

all about *Avon* city news

Vol. 1, Issue 1

SPRING NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR



Mayor Bryan K. Jensen

It's hard to believe that it's almost summer in Northeast Ohio, and there's no shortage of things to do in Avon! Our community is truly thriving from the opening of several new businesses to the improvements in our parks and playgrounds. It is a wonderful time in Avon to get outside and enjoy all that our great community has to offer.

"You can visit our all new site, AllAboutAvon.org to see a full calendar of events and is a great resource with anything you'd need to know about Avon!"

— Mayor Bryan K. Jensen

In this issue, we are highlighting two selfless business owners who have given back to our community for many years. I think you will enjoy hearing the history of their businesses, why they choose to give back to the community and why I find them so special. This is just a sampling of the many businesses who make our city

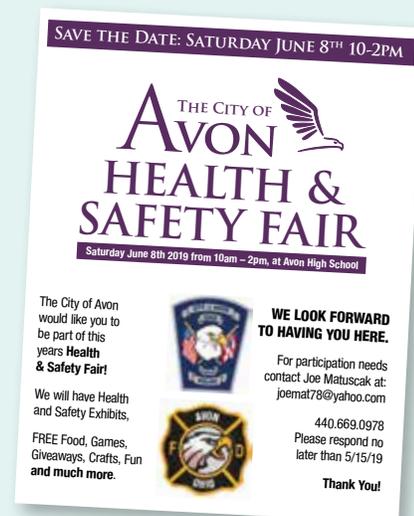
the special place that we all call home. Many businesses, large and small, generously donate to our schools and our community events. We are very grateful for their continued support.

We will once again be hosting community events at The Avon Aquatic Facility and Every Child's Playground this summer. These are both great places to spend time with your family during the warmer months. I relished in seeing many families enjoy the events hosted last year at the playground and look forward to seeing even more there this year at Movie in the Park and Halloween in the Woods. You can visit our all new site, AllAboutAvon.org to see a full calendar of events and is a great resource with anything you'd need to know about Avon!

A few reminders...slow down, don't text and drive, and enjoy summer with family and friends! As always, I'm proud to be a resident, and prouder to be your Mayor.

Sincerely,

Bryan K. Jensen



Safety Update

- Light up your house
- Lock your doors
- Put your garage doors down
- Lock your screen doors
- Be aware, alert and report
- Know where your kids are and follow up
- Talk to your kids
- Be aware of gateway drugs

Register today for the 19th Annual Avon Eagle Run on Saturday May 25th, 2019!

To register for the Eagle Run, go to avonlocalschools.org. or you may register the day of the race.

FRENCH CREEK FOUNDATION

French Creek Foundation 2019 Plans

The French Creek Foundation has another fun-filled year planned for Avon. In addition to the beautification efforts in the French Creek District, the foundation works in conjunction with the city to provide family friendly events all year long. The group of local business volunteers had a successful Easter pancake breakfast and egg hunt, with 400 people in attendance and lots of eggs hidden for all of the children. The proceeds from the



Avon Community Easter Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt

event are used to purchase flowers for the planters and hanging floral baskets along Detroit Road in our

historic French Creek District. The French Creek Foundation does a lot of work behind the scenes and spends countless hours to keep our city looking beautiful.

The planning is well underway for Fall Into Avon in September and the Christmas Tree Lighting in December. Stay tuned for more information. If you would like to become involved in planning these events, please go to www.frenchcreekfoundation.com.

SHINING A BRIGHT LIGHT ON AVON

You may have seen the brand new website AllAboutAvon.org, which is one of the first building blocks for the Avon Visitor's Bureau and serves as a resource for residents, businesses, prospective residents and everyone in between! You will find resources for things to do in the community, places to visit in the area, information about starting a business in our community and so much more.

"This website truly helps the best parts of our community shine!" said Sheri Seroka, city of Avon Business Development.

There are two sections to AllAboutAvon.com. One area acts as a visitor's bureau hub and the other focuses on economic development. Within the visitor's bureau section, you will find

