



SEPTEMBER 2018

**Economic Development**

There is a growing partnership between the Avon Lake Library, City of Avon Lake, and the Small Business Development Center at LCCC. This partnership holds a monthly networking event called Morning Mingle. The first session is September 18th at 9:30am at the Library.

**Recreation**

The Avon Lake Recreation Department has a new software program. Please go to AvonLakeRec.com and click on the "Create New Account" link to open your account and gain easier access to program registration. Be sure to add all members of your household into the account as well as your cell number so you can receive any last minute updates by text. Your new household account will provide you with registration history, financial history and much more. Beginning September 4th, the Avon Lake Recreation Department will be using this new site for all registrations.

**Regional Water**

Starting with the water/wastewater bills you receive on September 30th, you will no longer be able to mail a check directly to 201 Miller Road (though you are still free to drop off payments at 201 Miller Road). The new address for your payment to Avon Lake Regional Water is Avon Lake Regional Water P.O. Box 94610 Cleveland, Ohio 44101-4610. If you have any questions about payment methods, please call us at (440) 933-6226.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

# Let's Celebrate Avon Lake's Rich History

Perched along Lake Erie's shore and just a boat ride away from Canada, Avon Lake once hosted more than its ample share of rum-running. During the Prohibition Era, speakeasies, code names and peepholes in establishment doors were a part of our City's landscape. Whether home brew or Canadian import, thirsty revelers wanted their high-proof refreshment, and Avon

Lake aimed to please. The Bicentennial draws upon that theme as it hosts its Beer Festival on September 22, 2018. Heritage Avon Lake members will man a prohibition-themed tent, and will share information on this once illicit retail activity.

Now through Summer 2019, Bicentennial festivities are designed for Avon Lake residents to have a good time and celebrate the City's rich history, from its famous vineyards to the lakeshore destinations that have been drawing people for all 200 years. In addition to the highly successful Bicentennial Kickoff on July 3, 2018, and upcoming Bicentennial Beer Festival, the celebration will include new activities, including a Community Choir Performance, a House Tour, the Historic Bike Crawl and the 4th of July Jubilee. Those, along with existing events in the City, are listed at [www.AvonLake200.org](http://www.AvonLake200.org). On July 4th, 2019, the celebration will conclude with an all-day jubilee. This is a celebration that is open to the creativity of Avon Lake residents to take the lead on ways they want to celebrate. Anyone who wants to pitch an idea, such as a boat parade, dog beauty contest, sunrise yoga, pig roast, sports competitions, etc., can go to [www.AvonLake200.org](http://www.AvonLake200.org) and share their idea.

## SIGNATURE BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

- Beer Festival 9.22.18
- Community Choir 1.20.19
- House Tour 5.4-5.19
- Bike Crawl 6.16.19
- 4th of July Jubilee 7.4.19



You can also visit [www.AvonLake200.org](http://www.AvonLake200.org) to purchase logowear and commemorative items or to view and share old Avon Lake photos and memories. The site is a convenient way for people to sign-up to volunteer and get involved with the Bicentennial events.

Avon Lake is celebrating its past and looking to its future with the Bicentennial celebration. We look forward to celebrating with you during this special year! ■

## Mayor Picken's Achievements Span Two City Milestones

John Picken celebrated Avon Lake's sesquicentennial as mayor and is now celebrating Avon Lake's bicentennial as a beloved resident. At 96 years old, Mr. Picken has lots to celebrate for his own part in Avon Lake history. Invested in the community, Mr. Picken served as a member of City council, council president and served four consecutive two-year terms as mayor.

Born in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, the Picken family immigrated to the United States to join his father who had made the journey two years prior. At seven years old, he can still recall his excitement in seeing the Statue of Liberty from the



*CEI Expansion Plans, 1966: Pictured from left to right are CEI Vice President Lee Howley, CEI Chairman Ralph Besse, and Avon Lake Mayor John Picken*

deck of the S.S. Athenia. Immediately after clearing customs, the Picken family boarded a train for Ohio where his father had been working at the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co.

