



JULY 2020

Avon Lake Job Seekers

While checking in with Avon Lake businesses during the COVID-19 crisis, one challenge that was brought to the attention of Ted Esborn, Economic Development Director, was their difficulty in finding reliable workers. Brian Yarham of Eyring Movers said that one of the things that his business wanted most was "to figure out a better way to connect with people that are out of work who would genuinely want to work at an essential business like ours."

In response, the City now has a simple online process to do just that. Businesses with job openings fill out a short online form, describing the work they have available. Those openings are then sent via email to anyone who has signed up on the City website to receive notifications of available jobs in Avon Lake. Both of these forms can be found on the City's website: www.AvonLake.org/Economic-Development/Job-Opportunities-in-Avon-Lake.

Avon Lake Business Updates

The following new businesses have opened in Avon Lake during this public health crisis:

Sims-Lohman (Learwood Square)
BMV - New Location (Towne Center)
Miracle Ear (Towne Center)
The Kitchen (Towne Center)
Bearings Technology (Pin Oak Parkway)
Diversified Fall Protection (Pin Oak and Moore)
Kiddie Academy (Moore and Walker)
Rico's Tacos & Tequila (Beach Park Station)

Keeping Our Community Informed Throughout a Crisis

The past four months have been a true test for us all. COVID-19 became a major issue as we tried to cope with the mounting numbers from a threat we could not see. At the annual Mayors' Luncheon hosted by the North Coast Chamber of Commerce on March 12th, the head of a major hospital in our area asked the gathering of over 200 people, "What are you all doing here?" It was then that the severity of the pandemic finally began to sink in.

The Avon Lake community experienced its first positive case on March 18th and the numbers have risen steadily since then. By the time you receive this newsletter, it's likely our community will have surpassed its 115th case of COVID-19, and 13th death, as reported by Lorain County Public Health.

Throughout the months we have relied on the guidance of Governor Mike DeWine and former director of the Ohio Department of Health, Dr. Amy Acton, along with advice from Lorain County Public Health Commissioner David Covell, and Dr. Rebecca Starck, President of Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital. We have had to make a number of difficult decisions that have had an effect on everyone in the community in some way. As the governor ordered the closing of schools and businesses, our city government had to decide the safest path forward with regard to parks, playgrounds, the Ellen Trivanovich Aquatic Center, as well as the Independence Day celebration and many summer events and gatherings. The safety of our residents and community is our primary concern.

We look forward to a time when restrictions can be eased. In the meantime, please do your part for the health of the community – practice social distancing, wash your hands, and wear a mask. Be safe, be well, and be kind to one another. Together we can make a difference.

Gregory J. Zilka

Mayor



DEPARTMENT
HIGHLIGHTS



Have You Seen the New Avon Lake Website?

The City website has been updated with user-friendly features and easier navigation. Most everything is visible from the homepage, which helps people find the information they are looking for without the frustration of a lot of clicking.

The old website's design was broken down by city departments. However, if you were unclear about who did what in the City, hunting for information would quickly become frustrating. "City Services" was created to list all of the services offered within the City so they are right there at the forefront of the website.

Highlights of the website include videos that are readily accessible throughout the different department pages, an interactive ward map, detailed map with City parks and bike trails and an enhanced calendar. Avon Lake's Digital Media Department Director, Barb Cagley, states, "There are a lot of meetings and events going on in the City. The new website puts this information at residents' fingertips, allowing people to see what is going on with the hope that it will increase participation and involvement in the City." Public event information can also be added to the website's calendar and "News" section by emailing the Digital Media Department at alctv@avonlake.org

"One highlight of the new website that I think is really good for our citizens is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility of it," Ward I Council Representative Billie Jo David said. "We have an accessibility menu on the home page of the website, which provides options to have the page read to you, increase the font size and change the brightness. For people with low vision or hearing impairments, this really comes in mind with some new ADA requirements on websites."

Be sure to check it all out at www.AvonLake.org. ■

Avon Lake is a Part of the National Pollinator Highway

Living on the shores of Lake Erie has provided residents and visitors with an ever-changing view. In Avon Lake we enjoy other forms of natural beauty and inspiration that include nine civic gardens that were created and continue to be maintained by the members of the Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club.

Most of the plants are native to the area with deep root systems. Once established, they require fewer fertilizers and less water. They filter storm water and help reduce runoff. Importantly, native plants supply pollinators with pollen (protein), nectar (carbohydrates), and specific ones become larva host plants. Butterflies and moths rely on a variety of host plants to lay their eggs and provide food for developing caterpillars.

Why is it important to attract native pollinators with native plants? One-third of every bite we eat is a result of pollination. Through planting a variety of native plants (bio-diversity), we support improved pollinator health and ecological restoration.

Residents can help to build a biodiverse network that supports pollinators. Through research provided by the Garden Club, City Council passed an ordinance in February 2020 to allow tree lawns to be planted with native plants to become a part of the National Pollinator Highway. This effort is supported by Congress and State governments.

Residents interested in participating in the program should contact the Public Works Department for full details and an application. There, they can obtain a list of approved plants and sample templates for installing the plants for each particular planting site.

