



Know **OUR** AVON LAKE

JANUARY 2022

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Virtual City-Wide Ward Meeting

February 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting details on back page.

Stay active this winter with Parks & Recreation (www.AvonLakeRec.com):

Old Firehouse Community Center Programs:

Indoor Walking Group

Teen Yoga Club

Fitness Classes* - Boom Muscle, Chair Yoga,

Circuit, Classic, Stability, Yoga

* All classes are SilverSneakers-compliant.

New for 2022 - All sports registrations for the year began January 5th!

Ongoing

Positions Available:

Public Works - Seasonal Workers

Public Works - Community Van Driver

www.AvonLake.org/Human-Resources

Community Organization Calendar

Avon Lake Democrats

Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

The Old Firehouse Community Center

Avon Lake Kiwanis

Thursdays at 6:30

Please visit City calendar for location.

Avon Lake Sports Hall of Fame Golf Outing

May 22, 2022

Sweetbriar Golf Course

Mighty Goliath's "Children of Eden"

February 18-20, 25-26

Avon Lake High School

North Coast Rotary

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom

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

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

Native Roots for Clean Water

Most people don't spend much time thinking about the management of water in our community. If it is available when we want it and goes away when we expect it to, we are happy. There are many people behind the scenes who work tirelessly to meet these expectations. The Northeast Ohio Public Involvement, Public Education (NEO PIPE) regional consortium members are these hard working people, including our Public Works team. Since 2002, the City of Avon Lake has collaborated with NEO PIPE to effectively develop and provide regional resources.

This year, NEO PIPE's public outreach campaign is to educate the public of the value of native plants, specifically their roots, for clean water. The native plant movement has been popular with garden clubs for years because of their hardiness and value to the butterflies and pollinators. Now we have one more reason to favor native plants in our gardens - their deep root structure. These deep roots filter pollutants, help rainwater infiltrate slowly, and prevent erosion by stabilizing clay soil, which Avon Lake has plenty of. When the soil is stabilized it doesn't erode into our water, therefore, keeping our waterways and lake clean.

Every month in 2022, we will post a native plant and its advantages on the City's website, www.AvonLake.org. These posts will help guide you in developing your own wonderland of valuable plants that will help keep our water flowing. ■



A pug moth (Eupithecia spp.) enjoying the native blue vervain (Verbena hastata)

Community Environmental Survey



With the assistance of the Cleveland Metroparks, Avon Lake's Environmental Affairs Advisory Board (EAAB) is launching an environmental community survey that will be available to residents through the month of February. The goal of this brief survey, which will take under ten minutes to complete, is to establish baseline awareness and importance of issues that impact our environment. The results will be available in time for Earth Day, April 22, and will establish priorities for action and education/awareness in Avon Lake, potentially including decisions around green energy. We need your involvement! Please visit www.AvonLake.org/EAAB-Survey to take the survey. ■



PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Much to Look Forward to in 2022

The City of Avon Lake administration hopes you had a happy and healthy holiday season. We don't know what challenges lay ahead, but with determination, resilience, and cooperation, we can look forward to a brighter future for all. We wish you peace and harmony in 2022.

We hope you were able to join us at Light up the Park on December 1st at Veterans Memorial Park. The artistry, hard work, and dedication of the Public Works department and Recreation department was in full display as the community welcomed Santa and his helpers to Avon Lake. We thank everyone who helped make this event possible.

On December 14th, the process of dismantling the Avon Lake Play Space began. ALPS was built in 1994 by over 600 volunteers who worked tirelessly in sometimes less than ideal conditions to improve the community. While many have fond memories of the playground, ALPS sadly reached the end of its productive life. We look forward to Phase 1 and 2 of a new, improved, and inclusive playground to begin construction in late Spring 2022. Phase 3 is anticipated to be completed in 2023. Equipment was selected based on the results of community outreach efforts and surveys of residents.