Living on Sunset Road, Mr. Picken fondly remembers Avon Lake as a great community for young people. With approximately 12,000 residents, he loved that everyone knew each other. He also recalls swimming in Lake Erie as a favorite pastime before there was

a swimming pool. As mayor in 1962, he would celebrate the grand opening of Avon Lake's first community pool.

Mr. Picken worked full-time at B.F. Goodrich and part-time as the Mayor of Avon Lake shortly after 1960 when the township officially became a city. In addition to the opening of the community pool, other Avon Lake's highlights witnessed as mayor include Aqua Marine in its heyday, the grand opening of Sweetbriar Golf Course, opening of Redwood Elementary, creation of Safety Town, sewage treatment plant improvements, approval to save the Peter Miller House as a museum, significant changes to the water plant, expansion of neighborhood churches, and construction of several neighborhoods.

Following his retirement in 1984 and in recognition of the many personal, career and public service accomplishments, "John Picken Day" was declared and Mr. Picken was given the key to the City. Because of his love and dedication to Avon Lake, residents still enjoy the many benefits that were spearheaded during his part-time job as mayor. ■



*Former Avon Lake Mayor John Picken and Mayor Greg Zilka, July 2018*

# The Benefits of the Avon Lake Community Police Academy are Two-Fold

As we all know, it really does take a village to be a safe and informed community. We can also agree that we are lucky to have the amazing officers in the Avon Lake Police Department. They take advantage of every opportunity to foster relationships with the residents, realizing that the level of appreciation and respect is a two-way street. The most popular program to help bridge the two is the Avon Lake Community Police Academy.

As a Lieutenant, Chief Duane Streator had witnessed the success of community police academies in neighboring cities and immediately set out to bring a similar program to Avon Lake. Tailored to meet the interests of Avon Lake residents, the then 8-week program was introduced and has grown in popularity every year. It has been so incredibly popular that it has been expanded to a 10-week program with enrollment being wait-listed each year. Sergeant Vicky Rightnour now oversees the 2-1/2-hour weekly program and constantly sees the program evolving based on resident feedback.

The main goal of the academy is to provide an opportunity for members of the community to learn about their local law enforcement agency and to get to know the officers as the officers get to know them. The academy is designed to be as hands-on as possible with each week including pursuit driving, shooting, traffic stops, interviewing, court, coroner and much more. The academy has seen a diverse crowd of over 150 participants.

The transformation of the community academy members is the most rewarding part for the officers. They enjoy seeing members becoming more comfortable and excited as each week presents a different experience and their level of comfort becomes evident. Also, it reinvigorates the veteran officers as they are reminded about how much fun their job can be when seen through the eyes of someone new to the field. It is also an excellent opportunity for both residents and officers to become comfortable with one another and learn to rely on each other in caring for the community.

Graduates of the academy stay involved in community activities with their gained knowledge and experience, assisting at Big Trucks and other community events. Plans for a post-academy alumni group are being explored to continue building on the relationships.

In addition to the Community Police Academy, a Law Enforcement Explorer Program was introduced last fall to target middle school and high school students. This ongoing, weekly program is a part of the Boy Scouts of America and teaches about all aspects of law enforcement, including detective bureaus, prosecutors, judges and forensics.

With the opportunity to understand and learn about the role of the Police Department, we all become better citizens, no matter the age, and have a hand in making our community a safe and informed one. ■



*To watch the 2015 Avon Lake Community Police Academy in action, go to "Streaming Community TV" at [www.AvonLake.org](http://www.AvonLake.org)*

When Ted Esborn was hired as Avon Lake's Economic Development Director, he told people to use jobs to measure his effectiveness. Unfortunately, four months later, OptumRX, a large pharmacy business on Walker Road closed, taking 115 jobs with it.

Knowing that replacing all of those jobs would require patience, focus was shifted to creating new jobs in the near term. Two adaptive reuse projects were completed, turning a Wendy's into a Goddard School and creating The Anchor recreation facility in an old movie theatre space. New businesses were welcomed like Erie Burger Co., Penske Truck Rental, Element LABS, Duber Automotive, Mi Amore Salon, Diamond Finish Detailing, Sweet Kiddles, Health Express Urgent Care, and more.

