtered through the bare trees. The hush of a winter afternoon broken occasionally by the call of a bird. Look for the tracks of the animals that live in the park. Feel the bite of the wind sting your cheeks.

Winter is a special time to explore Mentor's 1,200 acres of parkland and our surrounding natural areas. From easy paved walkways to challenging trails, Mentor city parks offer plenty of opportunities for both the casual walker and avid hiker to connect with nature in the colder months.

If you are looking for a quick, less strenuous winter walk visit Edward R. Walsh Park or Springbrook Gardens Park - both of which feature paved walking paths. Walsh's 1.5 mile walkway skirts the park's perimeter, winding through a short, wooded area and then past the fishing pond. The park is perfect for a family walk. Not only do the snow-covered soccer fields offer plenty of space to frolic, but the playground area is open all year long and offers a chance to expend excess energy from being cooped up inside.

Similarly, Springbrook Gardens Park, features 1.7 miles of paved walking paths including an all-access boardwalk that offers views

of the large pond. The former nursery land has been transformed to a prairie brimming with native plants. The restored stream bed provides a greater habitat for birds and wildlife. Keep your eyes open for a great blue heron and other birds and animals which have repopulated the area.

More challenging terrain can be found at the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve. Over three miles of hiking trails encircle the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve providing four distinctly different vistas: a view of the Mentor Lagoons Marina, Mentor Marsh, upland forest, and Lake Erie shoreline.

Vere off the main trail and catch the Marsh Rim trail that leads through upland forest along the Mentor Marsh's western edge. Without the leaves on the trees, hikers have an expansive view of the marsh. The mile-long trail connects with the Overlook trail with views and access to Lake Erie.

The Zimmerman Trail can be accessed from Morton Community Park. This trail is part of the Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve and follows the north edge of the Mentor Marsh. The two-mile hike (four miles round trip) leads hikers through an upland and swamp forest. The trail crosses streams and shallow ravines leading to a small parking area on Headlands Road. Along the way, are plenty

of opportunities to encounter wildlife and enjoy views of the marsh.

Mentor's park trails as well as the Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve trails are open dawn-to-dusk all year long. We invite you to get outdoors and experience the beauty of season with a winter hike.

Learn more about outdoor activity opportunities in our community at [cityofmentor.com/parks](http://cityofmentor.com/parks).



### Seasons of the Marsh Guided Hike (Ages 10+)

Join a City Naturalist for this winter hike at the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve on Thursday, December 15th from 3:30 - 5 PM.

Explore the western edge of the Mentor Marsh and look for signs of wildlife. Participation is free, but please register online at [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com) or by calling (440) 974-5720.

## 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.

## INSIDE

*Shopping Local Makes Sense*

*Protect Yourself from Porch Pirates*

*We're Hiring*

*...and more!*

## 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

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

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Mentor City Offices will be closed on Monday December 26th in observance of Christmas. City offices will also be closed on Monday, January 2nd 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.

### MENTOR RECREATION DEPT. MOVE

This winter, Mentor Recreation Department offices will be moving to the new Mentor Community Recreation Center located at 6000 Heisley Road. Their phone number remains the same - (440) 974-5720.

### GARFIELD NHS WINTER HOURS

During the winter, free guided tours of the Garfield home are offered on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 10 AM and 5 PM. Reservations are only required for groups of six or more. All others are invited to come in during open hours and be placed on the next available tour. Winter hours will be in effect through Sunday, April 30, 2023.

### EMERGENCY ALERTS

The Lake County WENS system provides weather warnings, traffic alerts as well as information specific to the Mentor community. Register for emergency landline, cell phone, text or email alerts at [reverse911signup.info](http://reverse911signup.info).

### 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. Snow Emergency alerts are posted on [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com), Facebook, and Twitter.



# WINTER REMINDERS

A Northeast Ohio winter is sure to bring snow and ice. On average, over 45 inches of snow falls in our city every winter. Keeping up with the falling snow is a team effort. The City of Mentor Public Works Department works hard to keep Mentor roads clear and Mentor property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks clear for pedestrians. Here are a few winter reminders for the upcoming snowy season:

## MENTOR SNOWPLOWS

During a snowstorm, City of Mentor snowplows 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.

