



# Know **OUR** AVON LAKE

## Mark Your Calendar

For details on these and other events in Avon Lake, please visit [AvonLake.org/Events](http://AvonLake.org/Events).

### Make Music Day

June 21, 3:00-10:00 p.m.

### Independence Day Fireworks Celebration

July 3, 6:00-11:00 p.m.

### City Council Recess

July 9-August 18

### Ducks-n-Donuts Derby

July 13, 8:30 a.m.

For pool information and a listing of summer events and programs, including Fishing with Friends, Star Parties, Yoga in the Park, and Summer Concert Series, please visit [www.AvonLakeRec.com](http://www.AvonLakeRec.com)

## “Environmentally Speaking” Community Education

The Environmental Affairs Advisory Board and the Avon Lake Public Library present:

### July 11, 7:00 p.m.

Solar Energy

### August 6, 7:00 p.m.

Beekeeping

### September 24, 7:00 p.m.

Rain Gardens

Register at [www.ALPL.org](http://www.ALPL.org)

## As a Reminder

Please keep plastic bags out of your recycling bin to prevent equipment damage. Place your unbagged items in the recycling bin. Plastic bags can be recycled at Giant Eagle.

## Letter from Our Mayor



Visit our website [www.AvonLake.org](http://www.AvonLake.org) to see more of what your community has to offer. As always, please reach out to me at [mSPAETZEL@AVONLAKE.ORG](mailto:mSPAETZEL@AVONLAKE.ORG) or 440-930-4100 if there is anything I can do to assist you.

Summer is a beautiful time in northeast Ohio, especially in Avon Lake. Opportunities are endless: programs, sports, activities, concerts, summer sunsets, swimming at the pool, and walks in the park. In this newsletter you will find information from our Recreation Department on some of these wonderful opportunities.

These opportunities do not happen without the talents and dedication of our Public Works staff. These men and women keep the parks beautiful and provide the set up for baseball games, concerts, and more. Give them a hello and thank you when you see them – they will appreciate it!

Summer and safety go hand-in-hand. We want everyone to enjoy the summer while being mindful and careful. We continue to work to make Avon Lake the safest community possible. The City is looking to partner with Lorain County in a Safe Streets and Roads for All Program to protect those traveling on our sidewalks and streets. Our talented Police

and Fire Departments are always available and willing to assist with any questions or assistance you may need.

We’ve also got an update on our City’s new play structure – known as ALPS. Now that the lawsuits that delayed the project have been settled in the City’s favor, we are moving forward with a sense of urgency, while being aware of the importance of getting the best destination playground possible for our community.

A big thank you to our community and our city employees who made sure our City was in the spotlight during the eclipse on April 8th. We were well prepared for the day, and the event did not disappoint. While we had fewer visitors than predicted, those who did venture to Avon Lake were extremely complimentary of the planning and preparation. I spoke with many people from out of state who raved about how accommodating and gracious everyone treated them. Well done Avon Lake! ■

# Avoid Online, Telephone & Text Scams: Awareness is Key!

Frauds and scams are all around us. In fact, the FBI Internet Complaint Center (IC3) received a record number of complaints in 2023 with reported potential losses of \$12.5 billion. How can you protect yourself? Awareness is key. Here are several of the recent scams the Avon Lake Police department has heard about:

- **Online Romance Scams** – Criminals pose as online romantic partners to gain trust and solicit money.
- **Tech Support Scams** – Victims will receive false notices via phone calls, emails, or pop ups warning of technical issues. Thieves then gain access to computer files.
- **Grandparent Scam** – Victims will receive an urgent call from a criminal posing as a family member asking for help. With AI software, sometimes the voice can sound just like a relative.

Often criminals will request payment in the form of Bitcoin, wire transfer, or gift cards. They will create a sense of fear and urgency to resolve the problem. If the caller, text, or email mentions any of these things – hang up the phone, cease contact, and/or disconnect your device from the internet. Call the police, a family member, or friend to discuss the matter.

For more information on different types of scams and how to protect yourself, visit: <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crime>

# Design Professional Selected for Avon Lake Play Space

City Council has approved a contract with Kimley Horn to create the playground design for the new Avon Lake Play Space (ALPS). With a local office in northeast Ohio, Kimley Horn is a national engineering, planning, and design consulting firm with over 220 employees dedicated to landscape design. The City selected Kimley Horn based on the firm's design experience and their extensive expertise in destination playgrounds, particularly those that stress accessibility for children of all abilities.

We are expecting design results this summer and to bid for contractors in early fall. While we are hoping some equipment will be installed this fall, it is likely we will see completion in late spring/early summer of 2025. The timeline is dependent upon weather and inventory availability.

