



# MENTOR

WINTER 2024 SPECIAL EDITION

Community Newsletter for the Residents of Mentor



## THIS ISSUE

POWER UP...SAFELY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SHARE THE SPIRIT

...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 31, 2025.

### YARD WASTE COLLECTION ENDS

The last week for the 2024 yard waste collection program is December 9-13.

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Mentor City Offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, 2024, in observance of Christmas Day. City offices will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in observance of New Year's Day.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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](http://lakeohioalert.com).

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

## CHILL OUT IN MENTOR

Shake away the winter blues at Mentor Chill Out on Saturday, January 18, 2025, 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.

Over 10 ice sculptures will be placed throughout chill out grounds as well as live ice carving shows and a speed carving competition taking place throughout the afternoon by artists from Elegant Ice Creations.

The event kicks off with the inaugural Chill Out .5k (not a typo!) Donut Race. Must finish your donut and hot chocolate before crossing the finish line. All participants receive a medal and pre-registration is recommended.

Kids of all ages can enjoy a variety of hands-on activities including an outdoor ice rink, kids craft tent, outdoor games, sled riding (weather permitting), ice slide, and more.

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 tent to try a flight of assorted shots or one of our signature drinks. Not a whiskey/bourbon fan? Choose one of our beers we have available! Hot chocolate or Hot Apple Cider is available for purchase for the kids.

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.



## SHOPPING LOCAL MAKES SENSE

The city of Mentor is Northeast Ohio's shopping destination. You'll find everything you're looking for from earrings to electronics, cars to clothes, and baked goods to books right here in Mentor.

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.

Everyone has that one person on their list that is impossible to shop for, right? Independent Mentor retailers offer an array of unique gifts that you just can't find anywhere else.

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).





# POWER UP..SAFELY

In addition to cell phones and other hand-held devices, electric tools, cars, bikes and scooters have been growing in popularity over recent years. As the use of rechargeable lithium-ion batteries grows, so does the risk of fire – and protecting yourself and your family.

It's important to remember that lithium-ion battery fires differ from other fires as they can burn hotter, don't require oxygen, and can explode without warning. The primary cause is "thermal runaway" which occurs when a battery gets too hot and triggers a chain reaction that can lead to ignition.

The Mentor Fire Department has responded to several calls in recent months related to battery fires. Here are some tips to help you stay safe while recharging your devices.

## HEED WARNING SIGNS

If your batteries are overheating, swelling, or producing unusual odors, smoke, or hissing sounds, immediately unplug your charger and carefully take your batteries outside to cool off before safely disposing of them.

## KEEP IT COOL

Lithium-ion batteries can heat up while in use. Let your battery cool down before charging. Not only will it reduce the risk of overheating, it can also help extend the life of your battery.

## KEEP AN EYE ON IT

Although it's convenient to charge your device overnight while you sleep, it can also be dangerous. Always charge your batteries in a well-ventilated area away from flammable materials.

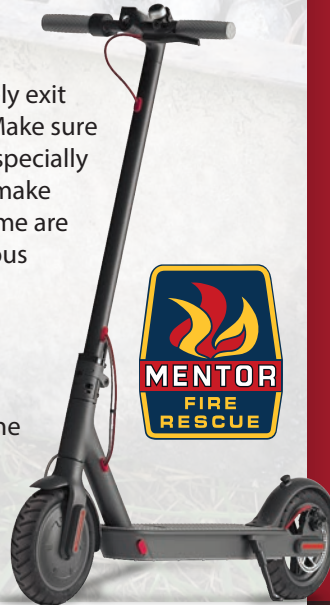
## CHARGE SAFELY

Charge larger battery packs for tools as well as electric bikes and scooters outside when possible. These devices should never be charged near an exit and should be stored in a garage or shed when not in use.

## SAFETY FIRST

Last but not least, always make sure that you can quickly and safely exit your home in the event of a fire. Make sure that entryways aren't blocked – especially by a device that's charging. Also, make sure the smoke alarms in your home are in good working condition. Precious seconds can mean the difference between life or death.

For questions or additional information, contact Dan Garey, Public Education Specialist with the Mentor Fire Department at (440) 974-5769 or [garey@cityofmentor.com](mailto:garey@cityofmentor.com).



## SHARE THE SPIRIT

The City of Mentor will host our annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the Mentor Municipal Center Complex.