A sneak peak of a portion of the new Avon Lake Play Space, incorporating the existing hill. Stay tuned, exciting and fun times are ahead!

The closing of the GenOn power plant, a fixture on the shores of Lake Erie since 1925, has been postponed until late March 2022. While the City doesn't own the 41-acre site, it's our goal to work in cooperation with the owner (Charah Solutions) to help shape the redevelopment plan and make Lake Erie more accessible to the community. We will keep you updated on public engagement opportunities for residents to share their views.

This year's ward meeting will have the same format as last year due to COVID-19 precautions. There will be one city-wide Ward meeting on February 8, at 7:00 p.m. Please see the article on the back page for details.

Mayor, Avon Lake

Award-Winning Community Television

The City of Avon Lake has many fine employees. It is special when they are recognized on a regional basis for their excellence. The Philo Festival of Media Arts selected entries from three members of the Avon Lake Digital Media Department as winners in their respective categories for 2021. Over 160 entries from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky competed for the coveted awards.

Stephanie Biggers, production coordinator for Avon Lake, was a winner of "Comedy/Humor" for "Running with Scissors: Avon Lake Ribbon Cuttings." The video features Economic Development Director Ted Esborn and Mayor Greg Zilka running through the community to perform ribbon cuttings at eight new businesses that opened during the pandemic.

The "Community Event General" category award went to Lucas Hricko for "The Haunted Trails at Weiss Park." This is the second year in a row that Lucas has won an award for his production on the Avon Lake Halloween event.

Avon Lake Public Producer Traci McBride was named winner in the "Interview/Talk Show" category for her program, "Indelible Impression with Tee McBee," featuring editing from Stephanie Biggers. In the winning episode, McBride speaks with Tamsin Astor, the author of "Force of Habit" about her book and building better habits.

Congratulations to Stephanie, Lucas, and Traci for their outstanding work. We are Avon Lake Proud! ■

With the exceptional weather conditions this fall, the Public Works crews worked hard to keep up with the demands of leaf pick-up. Crews worked seven days a week to clear curbs and parks of leaves in a timely manner. In addition, there were several mechanical failures that arose during this process, and our mechanics moved swiftly to resolve them.

Thanks to Tad Smith, Pat Stokes, Bryan Bedient, Brandon Haas, and Kevin Lund for making our City so festive this holiday season. They installed lights and displays throughout the City, while Doug Ondercin handled logistics to ensure lights were timed properly.

On the Horizon

Moore Road Repaving - The City has received a grant through NOACA/ODOT to repave Moore Road in Avon Lake from Walker Road to the railroad tracks. Avon received a similar grant to repave from the railroad to Chester Road. In Avon Lake, 5-foot-wide bike lanes will be added to Moore Road from Walker Road to Pin Oak Parkway. Precision Paving has been awarded the project, and the information has been submitted to ODOT as of December 1, 2021. Work is expected to start in April 2022. In order to do this work, the road will be closed down to one lane as repairs to the road base are completed. Your patience is appreciated during this much-needed improvement to our streets.

Route 83 Culvert Replacement - The Heider Culvert replacement near Avon Lake High School is scheduled to begin in late spring 2022. An accurate timeline will be determined and announced once ODOT finalizes the bid dates. Please prepare for this area of Avon Belden to be closed for approximately three months to complete this work.

(continued on back page)

Support Our Avon Lake

The final months of 2021 have been the busiest for Economic Development.

In October, Avon Lake City Council approved the use of \$150,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a small business grant program, similar to the program that the City had in 2020. The maximum grant amount was \$2,500, with a possible sixty grants available for businesses based in an Avon Lake commercial space with twenty or fewer employees. The program started on November 8, and by December 15, the City had awarded 45 grants.