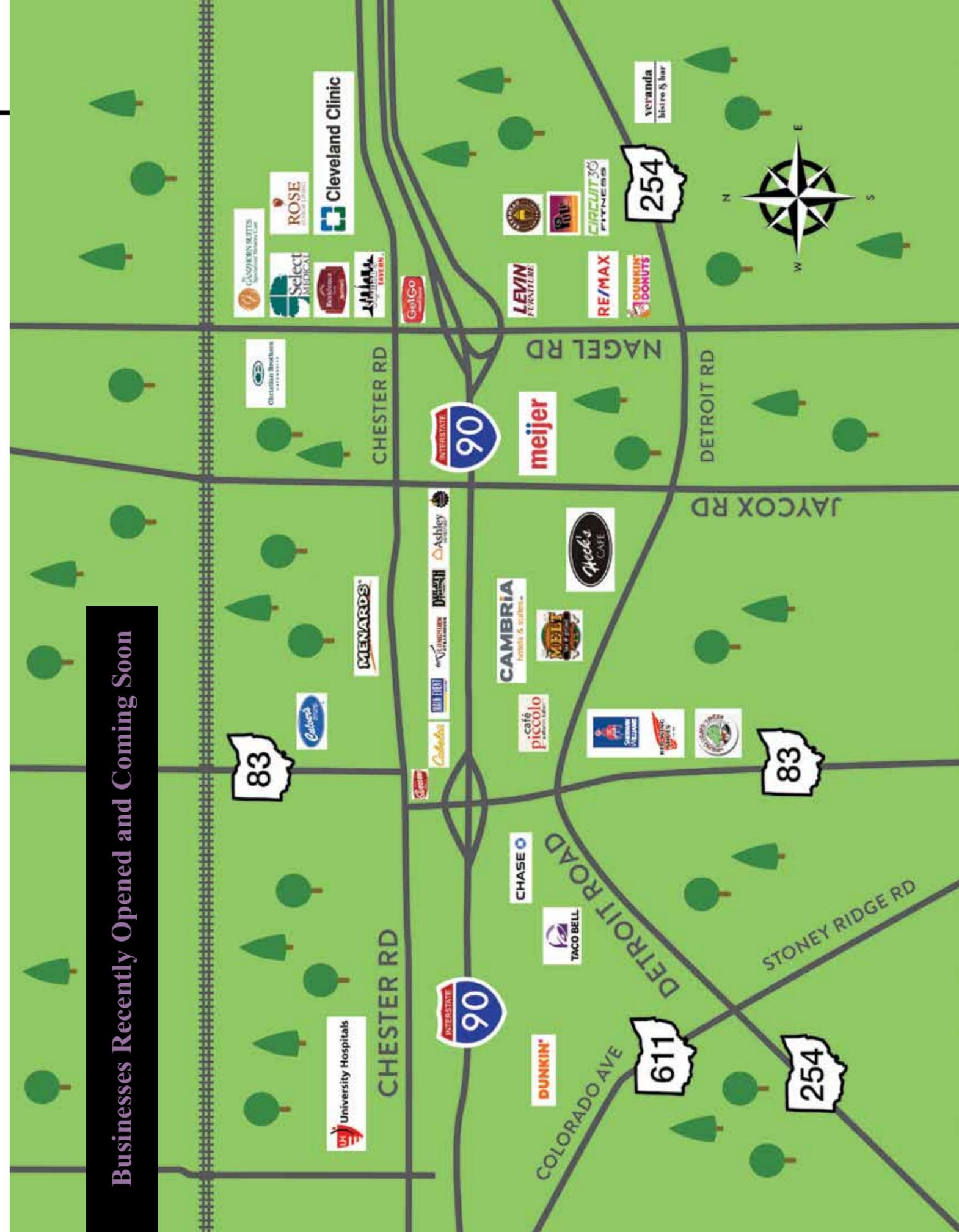


things to do in the area, a business directory, as well as community resources. The site is truly a one-stop-shop to find out anything and everything you'd need to know about Avon. Whether you live in the community or are just visiting, the site has information to make your time here as memorable as possible. There is a calendar of events that highlights everything happening in the community. Residents can subscribe to the Mayor's newsletter, which will highlight various activities and updates happening in the community.

Finally, the economic development hub has everything a business needs to know in order to do business in Avon. Whether a business is looking to move to Avon or within Avon, this hub will get you started.

"I'm excited to have our Visitor Bureau and Economic Development site, www.allaboutavon.org up and running. The site provides information on available properties, demographics and how to navigate starting a business in Avon." said Pam Fechter, city of Avon Economic Development Coordinator.

