

AVON LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Avon Lake Community Council is made up of community organizations, including local service groups, businesses, sports programs, and others. These organizations meet four times a year to share knowledge and work together to help with membership, fundraising, and resource sharing.

If your organization would like to be a part of the Avon Lake Community Council, please email Marty O'Donnell at modonnell@avonlake.org.



Avon Lake Community Council page provided by the generous support of the Avon Lake Athletic Boosters.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

The Avon Lake Boat Club, located at Veterans Memorial Park, has a few openings for kayaks and motorboats. Several levels of membership are available to adult residents of Avon Lake who desire to have enhanced access to Lake Erie's fishing and boating opportunities. Membership provides space for storing a motorboat (up to 14' aluminum), stand-up paddle boards (SUB), or kayaks. The all-volunteer club has both family and adult social events, hosts an annual Valentine's Day perch dinner for the residents of Beachpark Tower senior living apartments, and a community-wide Kids Fishing Derby at Walker Road Park each fall. Contact: Joeslife@AvonLakeBoatClub.com, (216) 533-8934 or rfrank111@yahoo.com, (440) 222-5292.

The Avon Lake Democrats Club meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at The Old Firehouse Community Center, 100 Avon Belden Road at 7:00 p.m. (virtually via Zoom until further notice). We are a group of like-minded people that work together to support and elect candidates that are dedicated to the core values of the Democratic Party in putting people first and promoting policies that ensure equality, justice, and good government for everyone. Some of our projects include voter registration, educational programs to keep citizens informed, as well as making contributions to support local charitable organizations. Visit: www.AvonLakeDemocrats.org. Contact: Jean Sekulic (440) 225-9124 or AvonLakeDemocrats@gmail.com for updates on how meetings will be held.

The Avon Lake Historical Society celebrates the stories of Avon Lake's history through collections, programs, and experiences that generate excitement for the past and an understanding that our stories are an important part of American history and our future. Membership contributions are tax-deductible, and vital in continuing the important work on Avon Lake's historic sites such as The Folger Home and the Peter Miller House Museum. The mission of the Avon Lake Historical Society is to preserve our community's rich past and share it with long-time, former, and newer residents alike. Contact: HeritageAvonLake@gmail.com.

Avon Lake Regional Water (ALRW) provides water services to over 200,000 residents that live in Avon Lake and the seven-county area that surround it. In addition, they provide sanitary sewer services to approximately 30,000 residents living in Avon Lake and parts of Lorain County. ALRW is governed by the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities, which is elected by Avon Lake residents and is an independent body from Avon Lake City Council. The Board establishes policy and oversees ALRW operations. Visit: www.AvonLakeWater.org.

The Avon Lake Sports Hall of Fame's purpose is to give lasting recognition to the outstanding sports figures and/or teams of Avon Lake who have demonstrated outstanding athletic ability at the high school, college, amateur, or professional sports levels. We strive to recognize those individuals who have contributed greatly to the promotion of sports through leadership, sponsoring, coaching, or providing assistance to athletes of athletic programs. It is our utmost desire to promote more interest in the athletic programs of Avon Lake. Visit: www.AvonLakeSportsHallOfFame.org.

The Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club celebrated its 90th anniversary this year with the installation of a Free Book Box House in the Wildflower Garden at Miller Road Park. In keeping with this year's theme, "Share Our Vision", the book house has been stocked with donated gardening books. On the first day of Spring, the sharing continued when little gift bags containing seed packets were put in the house for members of the community to enjoy. Throughout its 90 year history, the garden club has remained committed to promoting interests and knowledge of gardening, not just to its members, but to the community as well. Visit: www.AvonLakeGarden.club.

Kiwanis International is a global organization dedicated to improving the lives of children around the world. If you mention Kiwanis to an old time Avon Laker, they are likely to respond with "Pancake Breakfasts", "Scholarships", or possibly "Safety Town." Founded in 1946, our local club is the parent organization to the Avon Lake High School Key Club, Troy and Learwood Builders Clubs, and the K-Kids at Westview, Redwood, and Erieview. To date, Kiwanis has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships over the past six years to Avon Lake seniors in high school. Call: (440) 225-8686.

City of Avon Lake
150 Avon Belden Road
Avon Lake, OH 44012

Coleman Gardens - Sustainable Farming in Avon Lake



Photo courtesy of Timothy Schulz

There are many advantages to supporting local businesses, but one that may not be so obvious is the positive impact it can have on the environment. The Avon Lake Environmental Affairs Advisory Board (EAAB) wants to spotlight a local farm that is supporting sustainable farming while helping consumers minimize their environmental impact.

