



Mayor Jensen's Message to the Community



Community Memorial for Kaleb Keffer

Many of us are making holiday preparations — decorating, planning parties, buying gifts and enjoying time with family, friends and neighbors. It's a joyous time of year.

It's also a painful time for those missing someone dear who is not around to celebrate. I can't help but think about Kaleb Keffer and his family.

Kaleb, a 16-year-old junior at our high school, suddenly passed away in August from injuries sustained in a car crash. It's hard to understand such a loss. I remember my dad telling me years ago that parents should never have to bury a child. As a dad, it's one of my biggest fears. Yet, it happens, and it happened right here in Avon, leaving a huge, gaping hole in the heart of our community. I did not know Kaleb personally, but felt I got to know him after hearing and reading so many heartfelt tributes. They said he was funny and made them laugh; that he was kind and cared about others. At his young age, he left an indelible mark on others' lives.

That really hit me when I walked into our packed football stadium for the candlelight vigil held in his honor. While the majority were students, there were also many parents and community members. It reminded me again of how Avonites put their arms around each other when times are tough.

A crushing loss like Kaleb's forces us to think about how fragile life is. It reminds me of a young brother and sister in our city who will face Christmas without their mom. It also reminds me of the beloved grandchildren of one of our former mayors, Tom Wearsch, who will not have grandpa around for the holidays this year. And they aren't alone, there are many others who will be experiencing the holidays without loved ones.

Kaleb's obituary said, "He was Living His Best Life." Even in his last moments, he was being his best. He became an organ donor. Think of the families that will celebrate Christmas as a result of this enormously generous act. How can anyone not be affected knowing this child of 16 made such a difference?

Hopefully, Kaleb's gift motivates us to commit to being better people by making a long overdue call or visit or extending a hand in friendship to someone we do not know or someone with whom we have argued. We should

never forget to be grateful, we should be thankful for all the blessings that we have. I believe that would be one of the best ways to honor all those that won't be with us this holiday season, to be truly grateful for what we have.

This message has been by far the hardest one I have written. It was hard because I know of so many people who have lost loved ones and are hurting. What we must remember is that "Grief is not the absence of love. Grief is the proof that love is still there." (Tessa Shaffer). And that love is good.

As we celebrate this holiday season, take a moment to remember why there is hope: For unto you is born this day in the city of David...

Wishing you the very best this holiday season and always.

Bryan K. Jensen



Golden Ticket Winners Tree Lighting 2021

**Today you could be standing next to someone who is trying their best not to fall apart.
So whatever you do today, do it with kindness.**

FRENCH CREEK

A Very Special Golden Ticket

The French Creek Foundation would like to thank all of those who nominated deserving children to ride with Santa at the Tree Lighting Festival. They received over 15 nominations and each child was very deserving of a special ride with Santa. The selection committee chose Audrey Heath, who was nominated by her friend Emmett Loschetter. Audrey is currently in the 2nd grade and battling leukemia. Audrey was granted the very special golden ticket to ride with Santa to light up the tree. It is always a magical moment and this year was no different! "It is always an honor for the city to participate with the French Creek Foundation on an event. This is something I truly enjoy because I love being with so many Avon residents that help make the holidays something special for some really deserving kids. We are fortunate in Avon to have so many businesses and residents involved in making this such a memorable event," said Mayor Jensen.

A very special thank you to all of the sponsors and volunteers who helped make this event a success! For a full list of sponsors, please visit frenchcreekfoundation.com/Christmas. Please be sure to support our sponsors and thank them.

AVON'S Tree Lighting Festival

PRESENTED BY



Mayor Jensen and French Creek Foundation President Clint Gault with Santa and Golden Ticket Winner Audrey Heath



Avon High School Jazz Band Performers



Golden Ticket Winner Audrey Heath with Super Hero to Kids in Ohio representatives



Santa with Tree Lighting visitors

BUSINESS PROFILE

Nemo Grill/Bar Nova



Bar area in Nemo Grill

Nemo Grill, located at the northeast corner of 611 and Detroit Road, has been a pillar in our community since it was established in 2001 by Bob Nemo. Bob grew up cooking in restaurants since he was 16 years old and was part of another operation in Strongsville prior to opening Nemo Grill.

Bob recently wrapped up a rehab project that took 16 months and was a labor of love. His father-in-law helped with construction of the rehabilitation. Bob refinished the floors and woodwork, textured the walls, detailed the ceiling and replaced the insulation and dry wall. In 2021, seating expanded by adding an expansive outdoor patio. The menu is a collaboration between Bob and the chefs. It has been updated through the years and represents his passion for good food. “Our goal will be to continue the great consistency and service that our guests deserve and enjoy,” said Bob.

“It is so rewarding to have a place like this. We have employees who have been here for 20 years and people leave here happy. It is a family atmosphere. We are building the same thing at Bar Nova now,” said Bob.