There were two ribbon cuttings in November to mark the opening of one new business and the expansion of another. Coffee and Chaos Boutique opened at 690 Avon Belden Road, selling women's clothing and accessories, fun items for kids, men's items, home decor, health and beauty products, and essential oils. Bobi Biederman Photography moved from the Lofts at Beach Park Station downstairs to a new, larger space at 33491 Lake Road. This business offers full-service customized portrait sessions as well as finished artwork.

In November and December, our first annual year-end business support campaign was launched: Support Our

Avon Lake. This campaign is the evolution of Shop Local—Shop Avon Lake, which was a one-day event just a few years ago. Support Our Avon Lake had three parts: Small Business Grants, Shop Local Raffles, and Business Spotlights. Nine business spotlights were filmed on location this year, and individually featured on City social media accounts and website.

This was the third year Avon Lake coordinated Shop Local raffles. The City purchased a \$50 gift card from participating businesses, with the respective business donating an additional \$50 gift card. Each establishment conducted its own drawing, where the winner received one of the \$50 gift cards. The other gift card was included in the grand prize drawing, which was \$2,000 in Avon Lake shopping and dining at 40 different businesses. On December 17, Mayor Zilka pulled the winning ticket, which was filled out by Sharon Thompson of Elyria at UR Décor & More. ■



New Zoning Code for Avon Lake

Avon Lake adopted a revised planning and zoning code effective January 1, 2022, to support the City's comprehensive land use plan. The plan presents a vision for the next twenty years with long-range goals and objectives. The revised planning and zoning code dictates the ordinances that must be followed in order to achieve these goals.

Keeping in line with what currently exists in Avon Lake, Compass Point Planning, a community planning firm based in Cincinnati, worked with core groups of City staff, Mayor Greg Zilka, and Law Director Gary Ebert to review the existing code. A series of public meetings were then held with the Planning Commission, City Council, and the Zoning Board of Appeals for input. Like any code change, final adoption went to the Planning Commission that held a public hearing, and made recommendation for approval to City Council. City Council then held a series of readings and a public meeting, resulting in the final adoption of the new code.

The organization of the code is one significant change, modernizing it into chapters that are categorized by function. These chapters contain more tables organized by use and supporting graphics, making it much more user-friendly and easier to understand.

The core chapter residents will be interested in is "Accessory Uses." These include regulations regarding our personal property (home occupation, storage sheds, swimming pools, etc.) all of which are relative to lot size. It also includes changes for businesses and developers that impact residential lots, including architectural regulations, landscape screening, parking lot requirements, and sign regulations.

Mixed-use zoning is another notable change. It allows us to mix residential and retail, focusing on three areas of town: Towne Center and State Route 83 and Walker; Lear Road at Electric Boulevard, north to Lake Road; and Beach Park Station, west on Lake Road. ■

New Hires

Fire Department

Kevin Lemmer was sworn in on August 23, 2021. To meet the ever-changing demands of our City, the Fire Department will be hiring additional firefighters in 2022 to increase the platoon size to ten per platoon.

Parks & Recreation Department

Jacqui Hoffman was hired in February 2021 as Program Manager.

Celena Crytzer was hired in November 2021 as the Recreation Administrative Assistant.

Police Department

Josephine Lopez was hired as a part-time dispatcher on February 15, 2021.

Sandy Bockleman was sworn in on July 13, 2021, as a part-time officer.

Brandon Smith was sworn in on November 15, 2021, as a part-time officer.

New Retires

Parks & Recreation Department

Lorrie Bruce had worked every Recreation position at one point in her 18 years of employment, including Acting Director twice during transitions.

Public Works Department

Dave Rogge started his employment right out of high school, and was a valuable and dedicated employee for 44-1/2 years.