Coleman Gardens, LLC is a 2.5-acre family farm located in Avon Lake. They operate as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, which has become a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer. They offer a certain number of "shares" to the public which consist of a box of vegetables or other products produced on the farm. Interested consumers purchase a share and in return receive seasonal produce each week throughout the farming season proportional to the farm's production. By shopping at Coleman Gardens, Avon Lake residents would reduce their "food mileage" or fossil fuel consumption from both the supplier bringing the produce to a market, as well as the consumer driving to the market for purchase. Taking simple steps to minimize the amount of fuel required to bring produce from the farm to table is something individuals can do to promote sustainability in their daily lives, while also supporting a local business.

To learn more about Coleman Gardens and their products, as well as their partnerships within our community, find them at: <https://ColemanGardens.org/>. For more information on the EAAB, find them on Facebook by visiting: www.Facebook.com/avonlake.environment/. ■

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
440-961-0406
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

PLEASE NOTE

- Beginning May 1, the Collective Committee and City Council meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Resident Participation Needed:

- Review revised Planning and Zoning code by May 30.
- Complete the Annual Deer Control Survey by June 30.

www.AvonLake.org/News

CONNECT WITH US



www.AvonLake.org



MAY 2021

Shred Day

May 22, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Avon Lake Service Garage
750 Avon Belden Road

Public Works Seasonal Worker Application Deadline

May 30
www.AvonLake.org/HumanResources

Summer Concert Series

Amelia Airharts

June 13, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Bleser Park, 32800 Electric Boulevard

Austin Walkin' Cane

June 24, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Veteran's Memorial Park, 32756 Lake Road

Cleveland Tops

June 27, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Miller Road Park, 33760 Lake Road

Anne E. DeChant & The Spazmatics

July 2, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Weiss Park, 33401 Webber Road

Jump The Gun

July 11, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Bleser Park, 32800 Electric Boulevard

The Players Club

July 24, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Weiss Park, 33401 Webber Road

Chad Hoffman

July 29, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Veteran's Memorial Park, 32756 Lake Road

Revolution Pie

August 8, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Bleser Park, 32800 Electric Boulevard

Rubix Cubed

August 22, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Bleser Park, 32800 Electric Boulevard

Kristine Jackson

August 26, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Veteran's Memorial Park, 32756 Lake Road

Visit www.AvonLake.org/Calendar for more information.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Cautiously Optimistic about Summer in Avon Lake

We look forward with cautious optimism that we are getting past the grip of COVID-19, and will be able to enjoy activities that have not been possible for quite some time. The vaccination effort by Lorain County Public Health has been remarkable as the number of Lorain County residents who have received a COVID-19 vaccination continues to grow. Health commissioner David Covell reports that there is now an ample supply of vaccine available. If you haven't received a vaccination, but would like to, please go to www.LorainCountyHealth.com/Signup to schedule an appointment. Together we can make a difference.

The Memorial Day parade and ceremony will return this year. On Monday, May 31, we will remember the sacrifices of our military with a parade that kicks off at 10:00 a.m. at Avon Lake High School. Immediately following the parade, the Memorial Day ceremony will take place at Veterans Memorial Park. We hope you will join us in honoring our military on this important occasion.

Preparations have begun to bring back the ever popular Big Trucks event on September 18. Due to COVID-19, the format may need to be modified for the protection of all. Stay tuned for further details.

The City of Avon Lake is committed to the health and safety of the community and will follow all COVID-19 guidelines in effect from the State of Ohio at the time of the events.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Migrony J. Zilka

Mayor, Avon Lake

A grand fireworks show is scheduled for Friday, July 2 as we celebrate Independence Day. Avon Lake's own Anne E. DeChant will open the event at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Presenting of the Colors by American Legion Post 211, and the singing of the National Anthem. The 80's band The Spazmatics will then take the stage at 8:00 p.m. At dusk, Zambelli Fireworks will fill the night sky with a fitting tribute to our nation.



Council Committee Changes – Meeting the Needs of Today’s Community

In the summer of 2020, Council President Marty O'Donnell reviewed council committees of 18 other cities regarding their names, responsibilities, and inner workings within their various departments. His review led to recommendations to City Council members for changes and subsequent passage on January 25, 2021.

