



MENTOR

WINTER 2023 SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor



JUST CHILL OUT

Shake away the winter blues at Mentor Chill Out on Saturday, January 20, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM at Mentor Civic Center Park.

This awesome event has quickly captured the hearts of our community with its unique blend of winter-themed activities and family-friendly fun as the main grounds are transformed into a winter wonderland.

A number of amazing ice sculptures will be on display while an additional six are created onsite throughout the day by expert ice artists from Elegant Ice Creations.

The event kicks off with the inaugural Chill Out .5k (not a typo!) Donut Race. Sign up to compete and all participants that complete the race will receive a medal!

Kids of all ages can enjoy a variety of hands-on activities including an outdoor ice rink, hockey shooter tutor, ice carving demonstrations, kids craft tent, dog sled visit, Zamboni pull, snow throw inflatable, and much more.

Sledding and snowshoeing will also be available if the weather cooperates.

Be sure to come hungry and take part in the Chili Cook Off or partake in some gourmet fare from some of the most popular food trucks in our area.

Those 21 and over can slide over to the whiskey tasting bar and experience a great selection of bourbons, maple rum, and brandy from Red Eagle Distillery.



Everything 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.

Mentor Civic Center Park is located at 8600 Munson Road.



THINK SUMMER...THINK CAMP!

Yes, we know that summer is still two seasons away BUT registration for Mentor Summer Camps begins on Thursday February 1st for residents and Monday February 5th for non-residents.

Space is limited and camps fill quickly 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 for 2024!

TRY WINTER SOWING

Keep your green thumb in shape and get a jump start on your garden with winter sowing. This innovative outdoor seed starting technique has gained popularity among those seeking a simple yet effective way to boost their bounty.

Unlike traditional indoor seed starting, winter sowing takes advantage of the freeze-thaw cycle that seeds often require for germination.

Gardeners sow seeds in containers - typically recycled milk jugs or similar translucent containers - and place them outdoors during the winter months. The containers act as mini-greenhouses, providing protection from harsh weather while allowing sunlight to penetrate and create a conducive microclimate for seed development.



It is cost-effective and environmentally friendly as it minimizes the need for artificial heat and light sources.



Want to learn more? Then click the QR code and watch Lake County Master Gardener Meg Shay talk about winter sowing in our area.



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.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

The last week for the 2023 yard waste collection program is December 11th through the 15th.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Mentor City Offices will be closed on Monday December 25th in observance of Christmas. City offices will also be closed on Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION

Due to Christmas Day and New Years Day falling on a Monday, there will be a ONE DAY DELAY in trash collection on those weeks.

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, 2024.

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 lakeohioalert.com.

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, Facebook, and Twitter.

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.

STAY SAFE & WARM THIS WINTER

As the winter chill sets in, keeping warm is a top priority for many households. However, it's crucial to remember that winter poses unique fire hazards. From heating equipment to holiday decorations, being aware of potential risks can help ensure a safe and cozy winter season. Here are some essential fire safety tips to follow during the winter months.

Heating Equipment Precautions

Heating systems, such as furnaces, fireplaces, and space heaters, are essential for staying warm during the colder months. However, they can also be potential fire hazards if not used correctly. Ensure that all heating equipment is installed, inspected, and maintained properly by professionals. Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from heat sources and never leave heaters unattended or running overnight.

Chimney and Fireplace Maintenance

Regular maintenance is vital for fire safety if you have a chimney or fireplace. Before lighting the season's first fire, have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional to remove any creosote buildup or debris. Always use a screen or glass door to prevent stray sparks from escaping into the room.

Electrical Safety

Winter often means using more electrical appliances and holiday decorations. Overloaded circuits can lead to electrical fires, so avoid plugging too many devices into one outlet. Inspect holiday lights for frayed wires and loose connections before decorating, and turn them off when leaving the house or going to bed. It's also a good time to test and replace batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.

Candle Caution

Candles provide a warm and cozy ambiance during winter evenings but can be dangerous if left unattended. Never leave candles burning in an empty room or near flammable materials. Opt for flameless LED candles as a safer alternative, especially if you have children or pets.

Christmas Tree Safety

If you celebrate Christmas with a live tree, keep it watered regularly to prevent it from drying out. Dry trees are more flammable and can quickly catch fire from heat sources or faulty electrical connections. Keep your tree away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, radiators, and heating vents. When it starts shedding needles excessively, it's time to remove it from the home.

Winter fire safety is crucial to protect both property and lives. By following these fire safety tips, you can minimize the risk of fire hazards during the colder months. Stay warm, cozy, and safe by ensuring proper maintenance of heating equipment, practicing electrical safety, and being cautious with open flames and holiday decorations. Prioritize fire prevention to make this winter season a joyful and secure one for you and your loved ones.

