



Know **OUR** AVON LAKE

Mark Your Calendar

For details on these and other events in Avon Lake, please visit www.AvonLake.org/Events.

May 13, 9:00 a.m.

Environmental Affairs Advisory Board's Native Plant Give-Away and Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club's Plant Sale

May 20

Avon Lake Clean-Up Day

May 20, 9:00 a.m.

Shred Day

May 29, 10:00 a.m.

Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony

June 21, 4:00 p.m.

Make Music Day

July 4, 5:00 p.m.

Independence Day Fireworks Celebration

Environmentally Speaking Community Education

Avon Lake's Environmental Affairs Advisory Board has partnered with the Avon Lake Public Library to present the upcoming programs:

May 9, 7:00 p.m.

The Importance of Native Plants

June 13, 7:00 p.m.

Lake Life

July 20, 7:00 p.m.

The Importance of Urban Trees

August 8, 7:00 p.m.

Coexisting with Nature

Register at www.ALPL.org

New Lake Road Bike Lanes Honor Long-time Resident

For many City residents, June 6, 2019, is a date they'll always remember. That afternoon, Avon Lake resident and 25-year-City volunteer, Randy Knilans, was struck and killed by a drunk driver while riding his bike on Lake Road – an activity he did almost daily. Just a few weeks earlier, a similar incident occurred when another cyclist was struck on Lake Road in a near-fatal crash.

According to 4th Ward Councilman David Kos, head of the Public Safety and Health Committee, the City immediately began looking for ways to improve roadways like Lake Road for cyclists and pedestrians. "Although these incidents were the fault of the drivers – we wanted to know if there something more we could do," he said.

The City contracted with an outside consulting group to study the road's past, present, and future, and recommend ways to improve safety. The group's insights are now being implemented. In May, as part of a Lake Road repaving project, the road's bike lanes were widened by a foot in either direction. The study revealed that these larger lanes should help drivers obey the posted speed limits – or even drive slower. The City will also add a double yellow stripe to the road, making Lake Road a "No Passing Zone." This will reduce instances of increased speeding to get around slower vehicles. Currently, Avon Lake is the only city from Rocky River to Lorain that allows passing on Lake Road. The safety projects will continue into 2024, with plans to install a complete sidewalk from State Route 83 east to the Bay Village border.

As part of the project, the City Council will honor Randy with several wayfinding signs recognizing his life, work, and commitment to the City.

That commitment ran deep. Randy, an architect by trade, was asked to volunteer for the Planning Commission soon after moving to Avon Lake with his young family. More than 25 years of service followed, including helping to write zoning codes and serving as the Commission's chair for several years. "We've always tried to instill in our children the importance of giving back," said Randy's wife Patty. "When Randy first volunteered, we had a young child followed soon after by another toddler, I traveled a lot with work, and it was definitely hard to find the time. But it was important to Randy to do what he could to help and to help close to home. Randy really lived that volunteer philosophy throughout his life."

The new signs will feature a QR code that visitors can scan. It will link to more information about Randy and how he contributed to the City. It will also feature bicycle safety tips and statistics on the hazards of drinking and driving. "We want to make sure we're educating our citizens while also telling Randy's unique story," said Kos, who knew Randy well. "He was an integral part of our community for decades, and we want to pay tribute to his legacy and all that he accomplished."

Randy's family is honored that Avon Lake is not only making changes to the bike lanes, but also sharing Randy's life with others. "As much as I miss him, there's good that can come from bad things," said Patty. "Randy's story is one that's worth telling. It just shows that somebody who is a normal, average guy can contribute to the community where he lived. It's the ones who are quietly in the background doing things that can make their neighborhoods better." ■

Letter from the Mayor

Spring and summer are a time of renewal. Spring is also the time many people begin to plan home improvement projects. Now that we've seen the last of Old Man Winter, please remember to consult the building department to ensure compliance with the building and zoning codes that are essential to ensuring the health and safety of our community.

By now you may have noticed the resurfacing of State Route 6, also known as Lake Road. The project, which includes the widening of the current bike path, encompasses the length of Lake from the Sheffield Lake border to the Bay Village line. Once complete, the bike path will be dedicated to the memory of Randy Knilians who tragically lost his life doing one of his favorite things, riding his bike along Lake Road. A drunk driver ended Randy's life several years ago. He was a valuable member of Avon Lake Planning Commission for over 25 years, and the city benefitted tremendously from his expertise as an architect as well as his common-sense approach. He worked diligently to shape Avon Lake into a vibrant community for families to live, work, and visit by providing thoughtful insight and objective recommendations.

As summer quickly approaches, we hope you will join us for another exciting and fun-filled season! Below you'll find many opportunities the city provides to enjoy our beautiful outdoor spaces and lakefront. We hope you will come see why life is better on the lake!

Summertime Brings Fun & Festivities

Summer weather is in the air and our lakefront has never looked better! The City is celebrating with a season of events and activities designed for residents of all ages. Mark your calendars, get your lawn chairs ready, and join your neighbors for some relaxation and world-class (and free!) entertainment. Please visit www.AvonLakeRec.com for more details.