“The Council Committees had not been examined since the early 1990s in terms of meeting the needs of today’s community or balancing the workloads between committees,” stated Council President O'Donnell. “Additionally, City Council needed more discussions in the course of a year with Department Heads which led to each department being directly assigned to a Council Committee for ongoing communication, workflow, and operational policies.”

The major changes:

Finance Committee

- All legal issues were assigned under this committee.
- Continue to review of the goals and objectives of the Finance Department.

Economic Development

- Work directly with the redesigned Community Improvement Corporation.
- Continue to review of the goals and objectives of the Land Use Plan.

Human Resources

- Review all special employee programs.
- Continue to review the goals and objectives of the Human Resources Department.

Public Service

- Responsible for historic districts/properties, sidewalks, bike paths, brown fields, City facilities, shorelines, and all City parks and recreational facilities.
- Review goals and objectives of Planning, Zoning, Engineering, and Public Works Departments.
- Street maintenance and housing enforcement.
- Any City facility dealing with arts/humanities.

Public Safety and Health (formerly Safety Committee)

- Homeland security, school and bike safety, pedestrian safety.
- Work directly with the Lorain County Health Department regarding health services to the community.
- All emergency vehicles and communications related to the Fire and Police Department, including goals and objectives.

Building and Utilities (formerly Sewer Committee)

- All utilities, stormwater, water, and renewable energies are under this committee (i.e., gas, electrical, and all power companies).
- The Chair will represent City Council at Avon Lake Municipal Utilities board meetings.
- Public transportation and Building Department goals and objectives.

Communication, Environmental and Recreational Programming (formerly Natural Resources, Environmental, and Public Media Committee)

- All City computer hardware, software contracts, website, social media, marketing, and community outreach were directly assigned.
- Review recreational programming for youth and senior services.
- Pursue arts and humanities programs.
- All recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding fees, programs, and goals/objectives of the Recreation Department will be followed up by this committee.



“Avon Lake Matters” is a new biweekly podcast produced by the Avon Lake Digital Media Department. This podcast goes directly to the source to highlight all that is going on in Avon Lake, both in the community and in City Hall. With the popularity of podcasts growing, this medium allows us to explore everything that makes an impact in our community, including Avon Lake businesses, government, community events, and the people behind them.

“One opportunity available to us, using the podcast, is as an education tool to keep residents informed on how the government operates. For example, there are committees and commissions whose members include residents that are an integral part of the decisions made by City Council. It is important that residents not only recognize these, but also learn how they function so they can get involved,” states Barb Cagley, Director of Avon Lake’s Digital Media Department. “We will also highlight the people who make this City a great place to live and play.”

The first interviews include William Rutger, Shea Alltmont, and Gerry Vogel of the Avon Lake Public Library, Avon Lake City Council President Marty O'Donnell, Tony Tomanek and Sherry Spenser of the Avon Lake Historical Society, and ALC-TV community producer Don O'Malley. The full library of podcast shows can be found at www.AvonLake.org/podcasts. Please subscribe to “Avon Lake Matters” wherever you get your podcasts.

Also included in the show’s format is an opportunity for residents to ask questions of City officials and get the answers. If you have a question for your City officials or a suggestion for a topic to be featured on this podcast, please contact the Digital Media Department at 440-933-7677 or DigitalMedia@AvonLake.org. ■

Business Grants in COVID-19 Times

This spring, the City of Avon Lake will deliver checks to 94 of its city businesses. The checks will range from \$25 to \$2,700. This is the annual distribution of grant awards under the City’s Jobs Growth Incentive Program (JGIP). This program was started in 2012 as an economic development effort designed for both attraction of new companies and retention of existing companies. The City starts each year by looking at the income tax paid by each business as a measure of job growth. Any eligible business that has paid more income tax than they did the previous year receives a check from the City for 25% of that increase. To be eligible, the business needs to be a for-profit venture operating out of a commercial building in Avon Lake (non-profits and home-based businesses are not eligible). The maximum award is \$50,000—that would only result from a business paying \$200,000 more in income tax than it did the prior year. The minimum award is just \$25. The current awards granted by the City reflect the 2020 tax year. Due to COVID-19, the expectation was that there would not have been much job growth among our businesses, and the amount awarded would be small. That was true in terms of the total amount awarded — \$27,325, which had been as high as \$120,000 in previous years. Surprising was the number of businesses receiving a JGIP award this year — 94. That is a fairly average number of grant recipients for this program. This suggests that while COVID-19 stopped some big job growth in larger Avon Lake companies, it did not hinder the City’s entrepreneurial spirit or growth in its small businesses. ■

Let’s Welcome Our Newest Businesses

Business owners agree that Avon Lake is a safe place to open, even during the pandemic.