We appreciate the patience of our residents and understand the replacement of the ALPS has taken an excessive amount of time. We all look forward to watching children enjoy the ALPS once again! ■

# Summer in Avon Lake

Residents of Northeast Ohio know that nothing beats summer by the lake. There's no better way to enjoy the weather, the warm breezes, and the view than at one of Avon Lake's summer concerts or celebrations, hosted all season long by the Recreation Department. This year's lineup includes new and familiar bands and popular food choices.

Don't Miss Avon Lake's Independence Day Fireworks Celebration: Wednesday, July 3 at Weiss Field with a rain date scheduled for July 5

- Food Trucks: 5:00-9:00 p.m.
- Music by dance, pop, rock group Boaterhead: 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- Fireworks: 10:00 p.m.

# Safer Roads & Safer People

In February 2023, Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) was one of 510 entities nationwide to receive a \$200,000 federal grant as part of the new Safe Streets and Roads for All Program (SS4A). This grant requires the creation of a countywide Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The plan aims to make our streets safer by applying a systematic approach to eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes for all road users. This includes multiple layers of protection to prevent crashes from happening and minimize the harm caused to those involved when crashes do occur.

LCPH is working with transportation consulting firm Toole Design to develop this action plan, using traffic crash data to identify the biggest problem areas across the county. The team is also studying driver behaviors, user access to safe roads, and transportation methods.

Every voice matters when it comes to road safety. Residents are encouraged to visit the Lorain County Health website ([LorainCountyHealth.com](http://LorainCountyHealth.com)) to participate in a preliminary survey and provide feedback on areas for improvement. Your feedback will help to shape future investments in Lorain County. All roadway users, including car drivers, motorcyclists, bicyclists, walkers, and runners, are encouraged to take the survey. Please complete the survey by June 30th. ■



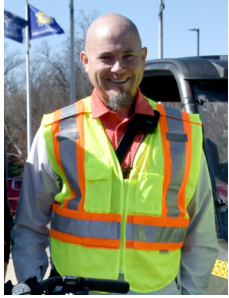
# Where Were You on April 8, 2024?

Years from now, residents of Northeast Ohio will still be talking about the eclipse of 2024 on the influx of visitors we welcomed to our beautiful City:

- *How busy was the City?* Police software noted there were 30,000 unique license plates
- *Where did people come from?* The City asked visitors to mark their home state or country
- *What other events drew a crowd?* The Eclipse Chaser race on Saturday, April 6 exceeded representing 16 different states and 35 different cities across Ohio.

With great weather and clear visibility, Avon Lake was the heart of the action. Thanks again!

# Meet Jonathan Liskovec, Our New Director of Public Works



From roadways to sidewalks, from bridges to facilities – Jonathan Liskovec is responsible for overseeing operations and improvements for many of the public spaces and infrastructure that are critical to City residents. Jonathan joined the Avon Lake team in March and has been working closely with his department’s 32 full-time employees to keep projects on track.

Prior to joining Avon Lake, Jonathan was the Director of Public Service & Properties for Bay Village – a position he held for six-and-a-half years. Jonathan began his public service career more than 21 years ago as a laborer for Bay Village – and worked his way up through the ranks of that city’s Service Department. This unique

experience makes his knowledge and expertise a great addition to Avon Lake.

“Every day is different in Public Works – there’s always a new challenge or something new to learn,” he said about his time in public service. “I’m excited to continue to work along the lakefront and to take my experiences with Bay and help Avon Lake continue to grow.” Jonathan has already been involved in the ALPS project and is overseeing the completion of Phases 3 and 4 of the Walker Road project – due to conclude in mid-July.

“Avon Lake is a great community. There are a lot of terrific employees who work here and really care about the City. Everyone is very community centric.” ■

## Welcome, New Businesses!

Over the past few months, we’ve welcomed several new businesses into our community:

- **Las Margaritas**, received their liquor permit at 519 Avon Belden Road
- **Network Integrated Concepts**, a technology solutions company located at 32864 Pin Oak Parkway
- **Studio DaVinci**, 690 Avon Belden Road
- **Tree of Life Counseling and Training Center**, 32730 Walker Road
- **Wyatt De-Marco Massage Therapy and Wellness Center**, opened a new location at 684 Avon Belden Road

*“I love how supportive our community is to shop locally. I enjoy ribbon cuttings and meeting those entrepreneurs making Avon Lake their home. These businesses are vital to the vibrancy of our community, providing employment, and economic enrichment!” – Mayor Spaetzel*

## Visit [www.AvonLake.org](http://www.AvonLake.org)

- Sign up for “Alert Avon Lake” to receive emergency alerts
- Learn about FREE leaf humus and mulch at the Service Building, 750 Avon Belden Road
- Get information on coyote pups in our area
- Sign up to compost with Rust Belt Riders and divert food waste from landfills in a healthy and sustainable way. In the past two years, just over 11 tons of food scraps have been collected from our bins alone!