For Our Seniors

Join us for these fun programs to take advantage of the nicer weather this season:

Lake Erie Crushers Senior Day, May 31, 1:05 p.m. game time

Senior Prom "Luau," June 9, 5:00 p.m.

Metroparks Bus Trips in July and September

Please call 440-930-4135 for tickets and reservations.

For All Ages

Star Parties

Join us as we hunt for shooting stars, look at the man in the moon, and much more! Local astronomer Suzie Dills will be on hand with a telescope or two to show you what to look for. Stop by to take a quick peek or bring a blanket and snacks and stay a while. No registration required. FREE!

June 21 / Veterans' Memorial Park / 9:00-10:30 p.m.

August 12 / Walker Road Park Pavilion / 9:30-11:00 p.m.

October 14 / Avon Lake Public Library / 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The 2023 Party in the Park Summer Concert Series

Select Sundays and Thursdays / June 18 through August 13

Concerts will rotate between Miller Road Park, Veterans' Memorial Park, and Weiss Field, and will include food truck vendors and entertainment.

3rd Annual Summer Classic Baseball Tournament

Avon Lake High School's Varsity Head Baseball Coach Andrew Means, his staff, and players will lead students in grades 3 through 9 for this fun baseball tournament. The week-long event (July 19-23) is open to Avon Lake residents only. Registration ends June 16.

Have You Heard About Greenbox?

It's a FREE craft program offered from June 12 to July 21, and is designed for resident children ages 5 to 12. The parks and playgrounds are staffed with an attendant who help create crafts with children on a first come, first served basis during the specified times. Children are welcome to create crafts with our attendants or take them home. The Greenbox program is not able to accommodate outside daycares or large youth groups.

Note: Greenbox will be CLOSED on Tuesday, July 4.

Discover Fishing with Friends!

In June and July, learn about fishing or test your fishing skills with this FREE program designed for Avon Lake residents ages 15 and under. Poles, bait, and knowledgeable attendants will be available to help you catch bluegill, bass, and catfish at Walker Road Park's reservoir. Plus...new this year, the event will feature fly fishing demos on select Fridays, hosted by Firelands Fly Fishers. Visit www.AvonLakeRec.com.

Holiday Celebrations

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

Join us as we honor those who lost their lives while serving our country. On Monday, May 29, the Memorial Day parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Avon Lake High School with a ceremony following at 10:45 a.m. at Veterans' Memorial Park. All veterans groups, Avon Lake organizations, and Blue Star and Gold Star Mothers interested in participating should contact Jacqui Hoffman at (440) 930-4118 or jhoffman@avonlake.org by May 22nd.

Independence Day Fireworks Celebration

Bring your chairs and blankets for a fun and family-friendly day of events at Weiss Field. On Tuesday, July 4, beginning at 5:00 p.m., there will be food trucks, music, entertainment, and a wonderful fireworks display to enjoy.

Lieutenant Sean Bockelman Retires



Lieutenant Bockelman with "Smoke."

Lieutenant Sean Bockelman has been a dedicated and knowledgeable officer for the Avon Lake Police Department for over 28 years. He has been a part of the command staff since 2001, and has been directly involved in the growth and development of the department over those years. His roles included K-9

handler, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Lorain County SWAT Team hostage negotiator, Patrol Lieutenant, Administrative Lieutenant, and acting Police Chief.

"Sean has developed strong ties to the Avon Lake community, and has helped the department stay focused on the concerns of residents. He has been extremely valuable in the Executive Lieutenant role, and has handled a multitude of different roles for the department. I appreciate his steady calming influence, infectious laugh, and his friendship. The department wishes him a happy, long, and well-deserved retirement," stated Chief Vincent Molnar.

"I consider myself very fortunate to have worked for this department with my incredible coworkers and supportive city administration and community. Two personal highlights of my career include my time as a canine officer and the opportunity to attend the FBI National Academy (with law enforcement executives from around the world). Although there was one sad call that will never leave me, I commend my safety forces coworkers on a professional response to a tragic situation," shares Lieutenant Bockelman.

The City of Avon Lake wishes Lieutenant Bockelman all the best that retirement has to offer with his wife, Samantha, and their four children. ■

Like New Again: Miller Road Park Docks

Boating and fishing enthusiasts know that Miller Road Park offers some of the best launching points on Lake Erie, with public docks and a boat ramp available for resident and visitor use. Every year, the 20-year-old docks take a beating during the season with daily use serving dozens of boats a day. And, every winter, the Public Works team spends months making repairs. Several years ago, the City undertook a study to replace the docks, yet the cost was a concern. That's when Public Works employee, Brian Bedient, stepped in with a more cost-effective solution: a complete tear apart and restoration of the docks with new materials and environmentally friendly finishes.