Remember, fire safety is a year-round responsibility, but extra precautions during winter can go a long way in preventing devastating accidents. Stay informed, stay vigilant, and enjoy the winter season to the fullest while prioritizing safety.

Happy holidays from the Mentor Fire Department!



MENTOR SAFETY FORCES DONATE TIME & EFFORT

Members of Mentor safety forces are committed to the well-being of our community. That commitment goes beyond simply doing their duty. They understand the importance of engaging with residents and maintaining good rapport; whether it's passing out candy on Halloween, reading to children at the Mentor Public Library, conducting K9 demos at our schools, or issuing safety citations for safe biking habits.

More importantly, they also donate their time and effort to help those in need.

Each December, members of the Mentor Fire Department and their families brave the elements to collect food and cash during their Rescue the Needy food drive. The 2023 Rescue the Needy event is scheduled for December 8th and 9th.

100% of proceeds from the event directly benefit the Salvation Army Painesville Corps which serves Lake County. Donations stay in the community in which they are received to help serve those most in need. Since 1994, over \$175,000 in cash and food donations have been raised.

For the past decade, Mentor Police have collected nonperishable food items and cash donations at their annual Fill-a-Cruiser event. Donations are distributed to food pantries to benefit

families in Mentor. Over the years, 22 police vehicles have been filled with food and nearly \$17,000 has been raised. The 2023 Fill-a-Cruiser event was held on November 12th.

Since 1983, the Kops N Kids program has provided a fun-filled evening complete with dinner, entertainment, and holiday gifts for kids in need. Families are identified with the help of Mentor Public Schools, the Mentor Victim Assistance Program as well as by police officers themselves.

For the past several years, the "Shop with a Cop" program has also helped kids in need and has provided an opportunity to spend valuable one-on-one time.

None of these efforts would be successful without the support of residents, organizations, and businesses, that have helped our safety forces help those in our community.



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.



COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING

Get in on the holiday spirit at the city's annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony which will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the Mentor Municipal Center.

Santa will arrive in his horse drawn carriage and will be available for photos while local choirs sing everyone's holiday favorites. Light refreshments will be available. All are invited to this free event.

The Mentor Municipal Center is located at 8500 Civic Center Boulevard.

DOWNLOAD THE MENTOR CHANNEL APP

Stay on top of what's happening in the City of Mentor including live broadcasts of City Council and Planning Commission Meetings, community bulletin boards, community news, and other great content.

Watch it your way, whether you're at home or on the go! We stream live 24/7 in CRYSTAL CLEAR HD on your preferred ROKU, Apple, Android, and Fire devices as well as on our YouTube Channel. Of course, you can continue to watch on Spectrum 1024 and AT&T U-Verse 99.9.

Learn more at thementorchannel.com.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

December 5 | 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Community Tree Lighting
Mentor Municipal Center

December 16 | 3:45 - 5:45 PM
Holiday Ice Show
Mentor Ice Arena

January 19 | 8:30 - 10:00 PM
**Super Hero & Princess
Disco Cosmic Skate**
Mentor Ice Arena

January 20 | 11:00 - 6:00 PM
Mentor Chill Out
Mentor Civic Center Park

January 27 | 9 AM
Lake County Chili Open
Black Brook Golf Course

February 2 | 7 – 9 PM
Little Princess Valentine's Dance
Springbrook Gardenhouse

For additional information or to register, visit 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¢ of every dollar that is spent local, stays local.

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

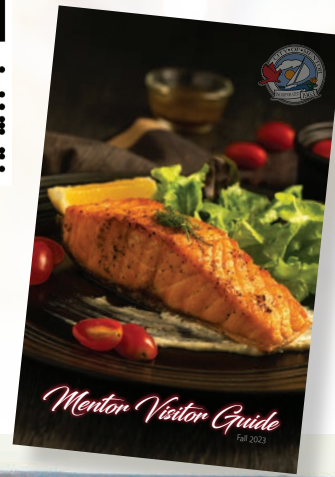
It's no secret that shopping and dining is a big deal in the City of Mentor. Over 300 retailers and 170 eateries generate over \$1.6 billion in annual sales and employ over 9,500 people in our city.

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.



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.

PARTICIPATE IN THE MENTOR HOUSING STUDY

The City of Mentor is in the process of preparing a housing study and needs analysis to evaluate Mentor's housing market and identify gaps in its existing housing stock. As a community, it is important to recognize housing as a priority for retaining and attracting residents and businesses.

One key element of the project includes conducting a resident survey to encourage community participation and gather residents' opinions on the topic of housing.

To participate, click on the QR code or visit cityofmentor.com and click on the "Mentor Housing Survey" graphic. For those without internet access, paper copies of the survey can be obtained free of charge from the Planning & Development Department by calling (440) 974-5740.