## New Ambulance Ready for Service

It’s here! This June, the Fire Department welcomed the newest safety vehicle to its fleet. This vital purchase was funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars, thanks to efforts of the Fire Department administration and City Council.

## Stay Fire Safe This Summer

Tips from your Avon Lake Fire Department:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
- Test smoke alarms every month. If needed, change the batteries.
- Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.
- If a fire occurs in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT, and CALL FOR HELP. Never go back inside for anything or anyone.
- Install a Fire Department lockbox on your home. In an emergency, it will allow the Fire Department to quickly and safely gain access to your home without property damage. To order, visit: [roperlock.com/product/avonlake/](http://roperlock.com/product/avonlake/). When your lockbox arrives, call 440-933-8305 to schedule your installation with our Fire Prevention Bureau.

24 – and residents of Avon Lake benefited from “Totality’s Best Seat.” Here are a few interesting stats from the weekend, including some final notes

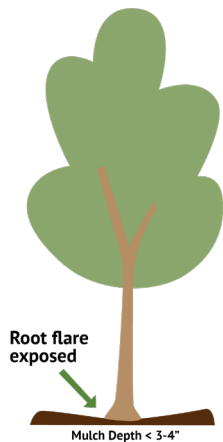
s traveling into Avon Lake on April 8.

try on a shared map. More than 30 different states were represented, including Alaska and Hawaii. Visitors also came from Ireland and Dubai.

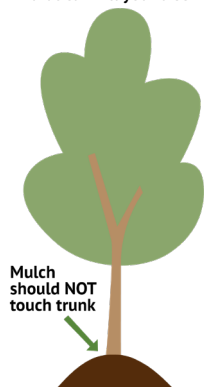
d our race host’s expectations – with three times the number of runners anticipated for a first-year race. More than 900 people registered to run,

ain to our safety services for all the advanced planning that assured we kept traffic moving safely out of and through the City.

## PROPER MULCHING



### MULCH VOLCANO: recipe for damage from insects, disease, and circling roots that can kill your tree



## It's June! Do My Trees Need Me?

Trees provide an amazing array of benefits in our lives. We got a beautiful show of flowers this spring, and their shade will soon be highly desirable to help cool our patios and homes. Tree shade even increases the life of our roads. Hidden benefits abound, too. Tree canopies reduce the impact of heavy rains, and their roots slow and filter water, cutting the effects of erosion. But our yard and public trees need our assistance periodically.

Early summer is a time when our region can go through short dry spells where the rain we get isn't enough to soak the ground, especially around trees that have been planted for less than three years. Here are some watering tips, courtesy of Avon Lake's Tree Commission:

1. Water early in the morning or evening (avoid getting water on foliage) to minimize evaporation.
2. How often depends on the size of your tree, soil conditions, and weather conditions. Newly planted trees require more water than established ones, and daily watering may be necessary if the weather is hot and dry.
3. Check the soil to determine when trees need water. You want moist, not soggy soil. Use a garden trowel to check to a depth of two inches. If the soil is dry, water.
4. In general, give your tree 10 gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter.
5. Slow and deep! Water needs to infiltrate, not run off. Turn the hose on low and let it flow. Move the nozzle around under the tree crown.
6. It's best not to let the soil dry out and stress the tree, but do not over water. Remember, moist, not soggy. Continue to check soil conditions before watering.
7. Lastly, if fertilization is warranted, do so in the early spring or fall, not during the summer.

Mulch benefits new and established trees by reducing evaporation, cooling soil, and reducing weed competition. But please mulch correctly: mulch should not touch the stem of your tree, and mulch depth should not exceed 3-4 inches. It's common to see 'volcano' mulch piles around trees in Avon Lake, but these are a recipe for damage from insects, disease, and circling roots that can kill your tree. Don't let your lawn service do this!

Finally, June is past the time to prune limbs unless the limbs are dead. Pruning live limbs, especially on oak trees, invites disease problems. Wait for winter.

One last piece of advice – enjoy your summer under the trees! ■

## Stay in Touch



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## New to Avon Lake?

Visit [AvonLake.org/New-Residents](http://AvonLake.org/New-Residents) for a list of frequently asked questions and helpful information as you make Avon Lake your new home.

**Welcome!**  
We are so happy you are a part of  
our community.