The grounds will come alight with holiday cheer at 6:00 PM sharp as members of City Council and guests countdown to light up the grounds. Santa will then arrive in his horse drawn carriage and will be available for photos while choirs from Mentor Schools present a selection of holiday favorites. Light refreshments will be available. All are invited to this free community event.

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

# VOLUNTEER AT THE MENTOR SENIOR CENTER

The Mentor Senior Center is a hive of activity for those 55+ in our community. The center offers an array of programs and activities across a wide range of interests, and we can use some help to deliver a quality experience for our members.

We are currently seeking volunteers for the following positions:

### Fitness Committee

Clean fitness studio equipment / provide input on classes; 2 hours bi-monthly.

### Greeter/Host

Welcome new members, ensure scanning, provide tours; 3-6 hours monthly.

### Kitchen Helper *Urgent need!*

Help prepare, serve and clean up lunch meals; 4 hrs. weekly.

### Kitchen Cashier

Assist seniors with carrying lunch trays; 1.5 hours weekly 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM.

### Lunch Tray Assistants

Take lunch orders; 1.5 hours weekly 11:15 AM – 12:45 PM.

### Senior Produce Volunteer

Assist with distributing food, packing food, computer entry; 3 hours monthly.

### Special Events Volunteer

Check in members, prep food and light clean up after events; 2 hours monthly.

### Technology Volunteer

Offer computer, iPad or cell phone instruction; 1 - 2 hours weekly.

### Library Committee

Check in books / prepare books for circulation; 1-2 hours weekly.

### Decorating Committee

Decorate the center; 2 hours once or twice monthly.

Fill out your application in or person or download an application today. Other positions can arise from time to time so be sure to indicate applicable skills and interests.

Contact the Mentor Senior Center at 440-974-5725 or [ochaya@cityofmentor.com](mailto:ochaya@cityofmentor.com) for questions or additional information.



# LET IT SNOW

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:

### PLOWING PRIORITIES

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 X accounts.

### 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.



## STATE OF THE CITY

Mentor City Manager Kenneth J. Filipiak will present his annual State of the City address at the Mentor Area Chamber of Commerce meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

The presentation will be recorded and aired on the Mentor Channel and posted to the city's website and social media accounts.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

December 3 | 6:00 – 7:30 PM

### Community Tree Lighting

Mentor Municipal Center. Free event.

January 18 | 11:00 - 6:00 PM

### Mentor Chill Out

Mentor Civic Center Park. Free event.

January 25 | 9 AM

### Lake County Chili Open

Black Brook Golf Course. Registration required. \$20 - includes golf, food & hot chocolate.

February 7 | 7 – 9 PM

### Little Princess Valentine's Dance

Springbrook Gardenhouse. Space is limited, register early! Daughters age 4 and older. Resident: \$18 | Non-Resident: \$21

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



# SKATE INTO THE COOLEST PLACE IN TOWN

For over 40 years, the Mentor Ice Arena has served our community and is home to a number of events including open skates, parties, tournaments, and even the occasional turkey roll. With two regulation-size ice rinks, a studio rink, fully equipped locker rooms, a snack bar, a pro shop, and event/meeting rooms, the facility is a favorite among residents and visitors alike.

Open skate sessions are available practically year-round but are especially popular during the winter months with expanded holiday hours during Mentor Schools' winter break. Admission is \$9

for adults and \$7 for youths. Skates are available to rent with sizes ranging from youth 8 to adult 14 for a \$4 rental fee. Children under 11 are required to wear a helmet while on the ice. Skate aids are available in our studio rink on a first-come, first-served basis for kids aged 8 and under when accompanied by an adult.

The arena also offers a number of skating programs. It hosts the second most popular "Learn to Skate" program in Ohio with more than 400 participants.

Rinks and rooms are available for rental for parties and other events as

well. For additional information, visit [mentoricearena.com](http://mentoricearena.com) or call (440) 974-5730.



**MENTOR  
ICE ARENA**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*continued*

### REPORT POWER OUTAGES

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.

### NEW FRAUD ALERT SERVICE

The Lake County Recorder Office has announced a free Property Fraud Alert Service which notifies property owners via text, phone, or email, if a document is recorded in Lake County under their name.

Visit [lakecountyohiorecorder.com](http://lakecountyohiorecorder.com) for additional information or to register.

### 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](http://lcco.org).

### 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](http://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](http://www.thementorgateway.com).

### NOW HIRING

A variety of full-time, part-time, and seasonal positions with the City of Mentor are posted on our website with new positions posted regularly.