Dina Nemo owns Bar Nova just a few doors down the street at 36816 Detroit Road. Bar Nova is Dina’s baby and offers a fun, inviting atmosphere. “I would not have thought that I could do



Bar Nova sign

Bar Nova without Bob,” said Dina. Bar Nova specializes in homemade dishes that include wood-fired flatbreads, tacos, burgers, pasta and much more. Some of the most popular dishes are the cavatelli with braised short ribs, Italian flatbread, blackened shrimp tacos, warm skillet chocolate chip cookie and meatballs. Bar Nova is very personal to Dina. Each recipe is developed with specially chosen ingredients by Dina. The meatballs are a special family recipe from Dina’s grandmothers. “Ideally we would be open for lunch and dinner everyday. We hope to make that happen in the near future,” said Dina.

Favorites at Nemo

Entrees: Duck, Sea Bass and Lasagna
Drinks: French 75 and Old Fashioned

Favorites at Bar Nova

Entrees: Meatballs and Braised Short Rib Cavatelli
Drinks: Georgia Peach and Fig’n Honey Old Fashioned

If interested in joining this fun team at either location, please reach out on social media.

Nemo Grill Menu
QR CodeBar Nova Menu
QR Code

BUSINESS UPDATE

Now Open

Caliber Collision

1370 Nagel Road
formerly Westlake Auto Body

Essential Escape Spas and Yoga

34970 Detroit Road

Milan Laser Hair Removal

35925 Detroit Road, City Centre

PetSmart

35822 Detroit Road, Avon Commons

Raising Cane’s

35545 Chester Road

Take 5 Car Wash

1244 Center Road
formerly Goo Goo Express Car Wash

Truax Law Group, Ltd.

36718 Detroit Road

Pro Image Sign and Graphics

33751 Lear Industrial Parkway

Coming Soon

Alora Salon & Spa

35860 Detroit Road
formerly Panera Bread

Crash Champions

38401 Chester Road
formerly Lake Erie Harley Davidson

Mezquite Restaurant

35846 Detroit Road, Avon Commons

Railroad Brewing

820 Center Road
formerly Moosehead Barbeque Grill

Speedway

35045 Chester Road

Studio of Skin Care

36941 Detroit Road

BUSINESS UPDATE

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COUNCIL CORNER

Council Update



Mayor Jensen and City Council Present Proclamation to Bill Logan

At the September 26 Avon City Council meeting, Mayor Jensen and City Council recognized Finance Director Bill Logan for his 14 years of service. Mr. Logan announced his retirement earlier in the year. Mayor Jensen stated, “During Bill’s leadership in the city, we went from a \$35 million budget to a \$60 million budget today. So it is with great pride and gratitude, and sadness, that we give this proclamation to Mr. Logan. This comes from all of council who is so appreciative of all of your efforts.”

“On behalf of Avon City Council, we thank Bill for his many years of service and wish him continued happiness in his retirement,” said Council President Brian Fischer.

Members of Council

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Scott Radcliffe, Ward 4
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SAFETY AND SERVICE DIRECTOR CORNER by Duane Streator

Safety Reminders & Snow Removal

Our community, along with other communities in our area, has experienced an increased number of theft incidents involving unlocked vehicles, sometimes including the vehicle being taken. We would like to remind our residents to secure their belongings and vehicles. All are encouraged to follow the 9pm routine every night.

Also, something to remind drivers about winter weather while driving.

Street Department Issues and Snow Removal

The winter season is upon us and our plows are ready to go. The Avon Service Department is responsible for plowing over 250 lane miles per snow event. During the winter months, Avon is divided into six zones, with one truck assigned to each zone to ensure all main roads are salted and cleared at the same time. Crews start with the main streets then work their way onto the secondary streets, which ultimately leads them into the residential subdivisions. The plow trucks will throw some snow into driveway aprons and at mailboxes, especially during heavy snowfalls. This is not intentional or preventable. Residents are responsible to clear the snow from their driveway aprons and away from their mailboxes. We recommend that residents pile their snow to the left side of their drive (looking from the street). This will minimize the amount of snow deposited in your driveway when the city trucks clear the roadway. For more information about snow and ice removal, please visit the city’s website at cityofavon.com, and search under Service Department.

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE

Buck's Hardware

The Landmark Preservation Commission's goal is to raise community awareness of the value of historic preservation of Avon's history, neighborhoods, buildings and artifacts. When Avon purchased Buck's Hardware, the intention was to evaluate and hopefully salvage the historic building. Since taking ownership of the building, Avon has had numerous people look at the building to see if it could be restored. However, because it was in such disrepair, the Building Department deemed it not salvageable. The Avon Historical Society, Landmark Preservation Commission, City Council and numerous others all came to that same conclusion. The City Council felt that for the safety and welfare of everyone, the building should be taken down as soon as possible.

