

all about Avon city news

FALL/WINTER 2021
NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Mayor Jensen with Lois and Bob Shinko

As many of you drive down Detroit Road today, you easily spot restaurants, banks, grocery stores and other retailers and businesses that show how much the city has grown in recent decades.

I can remember a time when my mom would drive us to my grandfather's Gulf gas station on Detroit in the middle of town. There wasn't much traffic and just a few stop signs. We loved going to see him at work because he'd sneak some candy to us in the back seat!

“We are working hard to preserve as much land and history in Avon as we can.”

When I was elected Mayor, I pledged to maintain our history. I believed then and believe now that it's important to make sure Avon's history remains available for people to see, touch and feel.

Soon, we will dedicate our newest city park at 39115 Detroit Rd (old Kurtz Brothers property). We recently connected a road and path from it to Veterans Park. We've stocked a large pond on the

property and will soon be constructing a fishing pier. In addition, you may recall the city purchased the Jameson Homestead on Detroit Road and worked with the Metroparks to acquire the Lustr property behind The Avon Isle. We are working hard to preserve as much land and history in Avon as we can.

Two years ago, the city purchased the Cahoon House, one of the first houses built in Avon. It's a beautiful old home, right on the French Creek, furnished with period furniture and landscaped with plants from an earlier era. I'm so grateful to Mrs. Jean Fischer, the owner who allowed us to buy a property she cherished.

I've seen so many more families enjoying time together and able to appreciate being outside and with each other. I hope the newest park and Cahoon House will offer new adventures for them to share.

Let me close by saying how important I feel it is that our community works together to support and protect each other. We are living in some difficult times and should realize the importance of being kind, caring and understanding to one another.

So grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RJ'.

Mayor Jensen

BUSINESS UPDATE

Now Open

808 Shave Ice 35669 Detroit Road by Pickering Farms

All State Insurance Angel Rodriguez, III
36855 American Way, Suite 2C

Antica Italian Restaurant 35568 Detroit Road by the Cambria

Crazy Beautiful Salon 33580 Detroit Road in the Drug Mart Shopping Center

Essential Escape Massage 34970 Detroit Road, Unit 108

The Eye Center of Avon 8530 Chester Road

The Ganzhorn Suites of Avon 33350 Health Campus Blvd.

Handel's Homemade Ice Cream & Yogurt 35925 Detroit Road - City Centre

Hot Worx 1813 Nagel Road, Suite 1200

Kelsey Elizabeth Cakes 35638 Detroit Road by the Cambria

Moosehead BBQ Grill 820 Center Road

Next Level Therapy 34970 Detroit Road, Suite 211

North Coast Eye Center 38530 Chester Road

Sharkey's Cuts for Kids 35968 Detroit Road / Avon Commons

Slim Chickens 1822 Nagel Road & Middleton Road in the Meijer Shopping Center

Mark Wahlberg Chevrolet 37995 Chester Road formerly Firment Chevrolet

Under Construction

Bendix Chester Road

Jiffy Lube Nagel Road & Middleton Road

Lorain Public Library Avon Branch
Harvest Drive

Panera Chester Road

University Hospitals Medical Office Building Healthway Drive

Vault Self Storage Mills Road

Coming Soon, Continued on page 2.

BUSINESS UPDATE

Continued from page 1.

Coming Soon

Ashley's Floral Olde Avon Village

Chili's Restaurant 35585 Chester Road

Cleveland Custom Homes Olde Avon Village

Crumbl Cookies 1813 Nagel Road

Duck Island Cocktails Colorado Avenue

Fiesta Habaneros 38790 Chester Road formerly Wood & Wine

Firehouse Subs 35682 Detroit Road

McConnell's Meat 35840 Chester Road

Speedway Chester Road & Jaycox Road

X-Golf Detroit Road / Avon Commons

The Cahoon Museum



Cahoon House

Rushing around Avon as we go about our daily lives, it's easy to pass a place and not realize the incredible history it holds. Such is the case with the Cahoon House. Located on Stoney Ridge, south of Detroit Road, the charming white house with the picket fence was home to Avon's founder Wilbur Cahoon.

