



# Know **OUR** AVON LAKE

## Mark Your Calendar

For details on these and other events in Avon Lake, please visit [AvonLake.org/Events](https://www.avonlake.org/Events).

### Wards 1 & 2 Meeting

March 6, 7:00 p.m.

Learwood Middle School

### Wards 3 & 4 Meeting

March 13, 7:00 p.m.

Troy Intermediate School

### Total Solar Eclipse Events

April 6-8

### Shred Day

May 18, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Ellen Trivanovich Aquatic Center

## “Environmentally Speaking” Community Education

Avon Lake’s Environmental Affairs Advisory Board has partnered with the Avon Lake Public Library to present the following:

### March 19, 7:00 p.m.

Helping Monarch Butterflies to Thrive

### April 16, 7:00 p.m.

Nurturing Trees for a Sustainable Future

### May 14, 7:00 p.m.

The Impact of Environmental Challenges on the Avon Lake Power Plant Redevelopment Project

Register at [www.ALPL.org](https://www.ALPL.org)

## Mayor’s Minute

Be on the look out for Mayor Spaetzel’s monthly “Mayor’s Minute.” These informative clips will be featured on the City website, ALC-TV channels, “Avon Lake Matters” podcast, and City social media pages.

## Letter from Our New Mayor



Avon Lake will be the center of attention on April 8th when we host many visitors for the solar eclipse – the last total eclipse to reach North America until March 30, 2033. Inside this newsletter you’ll find important points and links to additional information.

While we did not plan the eclipse, we are planning FOR the eclipse. In fact, your Avon Lake government has been planning for the event for over a year. The safety of our residents and visitors is our primary concern. Our plans focus on making sure residents and those traveling to visit Avon Lake can

safely enjoy this unique experience while we highlight all the wonderful reasons we call this City our home. For many, this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. When visitors return home and talk to others about their time here, we want them to talk glowingly of our community. We hope you will be a part of welcoming and showcasing what makes Avon Lake such a wonderful place to live and work.

In keeping with this theme, our annual Ward meetings will focus on the event, providing additional information and an opportunity to get answers to any remaining questions.

The planning of the eclipse highlights the importance of safety forces. On election day this March 19th, Avon Lake has on the ballot Issue 2, the renewal of our paramedic levy. The levy provides for the salary and benefits of 10 firefighter paramedics, an administrative assistant, and significant equipment. We have a top-notch fire department thanks to your support. Please review the information included on Issue 2 and reach out to me or Fire Chief Betsa if you have any questions.

I want to thank the residents of Avon Lake who put their faith in me. We have many exciting opportunities ahead of us, and I look forward to working with everyone to make Avon Lake the premier lakefront community for families in Ohio. I would love to hear from you, and I can be reached at [mspaetzel@avonlake.org](mailto:mspaetzel@avonlake.org) or 440-930-4100. ■

## Meet Mayor Mark Spaetzel

**Favorite things about Avon Lake:** Our great schools, great amenities, parks and recreational programs, location on the lake, and close proximity to Cleveland.

**Favorite Avon Lake Activity or Destination:** Veterans Park, Lake Erie, our Lorain County Metro Park, library, and Bleser Park.

**Most Excited About as Mayor:** Looking forward to the opportunity to make Avon Lake an even better place – to continue to make it the premier community in Ohio for families.



## Important Information for the April 8th Solar Eclipse

Every second counts for this year's solar eclipse, and the City of Avon Lake will experience almost four full minutes of eclipse totality viewing – several seconds more than surrounding communities in the path of totality! Our prime location will likely draw lots of visitors for the weekend. We'll be offering paid RV and tent camping opportunities at both Miller Road Park and Weiss Field to accommodate the influx of solar eclipse enthusiasts. Residents should also begin to prepare for what's ahead – and consider how so many visitors will affect their daily lives. Save and remember these tips from the City's Police Department:

### Traffic, Road Closures, and Parking

The event may have a significant impact on roadway travel. The eclipse will occur near the evening rush hour, so residents should anticipate delays during their commute. Also:

- There may be temporary road closures and detours in certain areas.
- Avon Lake parking laws will be enforced.
- The Pool and Bleser Park parking lot will be charging \$25 cash for parking spots.
- The Library Lot will be closed.
- Walker Road Park will be pedestrian only and not open to vehicles.
- The City Hall Lot will be closed to the public.
- The Safety Center Lot will be open only for those who have business with the Court or Fire and Police Departments.
- Business and Church lots are private property and may not be open to public use.

### General Tips

- Avoid scheduling appointments on the day of event and avoid unnecessary travel.
- Cell phone service could be affected due to the amount of people in our area.
- Grocery stores and gas stations may experience short-term shortages. Plan ahead.