- The Kitchen: All Day Brunch
- Miracle Ear
- Bearings Tech
- Rico’s Tacos & Tequila
- Unistrut
- Kiddie Academy
- Sims-Lohman
- The 611 Group
- Old School Pizza & Wings
- The Maker Space Studios
- Maison: Designs by C Marie
- My Happy Place Therapy and Wellness
- Mimzy’s Bakehouse
- Onyx Health Club
- Earthwise Pets
- Steel Armory
- Soul Fire Blessings

FIRE SAFETY TIPS (Cont.)

Safe Grilling

July is the peak month for grill fires.

Follow these simple tips for safe grilling:

- All types of grills should be placed well away from the home, deck railings, eaves, and overhanging branches.
- Remove grease or fat buildup from the grills, especially in the trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended, and keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.

Gas and Propane Grill Safety:

- Keep grill lid open while lighting it.

- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately move away from the grill, and call the fire department.

- Check the propane tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year and every time you change tanks. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose and connections. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.

- Never store propane tanks (empty or full) indoors. Propane gas is heavier than air and will settle in low areas awaiting an ignition source. Common ignition sources can be hot water tanks, vehicles, electrical switches, or even static electricity from walking.

Charcoal Grill Safety:

- Use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid to the fire, and keep out of reach of children and away from heat sources.

- Opt for an electric charcoal starter or fire starter sticks.

- Let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container. Coals can stay active for a day or two only needing air to rekindle.

Music on a Mission Inc. uses the power of music and dance to enrich the lives of individuals with different needs by providing creative, interactive programming. We provide the proven benefits of music to those who are less likely to have access to music and the arts, and assist people in making positive life changes. Programs include: Kids in Tune, Dance to the Music, Seniors in Symphony, Voices for Veterans, and Project D.R.E.W. Visit: www.MusicMissionInc.com.

North Coast Rotarians share common interests, have fun, make a positive impact in our communities through service, share business connections, and expand our professional networks. From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians have been concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their personal and professional lives. Our members participated in a wide variety of service activities in the last year, including preparing food boxes for seniors, thanking healthcare workers during COVID-19, collecting gently used books, assembling Family Care Baskets, bringing our seniors back to school, hosting fundraisers, and reviewing essays and scholarship applications. JOIN US! Contact: NorthCoastRotary@gmail.com or (866) 696-0953.

2020 PERSON & PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to this year’s winners on their outstanding contributions to our community!

Marty Gallagher

Many local organizations have benefited from Marty’s participation. However, as President of the Avon Lake Athletic Boosters, he has single-handedly made the organization self-sufficient and viable, both financially and in membership participation. With his leadership, the Boosters have increased revenues to over \$1,000,000 with all funds used to pay for Avon Lake sports enhancements. As president, he has spearheaded several projects including installation of batting cages, Specto Bowling software, and a new sound system at the Avon Lake stadium.

When asked for assistance on projects, in particular the Avon Lake Historical Society and Beach Park Rail, Marty has always responded with immediate and outstanding support. Marty is also a board member of the Avon Lake Historical Society and Beach Park Station Museum.

‘Kekic’s Spirit of St. Louis’

The iconic Kekic Spirit of St. Louis was part of Avon Lake life before it was removed in the 1990s, greeting travelers along Lake Road for over 70 years. It was originally installed at Ted Kekic’s gas station, Stop 43, in 1927 to commemorate the crossing of the Atlantic by Charles Lindbergh.

Eagle Scout, Nick Zangas, orchestrated the successful installation of “Kekic’s Plane.” A true community project, it was made possible with the time, resources and talents of Nick Yarham, Frank Landl, Chris Grassa, Mike Kral, Carl Wetzig Jr., Gary Wightman, Al Hopp, Skip Lietner, and Robert Becka. There were other members of our community whose hands “touched” this project and many city officials instrumental in making this happen.