## PRACTICE SAFE WINTER DRIVING

If the snow is falling and you need to drive, give yourself extra time to reach your destination and slow down. Always adjust your speed to account for lower traction when driving on snow covered or icy roads. During a major snowstorm stay home if possible.

## 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 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.

## KEEP YOUR SIDEWALKS CLEAR

It is the responsibility of the property owner or occupant to keep sidewalks in front of their property clear of ice and snow. In addition, pushing snow or ice onto a public sidewalk or roadway is prohibited. If you have contracted with a plow company to clear your driveway, please remind them that snow plowed from your driveway must be piled on your property.



# LET'S PARTY!

Are you planning an event? Then, consider renting one of six unique and affordable Mentor facilities to make your party an event to remember. Whatever your needs - large or small - we have the right space for you which accommodates anywhere for 15 to 200 guests.

Host a wedding reception in the Great Room at the Mentor Senior Center or the Community Center (above the Ice Arena); plan a baby shower at the Garfield Park Lounge; a birthday party at historic Old Council Hall, or hold an elegant business reception at Wildwood Cultural Center.



## Wildwood Cultural Center

Oliver Wing (seats 75), South Wing (seats 75), Meeting Rooms (seat 15). To take a tour, get additional information or rent the facility call Wildwood Cultural Center at 440-974-5735.

## Mentor Community Center

Community Room (seats 200), Woods Room (seats 100), Meeting Room D (seats 50). Questions? Call the Mentor Ice Arena at 440-974-5730.

## Garfield Park

Lounge (seats 50). To reserve call Mentor Recreation at 440-974-5720.

## Old Council Hall

Main room (seats 100). For information or to rent call Mentor Recreation at 440-974-5720.



## Mentor Senior Center

Great Room (seats 162) or Cardinal Room (seats 64). For additional information or a tour call the Senior Center at 440-974-5725.

Rates include use of chairs and banquet tables (indoor use only). A refundable security deposit is required when renting any of our facilities.

For parties serving alcohol, an off-duty Mentor police officer must be contracted by the renter to provide security and a larger security deposit is required. The renter must also purchase an alcohol permit.

And for summer parties, how about a Mentor park?

The City of Mentor has three picnic pavilions that can be rented by your group or organization. Each pavilion includes picnic tables, grills and nearby playground areas. Picnic Pavilions are rented in 6-hour increments or for the entire day.

Call the Recreation Department at (440) 974-5720 for details on reserving a facility.

# JUST CHILL OUT

In Mentor we're used to cold snowy winters and usually cope by retreating indoors to wait for spring. This year don't stay cooped up inside, embrace the winter cold and have some fun at the Mentor Chill Out! You're invited to come and celebrate all things winter at Mentor's winterfest-style event! Join us at Civic Center Park on Saturday, January 21st from 11 AM to 6 PM.

It's fun for the whole family with activities including an outdoor skating rink, ice sculpture garden, games for the kids, food music and fun!

All day activities include wagon rides, snowman building contests, ice sculpting demonstrations, popsicle eating contests, sled riding and much more.

DJ Stray will be on hand all day spinning your favorite cool tunes.

Be sure to come hungry and take part in the Chili Cook Off or treat yourself to a delicious lunch from some favorite area food trucks. And if you need to warm up visit our whiskey tasting bar, offering a selection of bourbons, ryes, and vodkas to enjoy.

The event will culminate with a fabulous firework show (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.



# WASTE UPDATES

Important information for Mentor residents who receive curbside waste & recycling service through Waste Management.

## YARD WASTE PROGRAM

The 2022 Yard Waste Collection Program ends the week of December 12th. Residents with service through Waste Management can still set out 25 bags or bundles of yard waste through that week. The curbside collection will resume in April 2023.

## WALK UP SERVICE

Walk-up service is available for residents who are physically unable to move their garbage container and recycling container to the curbside on their waste collection day. This program applies only to the garbage container and the recycling container. It does not apply to bulk items and yard waste. The container(s) must be readily accessible to the Waste Management employee and must be within 75' of the curb and must be outside of any garage or other structure. Registration is required.

## ONLINE ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

Waste Management has a new digital service platform to better service the residents of Mentor.