Check out the site, and explore all the things Avon has to offer. You may discover a business you never knew was here, activities to do with the kids next weekend, or events to participate in the surrounding area when friends or family come to visit.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- MAY**
- 25** 19th Annual Eagle Run, Avon High School
- 31** Citywide Splash Party Avon Aquatic Facility 6-8pm

- JUNE**
- 8** City of Avon Health and Safety Fair Avon High School 10am-2pm
- 13** Library Anniversary Celebration Avon Library 6-8pm
- 13 - 15** Duck Tape Festival Veterans Memorial Park

- JULY**
- 4** Bike Parade Avon Aquatic Facility 11am

- AUGUST**
- 3** Movie Night in the Park Every Child's Playground 7pm

- SEPTEMBER**
- 7** Fall into Avon Festival French Creek District 10am-5pm
- 14** Super Hero Day Avon Aquatic Facility 1pm
- 15** Super Hero Run St. Mary of the Woods 8am

Avon Library Celebrates 25 Years

Join the Lorain Public Library System, Avon Branch as they celebrate 25 years of promoting literacy in our community. The event will take place on June 13th from 6-8pm. Stay tuned to allaboutavon.org website and the Avon Library website and Facebook page for more details.

kidSKORNER

We asked the children in Mr. Pesarchick's 1st Grade Class at Avon East, "If they could be Mayor for the day, what new rule would they make for Avon?"

"Everyone has to be funny." — Lucas

"Everyone should wear pink." — Kaori

"Everyone should be kind." — Grant

"Everyone has to be happy." — Ian

"Everyone should wear Under Armor." — Jude

"Be polite and care about each other." — Luke

"No Fortnite." — Jager



"Be nice to each other." — Sarah

"Everyone has to be nice." — Alec

"People should have manners." — Kaitlyn

"Everyone has to be nice to their parents." — Isiah

"Be fair." — Gabby

"Be helpful." — William

hey kids!!!

We want to hear from you! What activities would you like to see in Avon? Send us your name, age and suggestion to newsletter@allaboutavon.com. Your suggestion could be part of our next newsletter.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Preserving the Past for Avon's Future Generations

Ron Larson, who can be seen throughout his development in Olde Avon Village, is a true lover of architecture and history.

Recognizing that you can extract from the past to prepare for the future, Larson has become quite a historian by spending countless hours talking to Jack Smith, Ralph White, Dr. and Mrs. Fischer and many others who are historians and keepers of stories.

The Shops of Olde Avon Village were formed as a memorial to those people who settled and made a livelihood in Avon and to serve as a sanctuary for historical buildings that have significance to Avon. The story behind how the village was formed is nothing short of remarkable.

Details for the Home was the Lewis house on Old Route 83 where the Walmart sits today. It is on the National Register and Library of Congress. It was going to be torn down, but Ron saved it and moved it to the village. The Avon Train Depot that now houses Railway Barber-shop was located on the tracks that divide Avon and Avon Lake. The white house that now houses Chez Michele, was once called Gibbs-Bins house and sat on Detroit at 611 near the barber shop. The Alten house and farmhouse was built in 1850 and was original to the property. The Clifton Barn sat on Detroit Road was on across from the Misencik Funeral Home. The Strip barn is the only property that is not original to

Avon. It is from Mt. Vernon, Ohio and was Ewers Barn that was part of a program called "Barn Again" that helps preserve historical barns. The barn was taken apart piece by piece and even the foundational stone is original to the barn.

Larson is currently renovating another historical property, that was slated to be torn down, known as Stone Eagle Farm. On the National Register of Historical Places, the property includes a main house and four out buildings. Larson and his daughter, Genevieve, who owns the Treehouse Gallery and Tea Room and Sassy's Boutique, part of the the Olde Avon Village, are farming micro-crops and yellow perch on the property, which will enhance their farm-to-table program in their restaurants at Olde Avon Village.

Larson believes in maintaining a strong connection to his roots.

"We are proud to be part of the social fabric of Avon. Many students have gone through our doors as patrons and work on our property and have gone on to become very successful people," said Larson.

Larson believes in maintaining a strong connection to his roots. He does this through historical homage and community support. Through Larson's ownership of the Olde Avon Village property, Strip Steakhouse, The Clifton and Chez Michel French Market, Larson gives quietly to the



Mayor Jensen presenting Ron Larson with the Community Service Award

city of Avon. "Seeing how hard Ron works and knowing all that he does to give back to the community, is inspiring. The "behind the scenes" things he does that no one ever knows about are countless", says Mayor Bryan Jensen of why he found Larson deserving of the Community Service Award. Larson generously supports the schools by providing meals to the sports teams and gift cards for fundraisers. You will see Larson and his team at the City Tree Lighting Event that is held in the village passing out prizes and yummy treats to families all day long. The other charity of choice for Larson is The Genesis House Shelter. He feels a very strong connection to giving back to the community that he is involved in and is proud that the money that is spent at his establishments goes back into the community that he is so honored to be a part of.