*NOTE: Avon Lake emergency services will be fully operational during the eclipse. As always, in case of emergency, please contact Police Services at 440-933-4567 or 911. Response to calls will be based on priority level.*

### In Avon Lake

- The partial eclipse will begin at 1:59 p.m.
- Totality will begin at 3:13 p.m. and end at 3:17 p.m.
- The partial eclipse will end at 4:28 p.m.

***Make sure to wear approved eye protection specifically for solar viewing!***

## Weekend Events

We're offering unique Ohio solar eclipse viewing opportunities and memorable experiences for residents and visitors. Be sure to get your Memorial Stadium viewing tickets!

### Saturday, April 6

#### Solar Sip & Shop

Enjoy specials throughout the City from many businesses and restaurants.

#### Star Party

8:30-10:00 p.m.

Walker Road Park Pavilion

### Sunday, April 7

#### Eclipse Chaser 5K and 1K

Race begins at 10:00 a.m.

#### Totality Rocks Music Festival

Beach Park Station Stop 65

Admission is free

### Monday, April 8

#### Avon Lake Official Watch Party

11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Avon Lake High School Memorial Stadium

For more information on events and tickets to the Memorial Stadium Watch Party, visit [AvonLakeSolarEclipse.com](https://AvonLakeSolarEclipse.com)

## Meet Council Member Amy Gentry, Ward 3

**Favorite Things about Avon Lake:** All the parks to walk my dog and our terrific dog park.

**Favorite Avon Lake Activity or Destination:** All the summer activities at Miller Road and Veterans' Memorial parks.

**Most Excited About as a Member of City Council:** Working with First Energy to resolve the power outages that have plagued parts of Wards 3 and 4.

## Communications & Technology Department

The Avon Lake Communications & Technology Department is an important part of the City's commitment to keeping residents informed about events, government activities, and important news related to our community. The department manages a wide range of services, including running all social media channels, hosting "Avon Lake Matters" - a bi-weekly podcast, maintaining the City's website, and creating all programming for Avon Lake Community Television (ALC-TV).

Recently the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, as part of the Primetime Engineering Emmy Awards, recognized the City's efforts with the Philo T. Farnsworth "2023 Excellence in Editing" award for Lucas Hricko's video "Our Avon Lake." The City received top regional honors out of the more than 160 entries submitted. "Our Avon Lake" was also named the professional winner in the "Promotional Video (3:01 or More)" category. ■



## Living With Our Wildlife Coyote Myths & Facts

The natural beauty of our City brings with it a variety of native wildlife, including coyotes. To prevent conflicts with coyotes, residents are encouraged to stay alert and learn the facts:

MYTH	FACT
<b>Coyotes breed all year</b>	In our area, coyotes breed from mid-January to mid-March. They are more active during this time.
<b>Coyotes prey on pets</b>	<p>The National Park Service estimates cats and small dogs make up 4% of a suburban coyote diet. Coyotes are considered "opportunists": they will mostly eat small animals like rabbits and rodents, but will take advantage of pets that are not well-protected.</p> <p>To keep your animals safe, it's important to always walk dogs on leashes. Accompany your dogs in your yard, even if you have a fence, as coyotes can climb into these areas. Keep cats safe inside your home, especially from dusk through dawn.</p>
<b>Coyotes are hard to deter</b>	Coyotes are typically shy in nature. You can deter coyotes from entering your yard with hazing techniques such as yelling or clapping.
<b>Coyotes are carnivores</b>	Coyotes are omnivores, meaning they eat berries and seeds – in addition to meat. To deter coyotes from coming into your yard, remove food sources like bird seed, pet food, and garbage bins.
<b>Coyotes don't benefit our community</b>	Coyotes are an important part of Avon Lake's landscape, helping to control populations of rodents, rabbits, and other small wild animals.
<b>Coyotes will attack people and small children</b>	Humans are over 300 times more likely to get attacked by a skunk than a coyote. No known, verified attack has occurred by a healthy coyote in Northeast Ohio on a human. However, you should treat ALL wildlife with respect and remember that they are all wild animals.

If you are concerned about coyote behavior or notice a coyote that looks or acts sick (has hair loss, stumbles, or tries to interact with people), contact the City's Coyote Hotline at [ccrytzer@avonlake.org](mailto:ccrytzer@avonlake.org).