Consider joining our team and serving our community in a fun and fulfilling setting! We offer competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits program for full-time employees

The city of Mentor is an equal opportunity employer. EOE/ADA. Learn more at [workformentor.com](http://workformentor.com).

THE  
MENTOR  
CHANNEL

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ROKU • Fire • YouTube • iTunes • Play  
[www.thementorchannel.com](http://www.thementorchannel.com)

## 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](http://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.

## THINK SUMMER...THINK CAMP!

Yes, we know that summer is still two seasons away BUT registration for Mentor Summer Day Camp begins Thursday, **February 6, 2025**, for Mentor residents and Monday, **February 10, 2025**, for nonresidents. 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 2025.



### PLEASE DON'T FEED THE GEESE

Last year, Mentor City Council 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.

## WINTER STORMWATER POLLUTION

The winter season brings a lot of concern for pollution getting into our waterways when it's upon us. 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, litter, 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 Mentor's waterways clean! For more information, contact the City of Mentor Building and Engineering Department at (440) 974-5785 or [building@cityofmentor.com](mailto:building@cityofmentor.com)





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

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## Residential Customer ECRWSS

# MENTOR

WINTER 2024 SPECIAL EDITION

### WELCOME!

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

**Published by the City of Mentor**  
8500 Civic Center Boulevard  
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Ante F. Logarusic, Comms Officer  
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[www.cityofmentor.com](http://www.cityofmentor.com)



"I have often wondered whether anyone's life ran just as he wished it ... My own knowledge of men is too limited to warrant me in answering."

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

### MEETING INFORMATION

#### Mentor City Council\*

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM  
December 3  
January 7, 21  
February 4, 18

#### Municipal Planning Commission\*

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM  
December 5  
January 16  
February 6, 27

#### Board of Building & Zoning Appeals

Mentor Municipal Center, 7 PM  
December 10  
January 14  
February 11

#### Tree Commission

Mentor Municipal Center, 4:30 PM  
December 11  
January 8  
February 12

#### Community Arts Commission

Wildwood Cultural Center, 3:30 p.m.  
December 5  
January 2  
February 6

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



## WILDWOOD | A PEEK INTO MENTOR'S PAST

The Wildwood Cultural Center consists of a 25-room manor house situated on a beautiful 34-acre wooded site.

The home was designed and built by Abram Garfield, son of the President for the John G. Oliver family - a noted Cleveland industrialist. Completed in 1908, the estate became one of the earliest renderings of the English Tudor Revival style in Northeast Ohio and was used by the Oliver family as their summer place in the country.

Shortly after John Oliver's death in 1939, his daughter Margaret Oliver Collacott and her husband Robert Collacott, inherited the estate and became permanent residents in 1949. Mrs. Collacott died in 1973, leaving the Wildwood estate to her daughters, May Targett & Catherine DeWitt. While both of John Oliver's granddaughters were grown and had lives of their own, they continued to visit and maintain the house for a short while.

In 1980, Mentor city officials, realizing the great value of preserving the property, approached Mrs.

Targett and Mrs. DeWitt to discuss the possible sale of the property for preservation as a park that all Mentor residents could enjoy. They negotiated a purchase price of \$300,000 for the entire estate. The home was restored and opened to public that year.

Wildwood Cultural Center has become one of Mentor's finest jewels, preserving both architectural heritage and scenic surroundings. It is a place for cultural enrichment as well as passive recreational and educational opportunities. Classes for both adults and youth are offered at Wildwood in areas like fine art, cooking, creative art, music, and much more.

Wildwood is available for rental and provides a historic, unique and comfortable setting for weddings, receptions, parties, business meetings, seminars, conferences and special events. Rental information, as well as membership opportunities, for the center is available by calling the Wildwood Cultural Center at (440) 974-5735 Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### GET IN ON THE FUN!

Mentor Recreation offers more than 1,200 ways to play. From art work shops, fitness classes, senior trips, and day camps to golf instruction, kayaking tours, nature walks and hockey leagues, the department offers something for everyone. Get in on the fun and register for a class or program today! Residents and non-residents are welcome.

Learn more at [cityofmentor.com/registration](http://cityofmentor.com/registration).



## THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SHOP IN MENTOR



With over 325 stores to choose from, you'll find everything on your list.

Shop small. Shop local. Shop Mentor.

Learn more at [www.shopinmentor.com](http://www.shopinmentor.com)

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