Access My WM anytime, anywhere, and on any device to pay bills, access pickup and holiday schedules, enroll in paperless billing, and set notification preferences in case of delay in pickup.

Click on the Waste Removal and Recycling link under the Resident Info tab on [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com) to learn more.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

December 5 | 6:30 – 8 PM  
**Christmas in Cleveland - Free**  
Mentor Public Library  
Register: [mplibrary.org](http://mplibrary.org)

December 17 | 1:30 – 3:30 PM  
**Holiday Skate with DJ**  
Mentor Ice Arena

January 7 | 1:30 - 4:30 PM  
**Mentor Skate Day - Free**  
Mentor Ice Arena

January 28 | 9 AM  
**Lake County Chili Open**  
Black Brook Golf Course

February 3 | 7 – 9 PM  
**Little Princess Valentine's Dance**  
Mentor Senior Center

February 18 | 6:30 PM  
**Family Feud (age 21+)**  
Mentor Community Recreation Center

For additional information or to register, visit [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com).



# 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.

Today, it's more important than ever to support our local businesses and support our local economy!

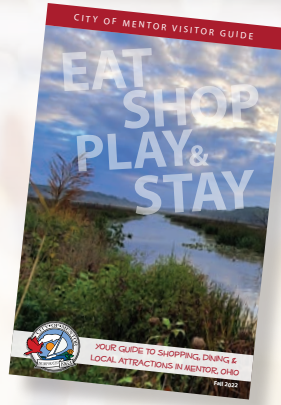
It's no secret that shopping and dining is a big deal in the City of Mentor. Over 300 retailers and 170 eateries generate over \$1.6 billion in annual sales and employ over 9,500 people in our city.

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.

Download a copy of the newly updated Mentor Visitor Guide which contains information on shopping and dining options in our city at [shopinmentor.com](http://shopinmentor.com).



SCAN NOW WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA

## WE'RE HIRING

The city of Mentor employs over 500 individuals in full-time, part-time, and temporary/seasonal positions. We offer competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits package for full-time employees.

Unlike many businesses, a municipality requires a wide variety of employees to provide City services, staff facilities, maintain infrastructure, and work at special events.

From police officers to firefighters, and camp counselors to lifeguards, jobs at the city require a wide range of skill sets that translates into many different types of job openings. Whether you're looking for a first job or have years of experience, the city of Mentor is looking for you.

Our Public Works Department employs skilled laborers and often requires a CDL or other certificates and qualifications to operate heavy machinery – but on the other hand, there are also job openings which only require a high school diploma or GED.

Temporary/seasonal jobs are posted year-round but increase greatly in February and March as the city looks to fill summer positions. Park maintenance workers, cashiers, wait staff, greenskeepers, camp counselors, lifeguards and event staff are just some of the positions that are required to staff the City's Parks and Recreational facilities.

Mentor is an equal opportunity employer. Job postings are updated regularly and full descriptions, including requirements, hours, and salary are posted at [cityofmentor.com/employment](http://cityofmentor.com/employment).



## FORRRROZEN FUN!

The Lake County Chili Open will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at Black Brook Golf Course. Lake County's premiere winter golf event features nine snowy holes of golf followed by a steaming hot bowl of Chili, hot dogs and hot chocolate.

While the game of golf is already challenging, you'll find an even greater challenge (and fun) playing in the winter – with snow covered fairways, frozen tees and icy greens. Not to mention, a few added surprises on the course

like blind tee shots and other chilly challenges a long the way.

Golf Gift Certificates (that can be used in warm weather!) will be awarded to the top three finishers.

The tournament is presented by the city of Mentor with proceeds benefiting the United Way of Lake County. Cost to enter is \$20. Tee times start at 9:00 AM. Register by calling Mentor Recreation at (440) 974-5720.

