



SEPTEMBER 2020

The Trail of Haunted Tales

October 17, 2020

5:00-10:00 p.m.

Food trucks open

6:00-10:00 p.m.

Haunted Trails open - advance ticket purchase required

10:00 p.m.

Event ends - last group enters trail

This is a rain-or-shine event.

Due to COVID-19, masks are mandated to be worn and social distancing will be enforced.

Sponsors

Now seeking 2020 sponsors! With your support, it will be possible to provide additional fun activities. Please email dkos@avonlake.org for more information.

This event is made possible by a partnership with the City of Avon Lake and special thanks to the Avon Lake Public Library for their support. We receive additional volunteer support from the Kiwanis, Avon Lake High School's Key Club, Avon Lake Boosters, Avon Lake Drama Club, Cleveland Haunt Club, Cleveland Ghostbusters, and Super Heroes to Kids in Ohio, and Friends of the Library.

Halloween Fun at Weiss Park

Please join us for our annual family-friendly and spooky Trail of Haunted Tales. This year's event will be completely outdoors at Weiss Park with parking available in the main parking lot. Guests will be able to walk a not-so-spooky trail with cool characters and scenes, and, if they dare, continue on to the spooky haunted trail itself. Unlike in past years, this year's haunted trail will not include the spooky stories. Instead, guests will be on a continuously moving tour of the new haunted trail.

The trail is an estimated 3/4-mile walk through Weiss Park, which should take approximately 20-35 minutes to complete, depending on the trail of choice. With a portion of the trail being unimproved (dirt, woodchips or grass trail), please be sure to wear appropriate shoes. During your venture down the path and/or into the woods, you will encounter many festive Halloween scenes. While the scenes and characters can be spooky, it is not intended to startle you during the not-so-spooky trail (suggested for 8 years and younger with the final decision left to the parent/guardian). At the fork in the path leading to the spooky trail, you can choose to continue on the non-spooky trail, which will lead you back to the food trucks and parking lot, or continue to the spooky trail, which is intended for those who dare to be scared (recommended for children age 9+). There will be no jump scares.

Trail Ticket Sales

The non-refundable ticket cost is \$5, with a 10-ticket-per-person maximum. Tickets are sold in 15-minute time blocks, and are required to visit the trail. Ticketed guests will only be permitted to walk the trail with the group with which they have registered. Resident tickets will go on sale September 17 at 9:00 a.m. Pending availability, non-resident tickets will go on sale September 24 at 9:00 a.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.AvonLakeRec.com with a deadline of October 4 at 11:59 p.m. Please note that there are a limited number of tickets that will be available.

Wristband tickets will be mailed out approximately one week before the event and must be worn at the event. Please enter the trail queue near the concession stand no earlier than the beginning of your scheduled time slot. If you miss your time slot, you will not be permitted to enter the queue.

Additional Family Activities

Due to COVID-19, our traditional Halloween festival has been modified. Food trucks will be available, but it is recommended that food be ordered "to-go." Likewise, Halloween crafts will be available for grab-and-go. DJ Judy will be providing Halloween-themed music and fun.

If you have any questions please contact Avon Lake Parks and Rec at (440) 930-4130.

We look forward to resurrecting our traditional Boo by the Woods and Trail of Haunted Tales in 2021!! ■



PUBLIC WORKS

Fall Services

- Curbside branch pick-up is provided by the City, as well as Kimble.
 - » Kimble picks up brush and small tree trimmings that must be cut to less than 6 inches in diameter and not exceed 4 feet in length, bundled and securely tied not exceeding four feet in length, or 50 pounds. The bundled brush and branches can then be placed at the curb on your regularly scheduled trash pick-up day.
 - » Larger branches and shrubs are picked up by the City using the chipper truck. City crews follow a route through the city with no specific day for pick-up. Curbside branch pick-up is suspended when leaf collection begins due to equipment reallocation.
- Curbside leaf collection is provided by the City in the fall through December, weather permitting. Leaves should be placed on the tree lawn area, not in the street.
- Leaf humus and rough wood chips are available for use in your yards. Compost storage bins are located behind the Service Garage at 750 Avon Belden Road.
- Before undertaking any project that involves digging with a back hoe or by hand with a shovel, on any property, public or private be sure to call the Ohio utilities telephone number: 811 OR 1-800-362-2764.