## Trash Collection Update

After months of gathering resident feedback, City Council voted in January to award the Kimble bid with several improvements to the refuse collection program. If you haven't already, you'll receive detailed information in the mail from Kimble outlining the entire refuse collection program with prices locked in for five years, including:

- The addition of a NEW 32-gallon curbside collection container option. This is in addition to the 96- and 64-gallon options currently offered.
- A new yard waste option: Residents can choose to use a new Kimble 96-gal yard waste container for a discount of \$.78 per quarter. This option allows residents to continue to use additional paper yard waste bags or their own yard waste containers when needed.
- Once residents receive communication from Kimble and they make their selections, containers will be picked up and delivered prior to the end of March.
- Container options will be made available for viewing at the Public Works garage (750 Avon Belden Road) so residents can determine what options will work best for them. Additionally, trash and recycling containers will be placed throughout the City for the 2024 Eclipse Event and 6 other events.

For more details, including costs and how to take advantage of these new options within the 90-day specified change window, visit the City website: [AvonLake.org/News](http://AvonLake.org/News)

## Community Development News

Please join us in welcoming the following businesses to Avon Lake:

**Found Home Provisions** at 763 Avon Belden – a store carrying a mix of new and vintage home goods, plant life/accessories, and cultivated lifestyle gifts.

**Emilie's Coffee House & Wine Bar** at 457 Avon Belden – a charming and welcoming coffee house perfectly situated in the heart of Avon Lake.

**Dirte Pi** at 146 Lear – serving up pizza, chicken, and more with unique sauces and clean ingredients.

**Talents** at 33491 Lake Road – a boutique featuring unique gifts and home and market items.

## Meet Council Member Rob Shahmir, Ward 1

**Favorite things about Avon Lake:** Our school system, the City's bike paths, and our wildlife. And, of course, our proximity to Lake Erie.

**Favorite Avon Lake Activity or Destination:** Veterans' Memorial Park, Peter Miller House, Gitta's Table, Jake's on the Lake, and Taki's.

**Most Excited About as a Member of City Council:** Helping the Avon Lake community understand the problems at hand and bring about transparency.



### Wards 1 & 2 Meeting

March 6, 7:00 p.m., Learwood Middle School

### Wards 3 & 4 Meeting

March 13, 7:00 p.m., Troy Intermediate School

The City Ward meetings offer you a chance to have your voice heard while hearing directly from City officials. Questions or comments for City officials can also be submitted prior to the meeting.

## Renewal Levy: March 19 Ballot

During the March primary, citizens will have the opportunity to vote on Issue 2 – a tax levy renewal that provides important funding for ambulance, paramedic, and emergency medical services operated by the Avon Lake Fire Department. According to Fire Chief Jeremy Betsa, the levy, which isn't an increase, but a renewal, provides vital funding for an entire shift of firefighters in addition to vehicle maintenance, fuel, and other EMS equipment purchases. It also helps fund about 50% of the cost of operating supplies for the Fire Department and training. "Our department run volume has doubled in the last 18 years, and we tend to continuously get busier year after year," the Chief said. "Maintaining this levy is paramount to our operations. It passed with an 88% 'yes' vote the last time it was up for renewal, demonstrating the strong support the community has for the services we provide. We hope to continue to have our citizens behind us."

Did you know? To cover increased call volume, the City will be adding a new ambulance this summer. This vital purchase was funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars, thanks to the efforts of the fire department administration and City Council. By using ARPA funds, the City was able to procure this necessary equipment without having to ask the community for an increase in the current levy. ■

## Concerned About Water Pooling in Your Yard?

Water drainage issues can arise quickly, especially in Avon Lake's older, established neighborhoods. Sometimes the culprit is a street or yard drain clogged with debris. It is important to keep these drains clear on any given day, but especially as winter snow begins to melt and spring rain storms hit our area.

Follow these tips:

- Use a rake to lift any drain covers in your backyard, scoop out debris and replace the cover.
- Trim landscaping near drains in your yard to improve water flow.
- If excessive water continues to accumulate in your yard and not drain properly, contact a landscaper or plumber to assess the situation.
- If water or drainage issues are located on a City right-of-way, contact the Public Works Department office at 440-930-4101 or Avon Lake Regional Water at 440-933-6226. ■

## Did You Know? Avon Lake Hosts a Community Podcast

Avon Lake Matters is a biweekly podcast, spotlighting the stories of our people, organizations, government, and community happenings. To subscribe or listen, search "Avon Lake Matters" on Spotify, Apple or Google. All podcasts are also posted on the City's website.

**Have a question for our City officials?** Residents can ask questions of City officials and hear their answers during these broadcasts! To submit a question, contact the Communications & Technology Department at 440-933-7677 or [alctv@AvonLake.org](mailto:alctv@AvonLake.org). ■

## Stay in Touch



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## New to Avon Lake?

Visit [AvonLake.org/New-Residents](http://AvonLake.org/New-Residents) for a list of frequently asked questions and helpful information as you make Avon Lake your new home.

**Welcome!**  
**We are so happy you are a part of our community.**