The City's big opportunity came early this year. Since Drug Mart owned the building that OptumRX had left, they decided to locate three operations there—a central fill location for all Drug Mart pharmacies, Drug Mart's specialty pharmacy, and a call center to take calls that local pharmacists are unable to take because they are tending to customers. Drug Mart's project would be a huge investment and create 102 new jobs—bringing back almost 90% of the jobs lost when OptumRX left. Unfortunately, aspects of the Drug Mart operation did not fit the current City zoning code. Recognizing the opportunity, Mayor and Council supported changing the code to conditionally allow those uses. The Zoning Department and other City departments worked quickly, and City Council called a special meeting to approve the code change.

The southeast corner of Walker and Moore is filled with cars again, much to the delight of Rio Coffee across the street. ■

SPOTTLIGHT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Just the Beginning of Better Things to Come for The Anchor

An indoor recreational space has long been at the top of most Avon Lake residents' wish lists. Seeing this need, Tim Pinchek, Director of Parks and Recreation, set the wheels in motion. Finding a space within Avon Lake with 35-foot ceilings would seem like a challenge to most. However, with the help of Ted Esborn, Director of Economic Development, the City quickly joined forces with Tom and Tomie Patton, owners of the old Avon Lake Theater in Beach Park Station Shopping Center at 33483 Lake Road. Invested in the idea, the Pattons financed the installation of the new ceiling and flooring. With the generous sponsorships of PolyOne, Salad KraZe, Randall's Team Shop and Lubrizol, the City was able to purchase all necessary equipment and complete the remaining construction. The result is a recreational facility that is designed to bring residents of all ages as much enjoyment as the theater had provided in the past.

The "new" facility includes multiple courts for basketball, tennis, volleyball, pickleball, dodgeball and more. In addition, the facility also offers fitness classes for all ages, batting cages, Salad KraZe's high school recreational basketball program and rental opportunities for private functions. Conveniently located within walking distance to all of the amenities at Miller Road Park, The Anchor has also become the successful home of the Avon Lake Summer Camp.



In addition to providing the indoor recreational space that Avon Lake was lacking, this space will also provide a much-needed community space for residents of all ages. In the upcoming seasons, residents will see additional fitness classes in the mornings and evenings, daytime preschool activities, family activities and adaptive activities. To pay homage to the space's original pastime, the Parks and Recreation Department will be planning family movie nights.

Program information at The Anchor can be found under "Parks & Recreation" at [www.AvonLake.org](http://www.AvonLake.org). ■

CONTACT US

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

### AVON LAKE CITY COUNCIL

<b>Council President</b> Martin O'Donnell 440-933-7310 <a href="mailto:modonnell@avonlake.org">modonnell@avonlake.org</a>	<b>Ward III</b> Eileen Campo 440-309-0677 <a href="mailto:ecampo@avonlake.org">ecampo@avonlake.org</a>	<b>Council-At-Large</b> K.C. Zuber 440-309-5940 <a href="mailto:kzuber@avonlake.org">kzuber@avonlake.org</a>
<b>Ward I</b> Rob James 440-653-9349 <a href="mailto:rjames@avonlake.org">rjames@avonlake.org</a>	<b>Ward IV</b> David Kos 440-930-7737 <a href="mailto:dkos@avonlake.org">dkos@avonlake.org</a>	<b>Clerk of Council</b> Valerie Rosmarin 440-930-4121 <a href="mailto:vrosmarin@avonlake.org">vrosmarin@avonlake.org</a>
<b>Ward II</b> Jennifer Fenderbosch 440-821-4617 <a href="mailto:jfenderbosch@avonlake.org">jfenderbosch@avonlake.org</a>	<b>Council-At-Large</b> Zach Arnold 216-235-6671 <a href="mailto:zarnold@avonlake.org">zarnold@avonlake.org</a>	