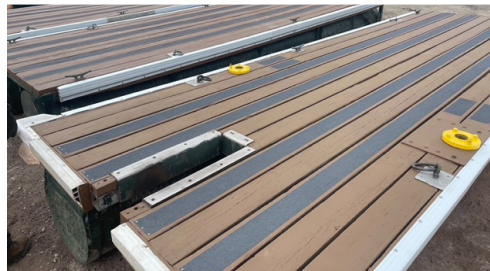
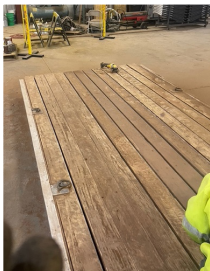
Including man-hours, Brian estimated the project would cost half as much as purchasing new docks – and it would bring the docks back to like-new condition. Throughout December and January, Brian and his team got to work, sanding and refinishing metal parts, replacing wood and treads, and assuring each dock's structural integrity. An Avon Lake employee for more than 16 years, Brian is passionate about making the parks a better place and keeping the Lake healthy. Knowing that the docks sit in the water 24/7, he made it a point to source materials and finishes that would minimize the environmental impact to the water and aquatic life.

"Brian truly took this project outside the box in terms of extending the life of the docks for years to come as well as looking at the environmental impact," said Public Works Director Kevin Brubaker. "This is a marquee area for our City, and residents will be proud to show it off."

Love the new boat docks? Thank your Public Works team that continues to improve these amazing facilities:

Project Manager:
Bryan Bedient

Jason Levet
Bill Trowbridge
John Galippo
Dennis Keene
Brandon Haas
Curtis Beckman



Increasing Pedestrian Safety with New Crosswalk Signals

This summer, construction will begin on several new high-visibility crosswalks at Walker/Armour and Lear/Creekside. The new crosswalks will feature Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and stop bars, updated signage and ADA-compliant curb ramps designed to improve safety and visibility for both pedestrians and drivers. The City began a Pedestrian Safety Study in 2021 and received partial funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to help with the improvements. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be maintained during construction. Updated crosswalks will be added in the future to Bleser Park/ Electric and at Library/Erievue School/ Electric.

Phones Down - It's the Law

We all know we shouldn't be looking at our phones while driving. Distracted driving is dangerous!

With recently passed legislation, the use of cell phones while driving is now considered a primary offense, which means law enforcement can immediately pull over a distracted driver upon witnessing a violation. This could result in fines and points on your license.

Initially, law enforcement will issue warnings to drivers found violating the law. Beginning October 4, officers will have the authority to issue citations:

- First offense: 2 points, up to a \$150 fine
- Second offense: 3 points, up to a \$250 fine
- Three or more offenses: 4 points, up to a \$500 fine, possible 90-day suspension of the driver's license
- Fines will be doubled if the violation occurs in a work zone

The completion of a distracted driving course can help avoid the fine and points.

Visit www.Ohio.gov for more information.

Big Trees = Big Benefits

Nothing is quite as majestic as the big trees lining our City and our yards. Did you know that the average age of an Avon Lake oak is 150 years old – and these big trees deliver many benefits to our environment and our well-being. Their shade provides cooling, which can cut down on utility bills. They provide oxygen, clean our air and water, and their beauty improves our mental outlook. Trees help manage storm runoff, temper strong winds off the lake, and play important roles in preventing erosion. They provide food and shelter for songbirds. These benefits grow exponentially with bigger trees.

If your yard is lucky enough to have one of these stately oaks, you may also wonder how healthy it is. Sometimes owners choose to remove these stately oaks because of bare spots on their lawn caused by the tree's shade, the chore of raking its fall leaves, or other maintenance issues. The City's Tree Commission recommends consulting a certified arborist (preferably one that has Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) instead of a tree removal company, to help determine any issues and assess the integrity of your tree. Remember, there are often alternatives to removing a tree that has stood strong for centuries.

For Citizens Tree Commission monthly tips, please visit the City website at www.AvonLake.org/News. ■

Clean-Up Avon Lake Day

Organize a group of your friends or neighbors, plan individual projects with your family, or coordinate with your employees to make a difference in our community on May 20th. For more information or to register your project, please visit www.AvonLake.org/News. ■

Get Ready for Garage Sales!

If you found yourself spring cleaning recently, you're not alone! Summertime is garage sale season in Avon Lake and there's good news: City ordinances allow residents to host a garage sale on their property up to four times per calendar year and up to four days per occurrence. No zoning permit required! Residents can place temporary signs in residential areas, as long as those signs meet certain criteria (www.AvonLake.org/Zoning). Signs are to not be placed in the public right-of-way or they will be removed.

Planning a garage sale this summer? Visit www.AvonLake.org/City-Services to submit your information to be listed on the City website. Looking to plan your garage sale adventure? Keep up-to-date on Avon Lake garage sales with this helpful list. ■

Citizens Fire Academy

The City's Fire Department will once again host their popular Citizens Fire Academy this fall, giving residents the chance to learn more about the department and the profession of firefighting all while earning CPR certification. The academy classes are a great way for residents to meet the team behind our Fire Department, find out about the variety of services they provide and get a behind-the-scenes look at the preparation and training required to keep our City and residents safe. Academy dates will be posted on the City of Avon Lake Fire Department Facebook page. Sign up is first come, first serve, and limited to 10 to 12 residents. The cost is free. ■

Stay in Touch



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440-933-6141

Building
440-930-4102

Council Office
440-930-4121

Digital Media
440-933-7677

Community 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
440-930-4114

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