Built more than 200 years ago, the building is the oldest home in Avon and has seen several owners — most recently Dr. Delbert and Mrs. Jean Fischer and their children. The Fischer family was among the original members of the Avon Historical Society and became proponents of keeping the house's legacy alive.

After the Fischers, a two-year curation process saw the home's ownership transferred to the City of Avon. The Cahoon Museum came to fruition and the City's goal of preserving this landmark site began in earnest. Led by Sheri Seroka, Matt Smith and Ralph White, the curation team acquired period items from the local community, including donations of historical furniture, décor, wall art, clothing, textiles, books, tools, farming equipment and more. Contributions were made by the Avon Historical Society, Lois Shinko, Harold "Hap" Gray, the Cornell Family and many others.

Rick Varga landscaped with indigenous plants that would have been found when the Cahoon House was originally built.

A grant from the Lorain County Solid Waste District as well as funds from the Avon Visitors Bureau funded the curation project and allowed for the development of a parking lot, ADA ramp access and a spacious deck overlooking French Creek.

"We want visitors to experience what Avon was like living in the 1800s," said Sheri Seroka, curator of Cahoon Museum. "While we want to share the Cahoon family story, we also want to tell the story of all the founding families of our city, including the Nagels, Schwartz, Sweet, Alton, Lewis, Williams and more."

"This project has been a true labor of love for all involved and the City of Avon is grateful to all that gave their time and donated items to this special project. We have been entrusted to preserve this historical home and look forward to opening it up to residents to see" said Mayor Jensen.

Cahoon House front entrance and deck



AVON History | THEN & NOW



THEN: POST OFFICE, CIRCA 1900



NOW: POST OFFICE

COUNCIL CORNER

Avon Sidewalk Program

Each year City Council approves an area of the City to be improved by the addition of sidewalks. The goal is to further promote connectivity and safer pedestrian travel within the community in developed areas of the City based on the recommendations of the City Administration. On Monday, July 12, 2021 City Council approved by a unanimous vote Resolution No. R-21-21 to have the following areas improved with sidewalks for the 2021 Sidewalk Program:

- 1 **Moon Road:** from French Creek south to Woodland Trails on the westside
- 2 **Moon Road:** from Amberwood Subdivision PPN 04-00-002-102-082 south to Amberwood Subdivision PPN 04-00-002-102-131
- 3 **Colorado Avenue, westside:** from Detroit Road, north to Bridge Point
- 4 **37600 Detroit Road**
- 5 **Detroit Road, southside:** from Palmer Lane to Jaycox Road
- 6 **Jaycox Road, westside:** from Detroit Road, north to Middleton
- 7 **Avon Road, northside:** from Nagel Road to Pine Dr.

If you believe there is an area of the City in need of sidewalks that has yet to be considered, please feel free to contact City Council at: contactcouncil@cityofavon.com to be considered for a future year.

AVON *History* | THEN & NOW



THEN: AVON ISLE, CIRCA 1990'S



NOW: AVON ISLE

SAFETY DIRECTOR CORNER *by Duane Streater*

Police and Fire Renewal Levies Support Community Safety

The Police & Fire Department utilize the funds from the levies to provide updated equipment for our safety forces. Police cruisers, Fire Trucks and Ambulances are some of the more costly purchases that we have made with the monies generated from the levies. Other equipment such as body cameras, in-car video cameras, body armor, less lethal weapons have also been purchased for our Police Department. Updated medical equipment, firefighting protective gear, rescue tools are some of the items that have been purchased for the Fire Department with the levy funds. As the community grows, our safety forces have also grown to meet the demands. Additionally, the cost to keep the departments well equipped has increased. We very much appreciate the community's support of our safety forces, and we look forward to the continued support of the levies.



Fire Equipment Levy - Renewal

5 years with first collection year being 2023, through 2027. Annual collections are approximately \$440,000. .50 mil levy, effective millage is currently .45. Resident cost per \$100,000 of home value is \$15.62 per year.