New and Returning Volunteers

The following citizens were appointed by City Council or the Mayor as members of the following commissions:

Citizens Tree Commission

Amanda Ortiz Byrnes, Terry Robison

Civil Service Commission

Richard Tayek

Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council

Jeffrey Brausch, Robert Scott

Digital Media Commission

Chip Minnich, Weldon Rice, Julie Short, Dave Updegraff

Environmental Affairs Advisory Board

Rita George, Kayla Goodwin, Jen Miller, Sam Naumann, Marty Patton, Terry Robison, Terry Wyrock

Historical Preservation Commission

Deb Beard, Sandy Garrett, Douglas Rider, Thomas Tyler

Income Tax Board of Review

Joseph Adams, John Hall, Tim McNeill

Parks & Recreation Commission

Lynette Brausch, Georganne Wolnowski

Planning Commission

Holly Ma

Zoning Board of Appeals

Susanna Merlone, James L. Shook

Virtual City-Wide Ward Meeting: February 8

This year's ward meeting will have the same format as last year due to COVID-19 precautions. There will be one city-wide Ward meeting on February 8, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be aired live on the City Facebook page and ALC-TV Government Access channels (Spectrum Channel 1025 and WOW Channel 21) from the Avon Lake Council Chamber, and will not be open to the public.

Any questions or comments for City officials can be submitted prior to the meeting. Questions can be mailed to Mary Krupar at 150 Avon Belden Road, emailed to mkrupar@avonlake.org, or placed in a drop-off box located outside of City Hall. Deadline to receive questions to be addressed during the meeting is February 4. In addition, residents can submit questions via text to 440-396-0074 during the meeting. Meeting details and link to view the meeting will be posted on the City website on January 25. Please visit www.AvonLake.org/News ■

It's Time to Nominate a Citizen and Project

The Avon Lake Community Council is now accepting nominations for Citizen of the Year/Project of the Year for 2021. Each year, Avon Lake Community Council honors two outstanding achievements in our community: (1) a volunteer who has excelled in the area of community service and (2) a project that merits community-wide recognition.

Nomination forms can be found on the City website: www.AvonLake.org/Our-Community/Organizations-Clubs. Completed forms can be dropped off at Avon Lake City Hall, emailed to modonnell@avonlake.org, or mailed to Martin O'Donnell, City of Avon Lake, 150 Avon Belden Road. ■

(continued from page 2)

Public Works News (cont.)

Walker Road Repaving - The City of Avon Lake has received two grants through OPWC to repave Walker Road between Ambleside Drive and Armour Road. The projects will be out for bids in late January, and the paving will be completed in the spring. Because this project will also include road base repairs, it will be necessary at times to limit traffic to one lane. Police officers will be assisting with traffic control.

For an up-to-date schedule of these projects, please visit www.AvonLake.org/News.

PLEASE NOTE: The Zoning Department is now located in the Public Works Service Building, 750 Avon Belden Road. Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

CONTACT US

Avon Lake City Hall
440-933-6141

Building
440-930-4102

Council Office
440-930-4121

Digital Media
440-933-7677

Economic Development
440-930-4167

Finance
440-933-6141

Fire
440-933-8305

Human Resources
440-930-4127

Law
440-930-4122

Mayor
440-930-4100

Municipal Court
440-930-4103

Police
440-933-4567

Public Works:
Planning/Engineering
440-930-4101

Service
440-930-4126

Recreation
440-930-4130

Regional Water
440-933-6226

Zoning
440-930-4143

Council President
Martin O'Donnell
440-933-7310
modonnell@avonlake.org

Ward 1
Billie Jo David
440-682-0103
bdavid@avonlake.org

Ward 2
Jennifer Fenderbosch
440-821-4617
jfenderbosch@avonlake.org

Ward 3
Mark Spaetzel
216-777-7182
mspaetzel@avonlake.org

Ward 4
David Kos
440-755-2985
dkos@avonlake.org

Council-At-Large
Zach Arnold
216-235-6671
zarnold@avonlake.org

Council-At-Large
K.C. Zuber
440-309-5940
kzuber@avonlake.org

Clerk of Council
Valerie Rosmarin
440-930-4121
vrosmarin@avonlake.org

Follow the City
to find out what's
happening!



www.AvonLake.org