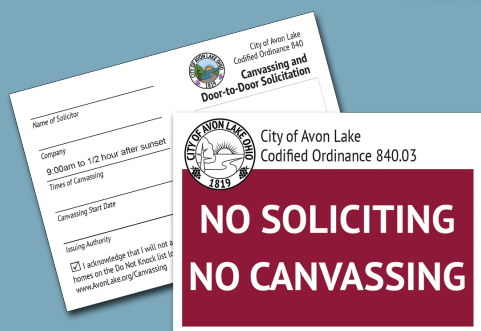




MAY 2019



On February 11, 2019, Avon Lake City Council passed legislation to establish a “Do Not Knock” registry. Spearheaded by Council President Martin O'Donnell, this legislation was created in response to complaints received by residents regarding overly aggressive door-to-door solicitors. In summary:

- To be added to the list, residents can register:
 - online at www.AvonLake.org
 - in person at City Hall
 - in person at the Police Department
- Solicitors are required to wear a lanyard in which the City permit is clearly visible, including their photo, company name and City of Avon Lake logo.
- The registry is accessible online and updated regularly for the solicitor's reference.
- Optional stickers to post at resident's door are available at City Hall or the Police Department.
- If a solicitor violates the “Do Not Knock” requirements, complaints should be directed to the Police Department.

General questions may be directed to City Hall, 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., by calling (440) 933-6141.

Avon Lake Bicentennial: Looking Back and Looking Forward

When people think of the history of a city, images of old grainy photographs may come to mind or stories that our grandparents told us. Because history can be recent, Avon Lake's living history is the focus of the Avon Lake Bicentennial Scavenger Hunt - Destination Party. The Scavenger Hunt will challenge your memory and, for those of you who do not have a long memory of Avon Lake, tell the old stories of locations around town. A cheat sheet will be provided with the clues to ensure everyone makes it to the final destination where we will celebrate with a party. To add even more fun, each of the nine “hunt” locations will have surprises. Contact your cleverest friends to fill your car and join us. If you want tickets and more information for this Sunday, May 5th, event go to AvonLake200.org.

Do you recall one of the coldest days this winter, January 20th, the day of the Bicentennial Community Choir Performance? Well, a little cold did not deter the enthusiasm of the performers that day. Over 100 singers and musicians warmed the hearts of their audience in the Avon Lake High School Performing Arts Center. If you missed the performance, DVDs are available at AvonLake200.org/store.

Now that warmer weather is upon us, the Bicentennial Committee is ramping up our other events. On Sunday, June 9th, we will Hike into History in Kopf Reservation. This family-friendly event will feature skills our forefathers practiced when Avon Lake was a young township. Come watch how log cabins were built or engage with the animals that were essential to everyday life 200 years ago.

Over the years, Avon Lake has been the home to professional baseball players and certainly plenty of fans. If your family is a fan of the game, come cheer for the Avon Lake team. Their challenger is the Ohio Village Muffins from Columbus. This game will be played using the original 1860's rules, uniforms and wood stick. There will be festivities before the game as well as players to answer questions about the history of the game.

The final Bicentennial event, the Fourth of July Jubilee, will be a day packed with activities and entertainment. There will be a dog pageant, carnival games, entertainers, live music, giant inflatables, food trucks, and, of course, fireworks! Invite all your friends and family to celebrate the Fourth of July in Avon Lake. ■

Map: Htownk Credit: The collaborative mural used for the treasure hunt map was created at the 2007 PT4 Reflections Creative Art Fair





PARKING INFO

On December 10, 2018, Avon Lake City Council approved an ordinance that prohibits parking on the hydrant side of all Avon Lake streets. Residents are permitted to park on the tree lawn of the hydrant side as long as all four tires are off the street and the vehicle is parked a minimum of 10 feet from the fire hydrant. This is a safety issue, and ensures access for emergency vehicles and other large vehicles such as garbage trucks, school buses, etc.

As a reminder, there is an overnight parking ban. Vehicles are not permitted to park on the street between the hours of 2:00 a.m and 6:00 a.m.