Survey submissions will be accepted until January 15, 2024.



PLEASE DON'T FEED THE GEESE

Mentor City Council recently passed an ordinance declaring the Canada goose as a "Nuisance Health Risk Animal" which prohibits persons from knowingly harboring or feeding the animal.

Feeding can lead to normalization with human contact as well as creating an artificial food source that encourages geese to overstay their migratory pattern and to even take up residence in the city.

And, they can leave behind quite a mess, which poses a health threat to humans, domestic animals, as well as other native species. Contact the Mentor Natural Resources division at (440) 974-5717 with questions.

HELP REDUCE WINTER POLLUTANTS

As the winter season approaches, it brings cold weather, ice and typically in Northeast Ohio, a lot of snow, but it also brings a lot of concern for pollution getting into our waterways. The ground freezes and loses its natural ability to filter pollutants. These pollutants accumulate in snow banks and ice throughout the winter months.

When the snow finally melts, grit, grime, dirt and salt are washed away into our storm water systems, rivers and Lake Erie. As these pollutants accumulate for a long period of time, they contribute to larger amounts of pollutants in our waterways.

It is important to take the following steps to help reduce the amount of pollution during the winter months:

- Remove as much ice as possible, then apply salt sparingly and sweep up any spilled or excess amounts of salt. A little goes a long way!

- Use environmentally friendly alternatives to salt. Sand can be used to help deice as well as provide traction on driveways and sidewalks. But remember to sweep it up after the ice has melted to prevent it from washing off into nearby drainage ways.
- Pick up pet waste immediately. Don't leave it buried in the snow. Animal waste is a significant source of bacteria.
- Clean your car at a commercial car wash where the soapy water drains to a waste water treatment facility.
- Check vehicles for leaking oils and fluids. Also, dispose of drained fluids properly. Many service stations will collect your used motor oil.

Do your part to help keep our waterways clean! 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.

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.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Visit 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.

CALL FOR SPONSORS

The City of Mentor hosts a number of major and minor events each year including the Mentor Rocks summer concert series, Independence Day, Mentor CityFest, 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.

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.

HELP PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS

Dispose of FOGs (fats, oils and greases) by allowing them to 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.

SAFETY ASSURANCE PROGRAMS

A variety of programs are available for Mentor residents who may require additional care during an emergency including the Fire Department Issued Lock Box Program, Resident Information Address Flag, Well Check Database, Ohio Staying Connected Program, and Lifeline Are You OK Program. Learn more at cityofmentor.com/safety-assurance-programs.

If you have any questions or require additional information, call (440) 974-5765.

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 at www.thementorgateway.com.



City of Mentor
8500 Civic Center Boulevard
Mentor, Ohio 44060

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 161
Mentor, Ohio

Residential Customer ECRWSS

MENTOR

WINTER 2023 SPECIAL EDITION

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
8500 Civic Center Boulevard
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Kenneth J. Filipiak, City Manager
(440) 974-5790
citymgr@cityofmentor.com

Ante F. Logarusic, Comms Officer
(440) 974-5794
logarusic@cityofmentor.com

www.cityofmentor.com



"I have long since determined not to let an opportunity pass for learning something, simply because I must expose my ignorance in so doing."

- 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.

MEETING INFORMATION

Mentor City Council*

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
December 5
January 9 (7:30)
February 7, 21

Municipal Planning Commission*

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
December 7
January 18
February 8, 29

Board of Building & Zoning Appeals

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM
December 12
January 9
February 13

Tree Commission

Mentor Municipal Center, 4:30 PM
December 13
January 10
February 14

Community Arts Commission

Wildwood Cultural Center, 3:30 p.m.
December 7
January 4
February 1

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



JOIN THE MENTOR COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

The new Mentor Community Recreation Center is now open!

The 128,000 SF facility is one of the largest facilities of its kind in Northeast Ohio and includes an indoor soccer field, basketball, tennis, racquetball, and pickleball courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, cardiovascular and weight training areas, group exercise rooms, a childcare room, and other amenities.

Members can also enjoy a variety of year-round activities including aquatics, fitness and wellness, sports, infant and preschool, youth and teen, adult, older adult and family programs.

Members can 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, an outdoor playground, and more!

And, the center accommodates sports leagues as well. Youth leagues include soccer, basketball, flag football and volleyball. Adult leagues include soccer, basketball, flag football, volleyball, kickball, tennis, racquetball and pickleball. All skill levels are welcome.

The new Community Room is the perfect space to host parties, corporate events, and more. The space can comfortably host mid-sized gatherings.

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. Single-day admission is available for \$10.00 per person. For membership rates, terms, and additional information, visit www.mentorrec.com. or call (440) 974-5720.

The Mentor Community Recreation Center is located at 6000 Heisley Road.

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.