Seasonal Workers Needed

This part-time, temporary work, will include general landscaping work, leaf collection, trash and tree limb collection, restroom cleaning/maintenance and other duties as assigned. Students and those looking for a flexible work schedule are encouraged to apply. Applications may be found at www.avonlake.org/departments/human-resources.

Deer Control Survey

In coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, residents are encouraged to participate in the annual Deer Control Survey, which can be found on the City's website at www.AvonLake.org/News. Those who do not have access to a computer may pick up a survey at the Avon Lake Public Library or City Hall.

U.S. Census: The Importance of an Accurate Count of Every Person

Time is running out for those who have not completed their 2020 Census questionnaire. Not only are our schools and municipal governments funded by a variety of local taxes, but also from monies from the state and federal government based on our population and need. An accurate count of the population in our city, county, and state can make a huge difference in terms of the programs and funding that we are eligible to receive. As elected officials and stewards of the community, it is our responsibility to make certain that we take advantage of the opportunities and grants offered by the state and federal government.

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States, as of April 1. The count is mandated by the Constitution every ten years, and the results help to shape your future in a variety of ways – from determining the number of seats each state gets in the House of Representatives to informing decisions about how hundreds of billions of dollars are allocated each year to local communities for vital services like school, healthcare, roads, and bridges, and emergency response. In addition, the makeup of the state legislature is also affected by the results of the Census and, once again, the distribution of tax dollars can make a difference to our community.

U.S. Census workers are currently visiting the homes of those who have not completed the questionnaire. If you are concerned about opening your door to anyone during this pandemic, please complete your 2020 Census by: going online to www.my2020census.gov or phone 1-844-330-2020. Census workers are highly trained and adhere to all COVID-19 CDC regulations and requirements. On average, the process should take less than 10 minutes.

It is important that the U.S. Census get an accurate count of every person – both citizens and non-citizens – living in the United States. The results will affect our community for years to come.

We hope that the school year can proceed in a relatively normal manner. The wearing of masks and social distancing makes a difference in dealing with COVID-19. As your mother reminded you, wash your hands often. Let's work together for the health of the community.

Mayor



Since the pandemic began, Ted Esborn, Economic Development Director, has kept in contact with Avon Lake businesses to offer the support of the City. One request was one that the City had looked at before: business spotlights. The concept of a business spotlight is the City of Avon Lake using its social media presence to hold up an Avon Lake business for residents—and even non-residents—to see.

For some retail and restaurant businesses, the spotlight will be a call for people to come to their location. For other businesses, such as manufacturers and distributors, the spotlight will show the City's appreciation for the work that they do and the people that they employ in our city. Each spotlight will be posted on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The videos will also be featured on the City website at www.AvonLake.org/Economic-Development. ■

Voting Questions Answered

The Lorain County Board of Elections' website is a very thorough and user-friendly resource for all of the information you need for this upcoming election. At www.VoteLorainCountyOhio.gov, you can access a complete list of candidates and issues, find your polling location information, request an absentee ballot and apply to be a precinct election official (poll worker). You can also easily check the status of your absentee ballot and voter registration. If you prefer to talk to a representative, assistance is available by calling (440) 326-5900.

All Ohio voters whose registration information is up-to-date have the opportunity to vote from the convenience of their own homes by requesting an absentee ballot. Absentee ballot request forms can be found at www.VoteLorainCountyOhio.gov or by calling (440) 326-5900. Absentee voting has many benefits - you can vote early, it is convenient and it reduces the chance of lines at the polls on Election Day. To make sure your absentee ballot is counted, it can be returned in person to the Board of Elections no later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day OR be postmarked no later than the day before the election. Please keep in mind that the U.S. Postal Service estimates that it may take two to five days for your voted absentee ballot to be delivered by mail.



Lorain County has a convenient drop box for absentee ballots, which is located just off of the parking lot on the north side of the Board of Elections building at 1985 North Ridge Road East - Lorain, OH 44055. The drop box is available 24/7 and is monitored by video surveillance.

