



Know **OUR** AVON LAKE

SEPTEMBER 2022

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Community Shred Day

September 24, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Ellen Trivanovich Aquatic Center

Run for SEWA International

September 24, 9:00 a.m.
Weiss Field

VELOSANO Trike & Bike

September 24, 1:00 p.m.
Avon Lake Fire Department

Avon Lake Homecoming Parade

September 24, 10:30 a.m.

Star Party

October 1, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Walker Road Park Pavilion

Avon Lake Early Childhood PTA

Kids Closet Resale
October 8, 7:00-9:00 a.m.
Avon Lake High School Auxiliary Gym

Boo by the Woods

Avon Lake Public Library
October 7, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
"Basement of Terror/The Haunted Gallery"
October 8, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.
"Trail of Haunted Tails & the Haunted
Gallery/Basement"

Avon Lake Historical Society's "An Evening at the Black Whale Inn"

October 9, 16, 23 & 30, 7:00 p.m.
John Christ Winery

Trick-or-Treat

October 31, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

North Coast Christmas Kick-Off

December 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Park

**For more info and updates, visit
www.AvonLake.org/Events**

To submit community event information
for the City's website calendar,
email DigitalMedia@avonlake.org



New Fire Station on the November Ballot

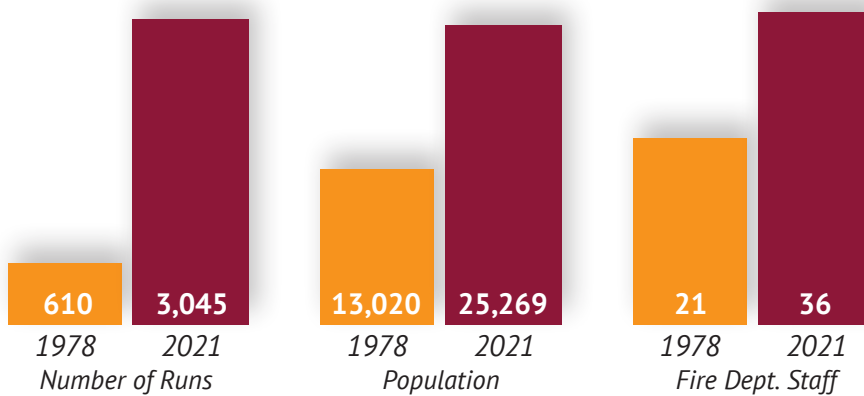
Issue 20 will be on the November ballot, asking residents to support the building of a new fire station, expansion of the police station, and infrastructure maintenance.

Passing of this issue will increase Avon Lake's income tax from 1.50% to 1.75%, which is in line with Avon Lake's neighboring cities. As an example, if you make \$50,000 annually, the increase will be \$4.81 per paycheck.

Additional funds generated by the tax increase will be used exclusively for infrastructure. This .05% of the .25% increase will be used to maintain city roads and city buildings. These funds will ensure the infrastructure of the safety services complex are funded for now and into the future. The tax increase cannot be used for salaries or staffing.

The current fire station was built in 1978. In 2000, when the Safety Center (Police Department and Court) building was built, a new facade was put on the existing fire station. Our new safety facilities will provide a station meeting today's standards, allow on-site training, and support us in the times of need.

Relevant changes in the city since 1978 include:



If you work in a city with an income tax rate of 1.75% or higher, this increase will not affect you. Additionally, if you are retired, this will not affect you. This is an income tax increase that will not tax pensions or investment income.

Do You Have Questions?

- A fact sheet can be found online at AvonLake.org
- Keep up to date by following [Facebook.com/OurSafetyOurAvonLake](https://www.facebook.com/OurSafetyOurAvonLake)
- Email: our.safety.our.avon.lake@gmail.com
- Arrange a tour of the facilities with Chief Betsa by emailing JBetsa@avonlakefire.org

Letter from the Mayor

The skill and professionalism of Avon Lake's highly trained Safety Forces were evident during an early morning structure fire on August 13th at Smuggler's Cove on Electric Blvd. The incident involved an attached 6-bay garage and 12 residential units. Fire Chief Jeremy Betsa stated in a press release that "Upon arrival, firefighters were met with heavy fire conditions in the garage with extension to the residential units attached. An offensive attack strategy was utilized during the incident to prevent additional spread of the fire. An aggressive interior search was conducted to make sure that all occupants were evacuated from the residential units. The structure had significant damage to multiple floors of the residences, including smoke damage and water damage to the unburned areas."

We are grateful to the fire departments of Avon, Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Village, Bay Village, North Ridgeville, Westlake, Rocky River, and Fairview Park, who provided mutual aid. Most importantly, there were no fatalities or injuries. This is a testimony to the cooperative approach of addressing safety matters. We thank our neighboring communities for their assistance.

The Public Health and Safety Committee of City Council invited Avon Lake City Schools Superintendent Bob Scott and members of the school staff to a recent committee meeting to discuss safety issues at all of the school buildings. School officials, along with School Resource Officer Brian Hurd, have spent a great deal of time looking for ways to maximize security to help make children and employees more secure. The city is committed to working with the schools to accomplish their goal.