Police Equipment Levy - Renewal

5 years with first collection year being 2023, through 2027. Annual collections are approximately \$390,000. .50 mil levy, effective millage is currently .41. Resident cost per \$100,000 of home value is \$12.59 per year.

AVON *History* | THEN & NOW



THEN: ROUTE 83 & DETROIT, CIRCA 1895



THEN: ROUTE 83 & DETROIT, CIRCA 1947



NOW: ROUTE 83 & DETROIT

SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Koehler Honored for Service



Mayor Jensen presenting award to Dr. Koehler

Middle school years can be like walking a tightrope. While it may be an uncertain time between the known and unknown, the students at Avon Middle School have always had a champion to help them through this transition and his name is Dr. Craig D. Koehler.

Dr. Koehler has been in the education field for 43 years with 27 of those years spent as the Principal at Avon Middle School. During that time, Dr. Koehler has impacted many lives and mentored numerous students during their pivotal teen years.

Among his vast accomplishments, one of the most distinguished included having the U.S. Department of

Education designate Avon Middle School as a 2020 National Blue-Ribbon School, under Dr. Koehler's leadership.

“Dr. Koehler has left a tremendous impact on the thousands of students that have passed through the halls of the middle school by creating programs to assist students to become positive members of our community. We are grateful to have Craig continue to have a positive impact in our community in his retirement” said Mayor Jensen

Now it's time for his own transition as he enters retirement.

To note his impact on our community, Dr. Koehler was recently presented with the Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio School Resource Officer Association. He was nominated by Officer Layne.

“It has been an honor and privilege to serve the Avon community for over the past 27 years,” said Dr. Koehler. “Receiving the key to the city/community service award was unexpected and an honor. I humbly accept it on behalf of the entire middle school staff.”

In his retirement, he and his wife will enjoy traveling, consulting, continue writing, continue his community service in various organizations, including serving as President of the Avon Kiwanis and acting in the Lorain County Community Theater.

COMMUNITY

Holiday Tree Lighting

The holiday season is often celebrated by lights, family gatherings and the many traditions we cherish. In Avon, the season officially begins with our annual Tree Lighting ceremony.

This year it will be held on Saturday, December 4, at 5 p.m. Guests are invited to the municipal parking lot behind the Senior Center to enjoy live reindeer, pony rides, princesses, DJ, crafts, pizza, hot cocoa, crafts, a gingerbread contest and more.

The winners from the coveted “Ride with Santa” contest will lead the procession from Avon’s gazebo at the southwest corner of Route 611 and Detroit Road to light the City’s Christmas tree at the Senior Center. Contest winners are selected by the French Creek Foundation and are students nominated from the Avon Local Schools system.

As an annual tradition, Santa along with Clint Gault president



of the French Creek Foundation, Avon Mayor Bryan Jensen, Fire Chief Dave Swope and Police Chief Daniel Fischbach will deliver the golden tickets to the children at their school.

Sign-ups will be available for children with special needs to meet with Santa from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The event is made possible by community members Clint W. Gault owner of Wealth Health LLC and president of the French Creek Foundation, Mayor Bryan Jensen, Avon Local School Superintendent Ben Hodge, Lori Thomas-McCarthy from Lowe’s, Shirley Barsan from Wickens

Herzer Panza Attorneys at Law, Donna Kelly Sprinkle from the Avon Library, Master Pizza and several other clubs, organizations and churches.

For more information, visit: www.frenchcreekfoundation.com

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- 17 & 18** Fall into Avon
- 23** Beer Beats & Eats, *Olde Avon Village*

OCTOBER

- 16** Not So Spooky Halloween

DECEMBER

- 3** Candlelight Walk, *Olde Avon Village*
- 4** Hide the Pickle, *Olde Avon Village*
- 4** Avon Tree Lighting Festival, *Municipal Parking Lot*
- 5** Santa & Mrs. Clause Meet and Greet, *Olde Avon Village*

FOR UPDATES or to submit your upcoming event, please go to Allaboutavon.org.