This decision was not taken lightly. Many were involved in the evaluation of the property, including the Landmark Preservation Commission. Chair Matt Smith was given a tour of the building along with Avon Historical Society President Ralph White a few weeks before the demolition. "I have great memories of Buck's Hardware. I bought my first hunting license there in 1970. But when I toured the building, it looked like it was not maintained at all. When we went upstairs, I was worried because it felt unsafe. I was afraid I was going to fall through. I do not see how Avon could have rehabilitated the building," said Ralph White. "If there were two people who would have pushed to keep a historical building, Ralph White and I would have pushed to keep it, however, it is just not safe and we fully agree with this decision," said Matt Smith.

The site of the former Buck's Hardware is currently a municipal parking lot that is available for events at the Heritage Gazebo, as well as overflow parking at nearby businesses. Mayor Jensen reflected on the decision. "I spent a lot of time at Buck's Hardware over the years and I was sad to see the building come down. But I believe with landscaping and additional parking, the area around the gazebo will be an even nicer place to spend time."



Former Buck's Hardware



BUSINESS UPDATE

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Under Construction

Avon Self Storage

1100 Nagel Road

BeeHive Homes Memory Care Facility

28550 Chester Road

BibiBop

36050 Detroit Road,
French Creek Square

Charley's Cheesesteak

35701 Chester Road

Chili's Restaurant

35585 Chester Road

City Barbeque

35495 Chester Road

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhburgers

35815 Chester Road

GetGo Car Wash

33501 Just Imagine Drive

Hunter International

37779 Chester Road

Lorain Public Library Avon Branch

37485 Harvest Drive

McAlister's Deli

35355 Chester Road

Quick Brite Car Wash

2325 Nagel Road

Spectrum

35942 Detroit Road, Avon Commons

T3 - Phase 2

1965 Recreation Lane

Visionworks

35920 Detroit Road, Avon Commons

Ward Orthodontics

36422 Detroit Road



Bendix aerial view (top) and Bendix Corporate Headquarters (bottom)

WELCOME

Bendix Headquarters Opens in Avon

Though the building has been open to their employees for nearly one year, Bendix celebrated their official ribbon cutting in October. The expansive 216,000-square-foot building sits on 58 acres of land with 650 employees on the research, development, engineering, testing, administrative and marketing teams. “Our new headquarters gives us new energy, a new platform as we address the many new trends in our evolving industry: electrification, automated driving, connectivity and more. It helps Bendix and our brands and our industry partners to see the best solutions and shape tomorrow’s transportation together,” said Mike Hawthorne, President and CEO of Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems.

Many aspects of sustainability were considered during the construction of the new building. High efficiency lighting, windows, insulation and HVAC to help reduce energy consumption by nearly 18%. The new building was awarded a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) Silver award. “We are grateful for the addition of Bendix in the City of Avon. They have the same values that we hold dear — family, saving our environment and working to help others,” stated Mayor Jensen. Welcome to Avon!

PARKS AND REC

Winter To Do List

Your Parks and Recreation team is busy planning fun programs and events for the spring and summer! Here is a list of items that they suggest doing this winter.

Things to do before winter ends:

1. Visit Northgate Park Sledding Hill and Ice Skating Pond (weather permitting).
2. Bundle up your dog and head to the Canning Family K-9 Park (please observe posted park rules).
3. Start thinking about summer jobs! Watch the Parks and Recreation website for summer employment opportunities at the Aquatic Facility and Parks and Recreation Programs.
4. Schedule your upcoming party and gathering at our community park pavilions and rental facilities.



Please scan QR code or call 440-937-6107. Don't delay, dates fill fast! Have a safe and fun winter season!

In Remembrance of **TOM WEARSCH** *June 15, 1939 - October 10, 2022*

Former Avon Mayor Tom Wearsch (Served 1984-1987) was also elected to various council positions and served on a variety of other committees, ultimately dedicating himself to public service for more than 30 years. Our thoughts are with the Wearsch family.



Around Avon

- 1 Super Heroes to Kids, September 24
- 2 Health & Safety Fair, September 3
- 3 Not So Spooky Halloween, October 15
- 4 Patriot Day Ceremony, September 12
- 5 Remembering Our Fallen
- 6 Arbor Day Celebration, November 5
- 7 Avon Beautification Awards





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Planning/Zoning Dept.	440-937-7823
Police Dept. Non-Emergency Line	440-934-1234
Utilities Dept.	440-937-5740

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Sponsored Article



Building relationships to benefit our community.



Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital at Richard E. Jacobs Campus welcomes **Marcus Madison** to the team as Community Relations Program Manager. Madison has more than 15 years of experience working in the non-profit sector, philanthropy and local government as an elected official.

“I’m very passionate about this opportunity to connect the work of the hospital and our caregivers to the needs of our community, not only in Avon, but throughout Lorain County,” says Madison. “My focus will be on strengthening existing relationships and establishing new ones with hospital, community and government leaders to enhance the delivery of quality healthcare and build healthier communities.”

Since joining in July, Madison has established a “Caregivers in the Community” committee, whose members volunteer with local organizations. He is also working on community strategies to expose and inspire students to pursue careers in healthcare.

“I am excited to partner with others to positively impact this community’s health,” says Madison.

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