We've received a number of calls from residents who are part of NOPEC about a large jump in the price of electricity causing rate spikes due to market forces. NOPEC is temporarily transitioning all its customers currently enrolled in the Standard Program Price electric program back to the utility default service, which will allow them to start getting the lower rates. This proactive step will be at no additional cost to customers. The "Avon Lake Matters" podcast features a discussion so you can learn more about this issue. Please visit AvonLake.org to listen to the podcast or view the videocast. ■

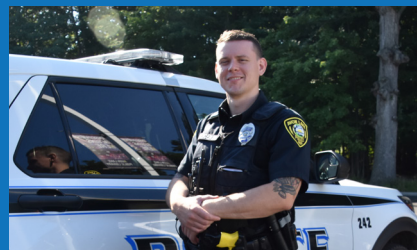


Food Scrap Compost Program Now Available

- Sign up and receive bin access
- Collect your food scraps
- Drop off at Service Center bins
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

More information:
AvonLake.org

New School Safety Officer



School Resource Officer Troy DeScenzo

There are two school resource officers from the Avon Lake Police Department present on our school campuses, Officer Brian Hurd and Officer Troy DeScenzo. Acting as a liaison between the school and Police Department, the school resource officers focus on safety, education, developing a good rapport with students, and maintaining a good relationship with staff and teachers.

Students at Learwood Intermediate School, Troy Middle School, and Eastview and Westview Elementary Schools, will see a new face on their campus with the addition of Officer Troy DeScenzo, replacing Officer Robert Walborn. Valedictorian of his class at the police academy, Officer DeScenzo will use his experience with South Euclid's Notre Dame College, Brunswick Hills Township, and Avon Lake to guide him in the different roles necessary, each requiring a unique approach. Officer DeScenzo believes that "one positive interaction can make a difference with students."

We would like to thank Officer Walborn for his four years of service as a school resource officer!

Peter Miller House is Getting a Face Lift




Photo courtesy of AF Photography

In November of 1963, Joseph and Elizabeth Huber sold their home and property to the City of Avon Lake for \$20,000. The Lake Shore Women's Club urged City Council to preserve the oldest home in the City as a museum. From 1969-1975, the Peter Miller House functioned as a historical museum until the heating system malfunctioned, causing extensive water damage to the furnishings.

In April of 1979, City Council established a Citizen Committee to prepare recommendations for the restoration and appointed residents Ella Handy, Fran Gouldsberry, Leonard Stana, Herman Kopf, Janet Smith, Kris Bianco, and Phil Bruder to the committee. After a physical analysis of the structure, it was determined that the structure could be restored. As a result of the efforts of the Avon Lake Historical Society, the Peter Miller House was officially decreed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

The core group of the Citizen Committee formed the Friends of the Peter Miller House, which was incorporated in June of 1980. Their

primary goal was to gain community support to prevent the Peter Miller House from being demolished. This was accomplished, and their next priority was to develop a plan for restoration, funding, and maintenance of the museum. (cont. on back cover)

The Environmental Affairs Advisory Board (EAAB) has reviewed the resident feedback from our survey. As a result, the EAAB is making plans to educate, inform, and support our residents. Stay up to date with the EAAB via the City website, social media, and email blasts. Please sign up for emails by visiting www.AvonLake.org/How-Do-I-/City-Email-Sign-up 

Peter Miller House is Getting a Face Lift (cont.)

These steps of preservation continued through the years. In 1985, Mayor Hausrod appointed an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Gerry Paine, Les Anderson, John Kniepper, Glendalee Burns, Phil Bruder, and Bill Blakeslee to raise money for the restoration. These community members helped save the Peter Miller House and Museum - a focal point in Miller Road Park for many years.

The Friends of the Peter Miller House have been the stewards of the Peter Miller House and Museum on behalf of the City, and upon the passing of their long-standing member, Gerry Paine in 2021, the City has taken on this task.

On August 15, 2022, City Council authorized \$43,000 to pay for upgrades to the historic Peter Miller House, which was built in 1830. "The \$43,000 will address structural reinforcement problems regarding the basement and attic areas of the house," stated Council President O'Donnell. "The City closed the museum upon receiving the structural engineer's report of noted weaknesses."

A committee was set up by Council President O'Donnell, including Tony Tomanek, President of the Historical Society; Chuck Fye, Historical Society Board member; Steve Presley, City Finance Director; Deb Beard, Historical Preservation Commission; Nick Yarham, resident; and Darwin Ward, Assistant Public Works Director to address the noted issues.

In late July, the Public Works Department focused on the landscaping at the property. They worked with Councilwoman Jennifer Fenderbosch, Terry Robison, Chair of the Citizens Tree Commission, and the Avon-on-the Lake Garden Club on identifying non-native trees and vegetation, vegetative areas of risk, and historically inaccurate vegetation placement for the removal of identified shrubs and trees.

The City will be using a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to pay for the work. The Avon Lake Historical Society is planning to paint the structure upon the completion of structural rehabilitation. ■

Community Development News

On May 9, City Council passed a motion to change the "Economic Development Department" to the "Community Development Department." This change began as a recommendation from the Business Navigation Ad Hoc Committee, which called for Avon Lake to "Align Planning and Zoning Departments under one department called the Community Development Department." This new department already contained Economic Development, so now it performs these three functions for the City.

On July 19, there was a public meeting at the high school to discuss the future of the Avon Lake power plant. The meeting was co-hosted by the City of Avon Lake, the Avon Lake Community Improvement Corporation, and property owner Avon Lake Environmental Redevelopment Group (ALERG). There was a presentation from ALERG, followed by break-out sessions in the commons. A video of the presentation can be found at www.AvonLake.org/Economic-Development/Power-Plant-Updates

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Follow the City to find out what's happening!



www.AvonLake.org