



Know **OUR** AVON LAKE

SEPTEMBER 2021

Shred Day

September 25, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Avon Lake Pool Parking Lot, 32850 Electric Boulevard

Avon Lake Homecoming Parade

October 2, 10:30 a.m.

Star Party

October 15, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Walker Road Park, 31588 Walker Road

Boo by the Woods

October 16, 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Avon Lake Public Library & Kopf Reservation
www.AvonLakeRec.com

Leaf Pick-up Begins

Last week of October

Trick-or-Treat

October 31, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Shop Local Avon Lake

Beginning of November

Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 7

Deadline for Civil Service Exam:

Police Dispatcher/Records Clerk

November 15

www.AvonLake.org/Human-Resources

Thanksgiving - No Trash Pick-Up

November 25

Pick-up delayed 1 day rest of the week.

North Coast Christmas

December 1, 6:00 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Park, 32756 Lake Road

Ongoing

Positions Available:

Public Works - Seasonal Workers

www.AvonLake.org/Human-Resources

**CALENDAR
HIGHLIGHTS**

www.AvonLake.org/Calendar

Stay up to date on meetings and events in our Avon Lake. To submit community event information for the calendar, email digitalmedia@avonlake.org

Safe Pathway for Pedestrian Travel

We usually take sidewalks for granted, but they do play an important role in the quality of life we expect in Avon Lake. They provide safe routes to schools, parks, commercial establishments, and are a healthy way to connect our Avon Lake.

Over time, sidewalks can become damaged from weathering, tree roots, and even regular use. Damaged sidewalks can pose a hazard to pedestrians, so repairs to sidewalks help reduce the likelihood of someone getting injured.

For this reason, the City of Avon Lake is re-energizing its Sidewalk Program, which was first implemented in 1972. Similar to our neighboring communities, this program aims to improve the overall condition and quality of the existing sidewalks to provide a safe, ADA-accessible pathway for pedestrian travel.

Avon Lake Codified Ordinances Section 660.05 and Ohio Revised Code 729 require that property owners are responsible for the maintenance of sidewalks adjacent to their property. The City is paving the way by committing to repairing sidewalks located on City-owned properties by September 2021, weather permitting.

The process will begin for non-City-owned properties with City officials following up with properties that have received notice of non-compliant sidewalks in the past. City inspectors, wearing City-issued clothing, will then work their way through Avon Lake to examine all sidewalks. A map on the City website will show their progress. Those properties with sidewalks in non-compliance set forth by Avon Lake's Sidewalk Program will receive letters with details and further instructions.

You will be receiving a brochure in your mailbox, which explains how this program works. You can find more details, answers to common questions, and supporting documentation on the City website. You can also call (440) 930-4114 with any questions. ■



*Austin Page, Deputy Zoning and
Property Maintenance Coordinator*

Did You Know There's an App for That?

Have you ever noticed an issue that needs to be addressed while traveling around Avon Lake and think, "I will email or call the City when I get home," but then forget? A new app is available for Android and iOS users to report non-emergency issues to the appropriate City department.

With the free "Engage Avon Lake" app, a variety of issues can be reported such as high water, potholes, downed trees, streetlight outages, and more. The app has the ability to use your GPS location and photo uploads to provide more detailed information.

The app is not a substitute for calling 911 in emergency situations that require an immediate response.

For more information, visit www.AvonLake.org/CityServices/Report a Concern. The app can be downloaded for free from the app store or scanning the QR code on the signs posted around the City with the "You Spot It. We Got It" logo. ■

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS



Last month's severe weather wreaked havoc in Avon Lake. With both the Public Works Director and Assistant Public Works Director unavailable at the time of the storm, Lead Man Jeff Smith sprang into action and created a plan to dispatch crews as quickly as possible. Crews worked tirelessly to clear downed trees and debris blocking roadways, and to remove fallen branches from tree lawns around the City. The patience of Avon Lake residents was greatly appreciated during this challenging time.

You may have noticed the Public Works Department working diligently on many projects throughout the City. Some of these include manhole and catch basin repairs, Bleser Park basketball court improvements, preparing City parks for events and concerts, and preparation for sidewalk installation on City properties.

We are proud of the hard work and dedication of City employees in serving the residents and businesses of Avon Lake.

On the Horizon

Fall Leaf Pickup - This service begins the last week of October and goes through December, weather permitting. City crews follow a route through the City with no specific day for pick-up. Depending on the amount of leaves to be collected, it can take crews as long as two to three weeks to complete a full route. Please visit [www.AvonLake.org/City Services](http://www.AvonLake.org/City%20Services) for more information and guidelines on this service.

Sanitary Sewer Vacuum Truck - This new vehicle, which will remove dirt and debris that clogs up the sewage systems, is expected to be delivered in mid-October.