Since its installation this icon has returned to Avon Lake as a popular “photo op” and a memory to continue for generations to come.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ROSTER

Aging Gracefully TV
Avon Lake Athletic Boosters
Avon Lake Boat Club
Avon Lake Citizen Tree Commission
Avon Lake City Schools Foundation
Avon Lake Community Garden
Avon Lake Democrats
Avon Lake Early Childhood PTA
Avon Lake Historical Society
Avon Lake Kiwanis Club
Avon Lake Lacrosse Club
Avon Lake Public Library
Avon Lake Regional Water
Avon Lake Republican Club
Avon Lake Saddle Club

Avon Lake Sports Hall of Fame
Avon Lake Waterfront Corporation
Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club
Beach Park Station Museum
Camp Imagine
Community Resource Services (CRS)
Friends of the Parks in Avon Lake Inc.
Love-A-Stray
Mighty Goliath Productions
Music on a Mission
North Coast Chamber of Commerce
North Coast Decorative Artists
North Coast Rotary Club
West Shore Lodge #804 Freemasons

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 1-31 - Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club “Walk-in Fundraiser with Dean’s Greenhouse,” 3984 Porter Road, Westlake. Visit www.AvonLakeGarden.club

JUNE 12, 10:00 a.m. - Avon Lake Saddle Club “Combo Mini/Saddle Show,” Weiss Field, 33141 Webber Road. Email kathleen@GetDependable.com

JUNE 19, 4:00-9:00 p.m. - Avon Lake Historical Society “Rockin’ the Rails,” Beach Park Station, 33489 Lake Road. Email HeritageAvonLake@gmail.com

JUNE 21, 4:00-9:00 p.m. - Music on a Mission “Make Music Avon Lake Day,” Beach Park Shopping Center, Bleser Park, and Veterans Memorial Park. Email: AvonLake@MakeMusicDay.org

JUNE 26, 10:00 a.m. - Avon Lake Saddle Club “Open Miniature Show,” Weiss Field, 33141 Webber Road. Email kathleen@GetDependable.com

JUNE 26, 6:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - CRS “9th Annual Hooks for Hunger Walleye Tournament,” Miller Road Park, 33760 Lake Road. Email edmcraft57@gmail.com

JULY 3, 6:00-9:00 p.m. - Avon Lake Historical Society “Rockin’ the Rails,” Beach Park Station, 33489 Lake Road. Email HeritageAvonLake@gmail.com

JULY 17, 10:00 a.m. - Avon Lake Saddle Club “Open Miniature Show,” Weiss Field, 33141 Webber Road. More Info: Email Kathleen@GetDependable.com

JULY 24, 10:00 a.m. - Avon Lake Saddle Club “Combo Mini/Saddle Show & Fall City Event,” Weiss Field, 33141 Webber Road. Email kathleen@GetDependable.com

AUGUST 15, 6:00-9:00 p.m. - Avon Lake Historical Society “Rockin’ the Rails,” Beach Park Station, 33489 Lake Road. Email HeritageAvonLake@gmail.com

AUGUST 26, 6:35 p.m. - CRS “Homeruns for Hunger,” Crushers Stadium, 2009 Baseball Boulevard. Email pohradzansky@AALCRS.org

AUGUST 28, 12:30-7:00 p.m. - Avon Lake Athletic Boosters “Beer Fest,” Miller Road Park, 33760 Lake Road. Visit www.AvonLakeAthleticBoosters.org

SEPTEMBER 5, 6:00-9:00 p.m. - Avon Lake Historical Society “Rockin’ the Rails,” Beach Park Station, 33489 Lake Road. Email HeritageAvonLake@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 10, 7:00 p.m. - CRS “SOUPer Bowl Food Drive,” Joe Firmint Chevrolet Stadium, Avon. Email pohradzansky@AALCRS.org

SEPTEMBER 11, 9:00 a.m.- Avon Lake Saddle Club “2021 Hay Day Open/Mini Show,” Weiss Field, 33141 Webber Road. Email Kathleen@GetDependable.com

October 2, 6:00 p.m. - Avon Lake Sports Hall of Fame “Enshrinement Dinner,” Ahern’s Banquet Center, 726 Avon Belden Road. Visit www.AvonLakeSportsHallOfFame.org

October 3, 10:00 a.m. - Avon Lake Sports Hall of Fame “30th Annual Golf Outing,” Sweetbriar Golf Course, 750 Jaycox Road. Visit www.AvonLakeSportsHallOfFame.org

OCTOBER 24 - Avon Lake City School Foundation “Shoremen Shuffle,” Avon Lake High School, 175 Avon Belden Road. Visit www.ALCSF.org