Bygone Days of Lakeshore Bounty

by Sherry Spenser

By the dictates of survival, pioneers were ever in search of fuel and home construction supplies. The quest for energy resources has long existed, and occasionally, a fortunate farmer found himself harvesting more than just crops as other bounty washed ashore.

Lake Erie's fickle weather witch has caught even the most seasoned of sailors by surprise. Reports of sunken ships and lost loads abound. Seamen who dared risk the elements, particularly in late fall, added to the loss statistics. Avon Lake's "Avon Point" was the unintended final stop for many vessels and their cargo.

Among Erie's unfortunates were the *Colonel Cook*, claimed by a storm in September 1894, leaving a load of limestone at the lake's bottom. In April of 1904, the ill-fated *Charles Kimball* met with a late evening storm at Avon Point, and lost its load of limestone. In October of 1905, Avon Point watched the steamer *Sarah Sheldon* forced ashore, and then watched as she was "pounded to pieces". The *Sheldon's* crew members were rescued, but its load of coal was lost.

The *Sarah Hunter*, destined for Duluth and downed at Avon Point on a blustery November day in 1904, supplied one lake shore farmer with a bounty of coal. The

man claimed to have accumulated over 75 tons of the fuel, neatly broken by the battering waves, along the shoreline north of his farm. Being more than sufficient to meet his own needs, he began selling it to his neighbors. He continued to reap a supply for seven years before the coal finally ceased to grace his shore.

An Avon Lake pioneer, Fred Padley, thought he would similarly seize the opportunity to avail himself of some free building supplies when he gathered timber that washed ashore near Avon Point. Leverett J. Cahoon, a resident of some proximity to Padley, disputed the latter's entitlement to the goods. Cahoon claimed to have purchased the same supply from a lumber company in Cleveland, but was deprived of the shipment when the barge bearing his intended load sunk off Avon Point several days before Padley had done his gathering.

In 1884, Cahoon filed a lawsuit against Padley seeking compensation for the appropriated goods. The matter went to a jury trial about a year later, and the jury was unable to agree. After another year and another jury trial, judgment was awarded to Cahoon in the amount of \$53.87. Padley thus discovered, to his dismay, that not all lake shore bounty was free. ■



Thomas Birch, *An American Ship in Distress*. 1841, Timken Museum of Art, California.



Councilor Eileen Campo, Mayor Greg Zilka, Councilor David Kos, Judge Darrel Bilancini and Councilor Jennifer Fenderbosch in the 2018 Avon Lake Homecoming Parade.

Judge Bilancini's Positive Outlook

Darrel Bilancini has always believed that if you show respect to someone, there is a greater likelihood that they will be respectful in return. His experience as judge has born that out.

Elected to the Avon Lake Municipal Court in 2006, Judge Bilancini became full-time in 2014. He recalls commenting to his wife, Cindy, on election night that his life would be forever changed as a result of taking on this new challenge, and it has. Every day that he serves as our judge, he recognizes it as being an opportunity to make someone's life better. He takes this to heart, and does his best to make his interactions with people a positive experience. In exchange, his own life is affected in a positive way.

Born and raised in Lorain, Judge Bilancini and his nine brothers and sisters were raised by his mom after his dad, who was a fireman, died of lung cancer at the age of 47. He attended St. Mary's School, graduated from Lorain Catholic High, received a bachelor's degree at John Carroll University and a law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Now in his 41st year as an attorney, the majority of which was spent serving as a civil trial attorney with law partner, Jerry

Savoy in Elyria, Judge Bilancini considers the field of law to be similar to most professions. He offers this advice, "You can be kind and fair to people or you can be a jerk. In the end, the jerks are losers. So, if you are one, please don't spend your time as a lawyer."

Outside of the courtroom, he enjoys working in and around the house on decorating and landscaping projects. He and his wife, a registered nurse, have raised their three daughters in Avon Lake, two of whom are teachers and their oldest a computer programmer. Judge Bilancini really enjoys being part of the Avon Lake community and feels especially thankful for neighbors, the members of his parish – St. Joseph Catholic Church, the members of Kiwanis, the staff of our court, the Avon Lake Police Department and the city employees who support the court.