To help facilitate a smooth voting process, now is the time to contact the Lorain County Board of Elections for anyone interested in working as a poll worker. Lorain County will need more than 1,000 workers to open the polls in the fall. "The Lorain board is evaluating locations to determine the safest ways to conduct voting, down to how best to arrange rooms for social distancing while casting ballots," Director Paul Adams said. They are also securing all of the PPE needed for poll workers. For a list of available positions, please visit www.VoteLorainCountyOhio.gov/job-descriptions. ■

Voting Schedule for the 2020 Elections

- Today
Apply to become a poll worker and/or request your absentee ballot
Visit www.VoterLookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx to check voter registration status and polling location
- Mid-September
Sample ballots will be available at www.VoteLorainCountyOhio.gov
- October 5
Deadline for new and updated registrations (Board of Elections office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- October 6
In-person absentee voting begins. Dates and times can be found at www.VoteLorainCountyOhio.gov
Absentee ballots will begin to be mailed
- November 3
Absentee ballots returned in person must be received by the Board of Elections by 7:30 p.m. (OR if returned by mail postmarked no later than the day before Election Day) November 3
Polling hours: 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Best Wishes to Gary Izo

Effective September 4, 2020, Ward III Council Member Gary Izo will be resigning from his position due to illness. The City appreciates all of the work that he has done for the following committees: Sewer Committee, Economic Development, Natural Resources Environmental & Public Media and Zoning Board of Appeals. During his address to City Council, he stated, "I appreciate the support of my fellow council members, and the City administration. Likewise, I cannot thank the voters of Ward III enough for having the confidence to elect me to City Council. Please keep me in your prayers."

Installation of Cameras on Entire Fleet of School Buses

In a cooperative effort, the Avon Lake City Schools and City Council have purchased and installed cameras on the entire fleet of buses. These cameras are mounted both inside and outside and will be able read both the front and rear license plates of those that illegally pass school buses. Additionally, City Council has increased the penalties on those who illegally pass school buses in order to further protect our children.

Crosswalk Safety

Students and pedestrian walkers are further reminded that when using crosswalks, they must wait for traffic to clear prior to stepping into the crosswalk.

COVID-19 Testing Success

The pop-up testing events conducted in partnership with the City of Avon Lake, Lorain County Public Health and the Ohio National Guard went very smoothly with a lot of positive feedback from participants. The total number of tests performed exceeded expectations with a total of 1,093 for both days!

2020 Philo Media Awards

The Digital Media Department has won five awards and has received nominations for "Excellence in Editing" and "Best in Show" with Lucas Hricko's "Boo by the Woods 2019." Visit www.AvonLake.org/digital-media for information on how you can utilize this valuable resource to produce a show of your own.



Commemorative Bicentennial Garden Progress

The concept of a pocket garden to commemorate Avon Lake's Bicentennial was presented to the Avon Lake Historical Preservation Commission, and enthusiasm for it grew exponentially. "I remain amazed that such an extraordinary design concept came together in so few days," claims Bobbe Rudge, former Chair of the Commission.

On May 7, 2019, Sherry Spenser proposed several narrations for the monument. A few days later, the committee met at the Peter Miller House to consider a possible site for the memorial. Given the historic location, it was decided that a more relevant memorial might be considered. Following a discussion, the committee unanimously agreed that a pocket garden with a path leading from an existing path to the north would offer an appropriate alternative to the proposed granite structure.

Using glacial rock and boulders, incorporating path, stone benches and native plant material, a meaningful, appropriate and educational memorial could be created. The committee unanimously agreed that the location and concept was historically appropriate and of great benefit to the City. Ms. Rudge contacted landscape architect, Doug Baldi, and requested architectural sketches be drawn to illustrate the committee's



idea, which were furnished well before their deadline to present a report to the Public Service Committee on May 28.

While visiting Miller Park, stop by to see the amazing progress on the Bicentennial garden. Thanks to the thought and care that has gone into the planning of this garden, Avon Lake residents will soon have a beautiful, quiet spot to relish. During Avon Lake's Sestercentennial, residents can look forward to the opening of the buried time capsule, containing items from the bicentennial year. ■

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to find out what's
happening!



www.AvonLake.org