AVON History | THEN & NOW



THEN: OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, CIRCA 1975



NOW: DAVID SCOTT SALON



Avon City Council and Mayor Jensen presenting Proclamation to Bob and Lois Shinko

Shinko Proclamation

What does it take to become recognized as a community leader? For Lois Shinko, it took decades of passion for her community and the vision to see it grow.

A life-long Avon resident, Lois was born in 1937 and grew up on Willo Road near Holy Trinity. She attended Avon Local Schools and was president of her class.

In the early 1970s, Lois and her husband Bob had the opportunity to purchase the building that became their landmark antiques store, The Country Store, located near the southwest corner of Stoney Ridge and Detroit Road. The building once was Lois' Great-Great-Aunt Emma Weiler's general store in the 1890s and next door to it was a millinery shop once owned by her great-cousin May Webber.

Lois and Bob loved antiques and wanted



Anne Marie Shinko-Brown at 50th Anniversary Celebration

to share that passion. "My Uncle Wayne would always say, 'Let's go Junque-ing' in West Virginia," explained Lois. "After many years of this hobby, I had to find a way to clean out my late uncle's house, which was filled to the brim with antiques and other items, so I started having outdoor sales by The Country Store and called the event 'Aunt Teak and Uncle Junque'."

Extending this concept, in 1983, Lois started and named the "Aunt Teak and Uncle Junque" festival in combination with the citywide garage sale event. In addition, Lois was instrumental in starting Avon's Fall Festival, Candlelight Walk at Christmas and the French Creek Foundation (formerly known as the "French Creek Development Association").

Lois is also an active member of the Landmark Preservation Commission, Avon Historical Society and was a Garden Club member.

Thanks to her endless efforts, Mayor Bryan Jensen and Avon's City Council members proclaimed on June 24, 2021, that the fourth weekend of every June will be known as the Lois Shinko Aunt Teak & Uncle Junque — Avon Citywide Garage Sale Weekend to recognize the many contributions Lois has made on behalf of our community.

"I want to continue to preserve historic businesses and homes in the city — keep the downtown area the old-town feel and keep Aunt Teak & Uncle Junque/city wide garage sales events going strong," Lois said.

"It was a surprise," said Lois. "My daughter Anne Marie organized a party for the Country Store's 50th anniversary at the gazebo and Mayor Jensen came out to make the proclamation."

"It was a honor to present Lois and Bob a Proclamation. Their hard work to grow and sustain their business for over 50 years is inspiring to all of us! The work that they have done to keep the downtown area of Avon historic is to be commended. We owe a great deal of gratitude to both Lois and Bob!" said Mayor Jensen.

AVON History | THEN & NOW



THEN: STORE & GAS, 611 CORNER, CIRCA 1935



NOW: GAZEBO, 611 CORNER

Photos Around Avon

- 1. Grand Marshall Al Grossman with Mayor Jensen, Molly Radcliffe and Cole Emerine
- 2. 4th of July Bike Parade
- 3. Movie in the Park
- 4. Economic Summit at Avon Isle
- 5. Lt. Governor Husted with Mayor Jensen at Economic Summit
- 6. Movie in the Park
- 7. Representatives from AHS Class of 2021





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CHRISTMAS TREE: FREEPIK

Sponsored Article



Celebrating 5 years of Patient-centered Healthcare in Lorain County

As Cleveland Clinic commemorates 100 years of healthcare, Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital is celebrating almost five years as Lorain County's full-service, technologically-advanced, patient-centered hospital.

Opening its doors on November 15, 2016, Avon Hospital is nestled on the Richard E. Jacobs campus. The hospital has 126 private hospital beds, and provides a complete spectrum of services, including critical and intensive care, in/outpatient surgery, a cardiac catheterization/interventional radiology lab, and imaging, lab and pharmacy services.

With nine locations and more than 500 primary and specialty care providers, Cleveland Clinic is bringing convenient, accessible health care throughout Lorain County.

"Together, our caregivers and physicians are providing the right care in the right place at the right time for this community." says Rebecca Starck, MD, president of Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital.

Visit ClevelandClinic.org/Avon to learn more about Avon Hospital or call 440.695.5000 to schedule an appointment.