Thank you, Ron, for all that you have done to help preserve Avon's rich history.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Gilles Touches the Lives of the Most Vulnerable One Smile at a Time



Mayor Jensen presenting Ray Gilles with the Community Service Award

Ray Gilles is one of the recipients of our Community Service Awards for his service and involvement in our community. Gilles has been an Avon resident since 1959. For as long as he can remember he's been working—and he even started pumping gas at 9 years old at a local gas station. Gilles' legacy really started in Avon after he was laid off from Leaseaway Transportation; shortly thereafter, he started Ray's Auto in his backyard in October of 1979. Ray's Auto moved to its current location in 1988 on Route 611. Avon felt like the right home for his business, as he had many fond memories of the community when he was growing up. Gilles spent quite a bit of time in Avon, since his Uncle Bob was the Chief of Police.

The main focus of Ray's Auto is service and integrity, something Gilles brings to all aspects of his life. If you have driven past Ray's Auto on Route 611 in the spring and summer, you have may have noticed the gorgeous

flower beds. Gilles and his team have won numerous awards for their landscaping and beautification projects.

If you have the pleasure to meet Gilles, you will immediately notice his smile and zest for life. When asked about why he enjoys giving back to the community, Gilles says, "You only get what you give." He also noted that one's reputation is all they have at the end of the day and that means everything. "What sets Ray apart is his desire and his passion to help those less fortunate than himself. He invests his time and his energy helping those that need it most" says Mayor Jensen.

Gilles' strong worth ethic and determination are what drive him to be such an integral part of the community.

Gilles has served on the Chamber of Commerce since 1993, he's an active member of his church and is very passionate as an Our Lady of the Wayside board member.

"We have always thought that supporting our local businesses, churches and schools in Avon is the best way we can serve our community and have always focused our attention here in Avon," said Gilles. He greatly admires the work that Executive Director Terry Davis and all of the employees and members of the organization do to care for their clients.

Gilles has been on the board of Our Lady of the Wayside for the past 24 years. He became involved in Our Lady of the Wayside because they are

next door business neighbors on Colorado Avenue, as well as a long-standing customer. Gilles sponsors one of the major events for the organization that has been held at Crusher's Stadium for the past three years. Our Lady of the Wayside supports over 950 adults and children with developmental disabilities by providing residential, transportation and day programming services. Gilles greatly admires the work that all of the employees and members of the organization do to care for their clients. Gilles is also involved with Neighborhood Alliance.

Gilles' strong worth ethic and determination are what drive him to be such an integral part of the community. He's also proud to have passed some of these same values along to his son, who works with him in the business. He has enjoyed his time with the Chamber of Commerce and has even served as the president. Through this group, Gilles has formed many strong relationships and understands the importance of staying involved and taking care of others. If he had to do it all over again, he would not change a thing, he noted.

From all of us at the City of Avon, "Thank you Ray!" Our community is very grateful to Gilles' service and dedication to organizations in Avon.

Parks and Recreation Update

The next time you visit one of our many parks throughout the city this spring, you will notice a lot of wonderful improvements.

VETERANS PARK

New swingset tandem swing and turf

SCHWARTZ PARK

New play structure for 2-12 year olds
New swings

EVERY CHILD'S PLAYGROUND

Gravity Rail will be installed early summer

NORTHGATE PARK

New swingset

Family bingo night was a huge success! It will be held a few times this year. Stay tuned for upcoming dates and details.

Check the City of Avon Website for more information on all the programs and pool information.

<https://www.cityofavon.com/178/Parks-Recreation>



Family Bingo Night

PHOTOS AROUND AVON

- 1 **Firment Chevrolet** check for **Every Child's Playground**
- 2 **Mayors Choice Art Show** winners
- 3 **Autism Awareness at Heritage Campus**
- 4 **Avon Story Trail** contest winners
- 5 **Cameren Dyas** superhero bench dedication





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Avon Aquatic Facility Opens May 31st



Check out daily hours, pool pass rates
and schedule at www.avonpool.com

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Hospital and City Work Together Toward a Healthier Community

Even before Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital opened in 2016, administrators had a plan for creating an open and accessible resource to improve the health, wellness and fitness of the community. Last summer, the hospital partnered with Mayor Jensen and the National Fitness Campaign to install a state-of-the-art Fitness Court® near the Avon Aquatic Facility. The Fitness Court is an outdoor bodyweight circuit training facility designed to transform a public space into a community fitness hub.

“The mayor and the city have a vision for the health and well-being of the community that aligns with what we are trying to do as well, so working together is in everyone’s best interest,” says Rebecca Starck, MD, OB/GYN physician and president of Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital. “The park, Fitness Court and pool give families a place to go to exercise together, participating in free activities and experiences that encourage a healthy lifestyle. We are bringing more to the community than just healthcare – we are bringing health education and fitness.”

To learn more about Avon Hospital visit ClevelandClinic.org/Avon or call 440-695-5000 to schedule an appointment.