Veterans Park Shoreline Project - Repairs to the boardwalk will begin, along with upgrades to the bluff. The beach area is expected to be available to visitors Summer 2022.

Weiss Park Pavilion - With money received through Senator Nathan Manning and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, reconstruction plans are being prepared.

Weiss Park Restroom - The design is complete, and construction will begin late this fall/winter.

Healthy Rewards

Congratulations to the two teams that represented the City of Avon Lake in the Mind Challenge for the New Majority trivia competition this summer! Out of 52 teams from northeast Ohio, two teams from the Avon Lake Old Firehouse Community Center/Senior Center finished in 4th and 8th place, respectively. With the help of Senior Center Director Mike Kral, the 4th place team comprised of Sylvia Taylor, Mary Kleinhenz, Amy Hughes, Carolyn Abraham, Joan Hoty, and Susie Bennett earned a trophy and a check for \$500. The prize money will go toward the purchase of a vehicle to transport Senior Center members to various events. For more information about the event, or to participate in next year's competition, please visit www.TheMindChallenge.com.



For the past six years, the Fitness Center at University Hospitals, Avon has sponsored a community challenge between the cities of Avon and Avon Lake. As a member of team Avon Lake, I am proud to inform you that our community was declared the winner of the Community Challenge for 2021. Leading team Avon Lake was resident Greg Huddle, who finished second in total points scored in the competition based on eight categories including exercise visits, food drive participation, pre-assessment/post-assessment points, and maintaining or losing weight. Thank you to UH and all who participated in the event.

And finally, mark your calendars for these popular upcoming events. Boo by the Woods will be held on Saturday, October 16th at the Avon Lake Public Library and Kopf Reservation. Shop Local will begin in early November with daily gift card drawings at various participating businesses and an incredible grand prize. That means that Thanksgiving and Christmas won't be far behind. The North Coast Christmas will kick off on December 1st with the lighting of Veterans Memorial Park at 6:00 p.m.

We look forward to enjoying autumn in our beautiful community. Please be safe and be kind to one another. Together we can make a difference.

Gregory J. Zilka

Mayor, Avon Lake

Avon Lake Business Updates

Charah Solutions - The Economic Development story that has drawn the most attention in 2021 is the announced purchase and closure of the 100-year-old Avon Lake Power Plant on the west end of Lake Road. Charah Solutions, a company based in Louisville, KY, has announced that they are acquiring the plant, which is scheduled to cease operations in March 2022. Charah specializes in environmental management for the power generation industry, and over the course of 2-3 years, they will demolish the plant and clean up the site. Charah's strategy for the location is to work in cooperation with the City of Avon Lake to create a redevelopment plan. There will be public engagement sessions this winter at which residents will get the chance to share their opinions about the future of the 40-acre lakefront site.

Avient World Headquarters - You have probably seen the new "Avient World Headquarters" sign at the corner of Walker and Moore. Avient is the new name of the polymer and advanced materials company formerly known as PolyOne. The name change occurred after the \$1.4 billion merger with Clariant Masterbatch in 2020. The company is the largest headquartered in Avon Lake, employing 6,400 people worldwide and is ranked 702 in Fortune's list of America's largest companies.

New Avon Lake Businesses - This summer has brought some new businesses to Avon Lake, and residents are already enjoying them. Isla's Ice Cream opened during the July 4th weekend. Isla's is located at 140 Lear Road in the space formerly occupied by Divine Scoops. Isla's serves a wide variety of ice cream as well as hot dogs. A short time later, Game On opened in the Drug Mart plaza at 33382 Walker Road. Game on is a sports bar that also has pinball and arcade games. ■

New Vehicle and Radios for ALFD

The Avon Lake Fire Department is extremely grateful for the community support of the Ambulance and EMS levy. This levy passed with over 87% support, which is the highest percentage of votes in recent history. A major funding source, this levy accounts for 40% of the Avon Lake Fire Department's overall budget, which is vital to the department's operations. In addition to salaries, it pays for ambulances and their crucial equipment, including cardiac monitors, cots, and bandages. By funding these expenses with levy money, the Fire Department takes less from the City's general fund, allowing that money to be used for other projects within Avon Lake.

In other news at your Fire Department, an on-road/off-road vehicle was recently purchased. You will see this vehicle in action while inspecting off-roadway hydrants and overseeing events with larger crowds, including football games and fireworks. It will be most useful in the Kopf Reservation, allowing emergency medical personnel to reach and transport patients from locations where normal emergency vehicles are unable to navigate.



The Avon Lake Fire Department also received a regional FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for \$1,000,000. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically-needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. This grant for Avon Lake, Avon, Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Village, and North Ridgeville will pay for mobile and portable radios for firefighters, allowing for more effective communication between cities on a safer bandwidth. ■

Fall Back

In addition to replacing your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries on November 7th, residents should also check their alarms' expiration dates. Alarms last approximately 7-10 years in normal operating conditions. After this time, alarm sensors can become less sensitive to smoke particles. Even if your alarm appears to be working past the expiration date, it is still recommended that you replace it for the best protection of your home.