Please take the time to tour the civic gardens in Avon Lake to be inspired and uplifted by nature. Civic garden locations include Beach Park Pointe (Avon Lake's oldest civic garden), Peter Miller House, Miller Park Gazebo, Old Firehouse, Veterans Memorial Park, and the Monarch Butterfly/Bumblebee Garden at the Avon Lake Public Library and the Monarch Garden at Walker Road Park. ■

Open Burning Regulations

Fire Pits

- Should be contained in structures approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or a comparable testing agency such as CUL (Canada) or CE (Europe)
- Should be a minimum of 15' from any structure

Fire Circles or Campfires

- A maximum 3' in diameter and 2' in height (with all combustibles removed)
- Contained with appropriate bricks, stones, or metal rings designed to contain fire and embers
- Should be a minimum of 25' from any structure

Bonfires

- Not allowed within 50' of any structure

Only dry, clean and seasoned fire wood is to be used as fuel for outdoor fires. Burning of dry leaves, lawn debris, paper/cardboard, plywood/OSB, lumber or other construction material is prohibited.

There should be a responsible person in attendance at all times that fire/embers exist, as well as an appropriate method to extinguish the fire quickly in an emergency situation.

The State Fire Marshall, as well as the Local Fire Marshall, has the authority to place a ban on all open burning, recreational fires and use of outdoor fireplaces based upon atmospheric, drought or other environmental conditions that would make a ban necessary. Please ensure a ban is not in effect prior to making the decision to burn.

City Council Welcomes New Ward 1 Council Representative

Billie Jo David was appointed and sworn in as the new Council Representative for Ward I at the City Council Special Meeting on March 16th. Mrs. David will serve as a member of the Sewer Committee and as Chair of the Natural Resources, Environmental & Public Media Committee.

After serving two terms as Council Ward I representative, Rob James resigned on February 24th to move his residence to Ward II. According to Avon Lake City Charter Section 6, City Council interviewed Ward I residents to fill this vacancy through December 31, 2021 and a successor will be determined at the 2021 November election to serve the unexpired four-year term (December 31, 2023).

"Mrs. David has a good perspective of the needs of the community and with her background how to accomplish these objectives" stated Council President O'Donnell. "She brings social media skills which will assist Council and the City in communicating with residents."

As an Avon Lake resident for 15 years, Mrs. David has been an active member in the community and has served on the Avon Lake Early Childhood PTA Board and is an active member of the PTA. She has also coached recreational and travel soccer in the Avon Lake Soccer Organization.

She began her public service career as a Quality Officer with the Ohio



Ward 1 Council Representative, Billie Jo David

Department of Transportation and served as the primary agency spokesperson and facilitated public involvement for the Cleveland Innerbelt Project. Currently, she is serving as the Director of Communications & Quality on the Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Tallmadge. In this role, she facilitates strategic planning, oversees and directs the Department of Communications, serves as the primary spokesperson, develops and implements content management strategy, and provides oversight and direction for major unusual incident department.

"I was impressed with her understanding of city operations and the need to work with all parties in resolving issues and moving the city forward," said O'Donnell.

Mrs. David can be contacted at 440-682-0103 or bdavid@avonlake.org. ■

Current COVID-19 Scams

Fake CDC Emails - Watch out for emails claiming to be from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other expert sources offering special advice or information about COVID-19. Legitimate information can be found at www.coronavirus.gov or from the Ohio Department of Health at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Fake COVID-19 Tracing - Scammers are contacting people claiming to be tracing COVID-19 contacts. While legitimate health agencies in Ohio are calling people to complete contact tracing, they will never ask for your social security or bank account information.

Fake EMA Robocalls - The Ohio Emergency Management Agency will never call residents asking for Social Security numbers or other personal information.

Fake "Global Empowerment Fund" - Watch out for emails from someone claiming to be from the Federal Trade Commission. This scam email says you'll get money from a COVID-19 "Global Empowerment Fund" if you respond with your bank account information and they'll transfer the funds. There is no "Global Empowerment Fund".

Fake Stimulus Check Calls - Most people have already gotten their economic stimulus payments, but the Internal Revenue Service is still sending them out. Scammers pretending to be from the government can rig up caller ID to look like a call is coming from the government. However, government agencies usually will not call or email you – especially about something related to money. They almost always contact you by US mail.

When in doubt, do not share. If the source claims to be your bank or a government agency, confirm they are legitimate by calling the organization at a phone number you have verified.

Report suspicious calls to the Ohio Attorney General's office at 1-800-282-0515 or visit www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov.

Avon Lake Regional Water's Response During COVID-19 Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Avon Lake Regional Water has been and will continue to provide reliable, wholesome and seamless water and wastewater services to our customers in Avon Lake and surrounding communities, working 24/7, 365 days a year. The Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities and our entire team take great pride in providing you water and wastewater services, which are critical to public health and safety. As a reminder, per the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), there is no evidence detecting COVID-19 in drinking water because of the filtration and disinfection steps to treating the water. Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the water! For more information on our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit avonlakewater.org/response-tocoronavirus-covid-19/.



Overlook Park's Total Reconstruction

After patiently enduring the three-year sewer separation project in the Cottage District, Avon Lake residents are now able to enjoy a completely reconstructed park.

The newly opened Overlook Park has slides, swings and a climbing wall that has a bigger playground than before and is multi-functional, multi-use and ADA-accessible.

The new spray ground is open 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday, weather permitting. During the coronavirus pandemic, park visitors are reminded to maintain social distancing and other methods to ward off the virus. The City is following guidelines and sanitizing equipment multiple times per day.

For a listing of all Avon Lake parks and their amenities, please visit www.avonlake.org/our-community/our-parks. ■



Abby Evans, Dylan Drop and Eddie Rodgers, enjoying the new Overlook Park spray ground on a summer afternoon.

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happening!



www.AvonLake.org