## KEEP LITTER FROM OUR LAKE

When trash - such as plastic wrappers, bottles, cigarette butts, paper containers, etc. - is dropped on the ground, it can make its way into storm drains and directly into our waterways untreated. Trash is not just an eyesore along streets, parks and waterways in our community, it can negatively impact wildlife and present hazards for fisherman and boaters.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Items that are continually at the top of the list of trash found at beach cleanups locally and worldwide are, plastic, cigar tips and cigarette filters. (Ocean Conservancy)
- Cigarette filter/butts are NOT biodegradable. The acetate filters take years to decompose, and the toxic chemicals trapped in the filters can leak into aquatic ecosystems, threatening our water resources.
- Plastics break down into tiny pieces called micro plastics in water, then release toxic chemicals swallowed by fish, birds, snakes, and other wildlife.
- It can take 600 years for plastic monofilament fishing line to decompose.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Don't litter! Lake Erie is our source of drinking water. We need to do our part to prevent pollution and to educate others to not litter.
- Follow the 3R's (REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE) wherever possible.
- Use reusable shopping bags instead of the plastic bags handed out at the store.
- Don't overfill trash cans on windy days and always provide tight fitting lids during outdoor storage.
- If you see illegal dumping notify the local authorities.

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



## 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.

### 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](http://cityofmentor.com) and click on the Resident Info menu for details.

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Visit [cityofmentor.com/construction](http://cityofmentor.com/construction) for updates on current and upcoming road and stormwater projects. If you have questions regarding any project, please contact our Engineering Department at (440) 974-5785 or email [building@cityofmentor.com](mailto:building@cityofmentor.com).

### CALL FOR SPONSORS

The City of Mentor hosts a number of major and minor events each year including the Mentor Rocks summer concert series, Mentor CityFest, Headlands BeachFest, and more. Sponsoring an event is the perfect way to get your business or organization in front of the public – whether you are looking to add to your workforce, promote your product or service, or enhance your brand. Learn more at [cityofmentor.com/events](http://cityofmentor.com/events).

### 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 [lccoa.org](http://lccoa.org).

### 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](http://lakecountyohio.gov/utilities) for more info.

### 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.

### STAY UP TO DATE

Did you cut the cord? You can now watch the Mentor Channel live on ROKU, Apple and Android devices on our Mentor Channel App.

Download links available at [cityofmentor.com/connect](http://cityofmentor.com/connect)

Follow the city on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter!







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

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Mentor, Ohio

## Residential Customer ECRWSS

# MENTOR

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### WELCOME!

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

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"We ought to respect any real experience  
we have ever had, any real joy or sorrow  
we ever felt..."

-James A. Garfield



## 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](mailto:citycouncil@cityofmentor.com).

## MEETING INFORMATION

### Mentor City Council\*

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM  
December 6  
January 3, 17  
February 7, 21

### Municipal Planning Commission\*

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM  
December 8  
January 19  
February 9

### Board of Building & Zoning Appeals

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM  
December 13  
January 10  
February 14

### Tree Commission

Mentor Municipal Center, 4:30 PM  
December 14  
January 11  
February 8

### Community Arts Commission

Wildwood Cultural Center, 3:30 p.m.  
December 1  
January 5  
February 2

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



## JOIN THE MENTOR SENIOR CENTER

The Mentor Senior Center is the largest senior center in Lake County and offers HUNDREDS of programs and activities to members. Affordable memberships are available to all Lake County residents 55+. You can take advantage of homemade hot lunches, discounted trips, groups & clubs, health clinics, and so much more...including SilverSneakers!

Yearly membership for Mentor residents is just \$10. Nonresidents membership is \$15. SilverSneakers memberships are available to seniors age 65+ on eligible Medicare plans.

Additionally, members receive the Mentor Senior Center newsletter published three times a year that's chalk-full of information what's happening at the Mentor Senior Center. Find out about trips, activities, clubs, fitness classes and senior services. The newsletter even includes monthly menus for our weekday hot lunch program.

And if you are age 60+, live in Lake County, and need transportation to the Senior Center - it's just a phone call away. A free ride to and from the Mentor Senior Center is available courtesy of the Lake County senior services levy in

cooperation with Laketrans. To make a reservation for Laketrans' Dial-a-Ride service, call (440) 354-6100.

The Mentor Senior Center is a place to learn new things, get fit, make friends and have fun. Join now and access all the opportunities available to members.

Renew or purchase a 2023 annual membership starting January 2nd. For more information, call the Mentor Senior Center at (440) 974-5725 or visit [mentorseniorcenter.com](http://mentorseniorcenter.com).

## 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.