There are two main types of smoke detectors on the market: Ionization and Photoelectric. Photoelectric has been proven to be far superior in test studies detecting smoldering fires, which are most common in residential house fires. Ionization detectors are cheaper and tend to be used by new construction companies. Both detectors should be labeled with either an "I" or "P" inside a square, located on the box and the label on the backside of the detector. If you cannot find this on the backside of the detector, then it probably is too old and should be replaced.

Chimney Maintenance

The safety of your chimney has everything to do with how clean it is. Over time, creosote produced from the fire builds up on the chimney walls. Without regular chimney cleaning, the creosote could build up in thick enough layers and become flammable. Creosote can also prevent carbon monoxide from safely exiting your home. When this important air duct is clogged, the consequences can be deadly.

Fall Furnace Maintenance

Fall is a critical time to have your annual furnace inspection done by an HVAC professional, ensuring that there are no blockages and the furnace is operating properly. Several HVAC companies offer a yearly tune up service which can be very reasonably priced. These newer HVAC systems are technologically advanced and complicated which require specific knowledge to service them.

Yard Debris Burning

Burning of dry leaves, lawn debris, paper/ cardboard, lumber or other construction materials is prohibited in Avon Lake. Burning yard waste creates harmful toxins that pollute the air, soil, and water around us, which can be bad for not only human health, but also for pets and wildlife. In addition, brush and yard waste fires tend to get out of hand quickly.

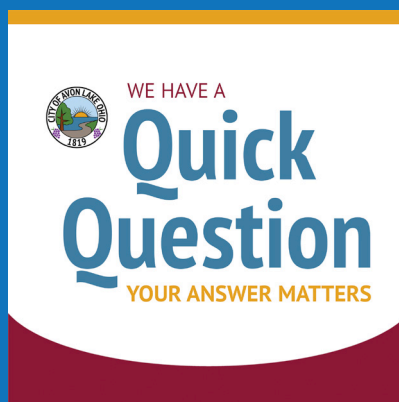
Got a Second? That is All it Takes to Help Shape Our City

City officials want to make decisions that will reflect the opinions and needs of our residents. They also know that most people are busy raising their family, working on their career, or maintaining a household and have little time to get involved with City matters. In an effort to gather opinions and get feedback, a simple program has been developed that will take minimal time for residents and provide invaluable information in making informed decisions.

The program, Quick Question, is a one to three question survey. It will be available online via email and offline at the library. Simply answer the question(s) and submit so your voice can be heard.

A variety of topics will be covered and the first one is community composting. Rust Belt Rider's is a non-profit that is considering offering their composting services to Avon Lake. What do you think?

Sign up for our Quick Question mailing list at AvonLake.org or look for the Quick Question box located in the library.



Avon Lake Play Space

Avon Lake Place Space was built in 1994 by the residents for the community. Over 600 volunteers worked tirelessly in the rain for one week to achieve this amazing feat. Not only was the project physically challenging, but it was mentally demanding in the design process and fundraising efforts of this dream playground. There was a great sense of pride by the community during this time.

In 2019, a campaign to “Renew ALPS” began with residents Brian Sabin and Emory Kopin. Through a series of community forums and fundraising events, there was community support to remove this 25-year-old play area in Bleser Park and construct a new one that is ADA compliant and accessible to all ages and abilities. Unfortunately, the world events of 2020 changed the path of the Renew ALPS group, and the City Administration is now handling the project. According to Ward III Councilman Mark Spaetzel, “ALPS was the gem of the Avon Lake playgrounds. It served the city beyond original expectations. The new ALPS will also be designed to be a destination playground for the entire community.” Spaetzel is excited to be involved in the project and added that Council has approved \$500,000 for the first two phases of the playground project.

Several companies were interviewed to design the new play space, and the City’s recommendation will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, which consists of residents from each ward in the City. After the company and basic design have been selected, the City will solicit community input to ensure the playground meets the aspirations of the residents.

The City plans to demolish ALPS this fall and construction of Phase I and II will be open to the public by the summer of 2022. Phase I and II will be for the preschool and grade school children. A third phase will be completed in time for the summer of 2023 and will incorporate areas for older children and adults.

“The new Avon Lake Play Space will continue to be the focal point of Bleser Park as the playground has been for decades. It will bring new and fun play elements to the community that will be stimulating for users of all ages. The City is excited to complete the renovation of ALPS, and looks forward to the community enjoying its features for many years to come,” said Recreation Director Tim Pinchek. ■

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Follow the City
to find out what's
happening!



www.AvonLake.org