To represent his community, Judge Bilancini will be singing the National Anthem and trading his gavel for a bat at the City's next Bicentennial event - the Ohio Village Muffins vs. Avon Lake old-time baseball game. He admits, "Although I have sung solos with the St. Joe's choir, I've never been asked to sing the National Anthem before. I'll be nervous, but I'm more concerned about pulling a muscle going to first base during the game." Be sure to mark your calendar to come cheer on Judge Bilancini and all of the players at Weiss Field on June 29th at 2:00 p.m. ■

- For those households that ordered the 64-gallon trash container, they will be swapped the beginning of May. Kimble will exchange them on your regular collection day.
- Bulk pick-up is once a month on any one of your regular collection days. It is limited to 2 cubic yards (6 ft. x 3 ft. x 3 ft.). Plastic bags are considered bulk pick-up if they are not in a trash container.
- Yard waste picked up by Kimble needs to be placed in brown paper bags or clearly labeled containers marked "yard waste." Branches tied in 4-foot long bundles will be picked up by Kimble as yard waste.
- Loose branches are still collected by the City crews, and do not follow trash routes.
- Carts should be placed at least three feet from each other and other objects (mail box, light post, etc.).

TRASH TIPS



Old Firehouse Community Center Updates

In updating the Old Firehouse Community Center, the Avon Lake Recreation Department is trying to attract a younger group of seniors, in particular residents who have retired in their mid- to late-50s. As Mike Kral, Recreation Facility Manager, points out, “There seems to be a stigma attached to the name “Senior Center,” and the “Boomers” do not feel ready for such a place.” To erase the stigma, the Community Center is being transformed into simply a welcoming place to congregate.

To accomplish this goal, programming will be expanded to include more trips and activities geared toward this core group of younger seniors. Residents also have access to the Community Center’s exercise room, which consists of treadmills, recumbent bikes, elliptical machines, dumbbells and stepping units. The room is open weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to members, ages 55 and over.

The Atrium Room has also been given a facelift and now includes a small fireplace, television and book shelves, offering a nice quiet place to relax and do a little bird watching. The Atrium is open weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Coffee is always available in the kitchen with hopes of providing pastries in the future.

Soon to be polished up will be the North Bay that overlooks the new deck and Pollinator/Outdoor Classroom/Edible Garden, which was constructed in partnership with the Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club, Avon Lake High School’s AP Environmental Class and Environmental Club, Erieview Elementary Healthy Kids Club and Heritage Avon Lake. Wrapping around the deck, the garden



features a winding walkway flanked by berries, fruit trees, flowers and vegetables, a number of native plants to attract pollinators and world-renowned roses bred by David Austin Roses. These roses were voted England’s favorite by BBC Gardener’s World viewers. A garden of these outstanding roses is hard to beat for sheer exuberance of flower and fragrance.

This will be the second full warm-weather season for the deck. With chairs, benches and tables, the deck is a great place to sit and watch the lake. Table umbrellas will soon be added, allowing for additional opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Additional activities will be planned on the deck, including a summer picnic on July 2nd and additional outdoor Lunch & Learn opportunities.

To keep up-to-date with the monthly news, details can be accessed at www.AvonLakeRec.com under “Facilities” and “The Old Firehouse.” Please call (440) 930-4135 with any questions. ■

Avon Lake City Hall 440-933-6141	Human Resources 440-930-4127	Recreation 440-930-4130
Building 440-930-4102	Law 440-930-4122	Regional Water 440-933-6226
Council Office 440-930-4121	Mayor 440-930-4100	Zoning 440-930-4143
Digital Media 440-933-7677	Municipal Court 440-930-4103	
Economic Development 440-930-4167	Police 440-933-4567	
Finance 440-933-6141	Public Works: Planning/Engineering 440-930-4101	
Fire 440-933-8305	Service 440-930-4126	

UPCOMING BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

Scavenger Hunt: Destination Party 5.5.19

Hike Into History 6.9.19

Ohio Village Muffins vs. Avon Lake 6.29.19

4th of July Jubilee 7.4.19