

Avon City News

December 2016



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Happy Holidays

It's hard to believe the year is coming to a close and the holidays are right around the corner! I remember when we started 2016. We had a lot to look forward to in our community from the first full season of the pool to many new businesses opening their doors. On top of that we undertook several infrastructure projects to help improve traffic flow and safety for residents and visitors.

Looking back, it's been a great year for all of us! It is important to remember that all of these great things happening in Avon could not be possible without the dedicated and passionate staff we have. From our safety services to the service departments, I'm very fortunate to be able to work with such an exemplary team of individuals.

I hope you all have a moment to enjoy time with family and friends as the holidays are approaching. Invest in some family time, as it's likely been a fast past year for everyone and now is a time to relax and enjoy. We have a lot of fun activities for residents in the month of December, and I hope to see you all there.

As we gear up for an exciting 2017, I'd like to reflect on some of the accomplishments of our community in 2016. We were named the number one city in Northeast Ohio by Cleveland Maga-

zine, a truly wonderful accomplishment. Without our great schools, residents and businesses, this would not have been possible.

Our community was built on small, family owned businesses and thrives on the addition of more of them today. We are making great strides to grow efficiently and effectively, but also continue to invest in small businesses and help create support for them as well. SHOP LOCAL!

Please visit us on cityofavon.com, like us on Facebook [Facebook.com/AvonOH](https://www.facebook.com/AvonOH) or follow us on Twitter [@CityofAvonOH](https://twitter.com/CityofAvonOH). Keep up to date on what's going on in the city.

From all of us at the City of Avon, Happy Holidays! It's been a great year and it's going to continue to get better!

Sincerely,

Bryan K. Jensen



Mayor Jensen and Billy Hricovec, owner of Tom's Country Place at the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo in November.

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Hricovec family honored with first City of Avon Living Legacy Award

A legacy is a memory... That memory is a lasting one that is handed down through the generations. It can be small, or larger than life itself. It only requires one person stepping outside of themselves and giving their entire heart and soul, just once, that touches the life of another person.

A lifelong legacy is a string of these single moments all tied together, impacting other people's hearts for the rest of their lives. That's what Tom and Mary Hricovec did for this community...and that's why the family was awarded the first City of Avon Living Legacy Award at the August 9, 2016 Council Meeting.

Tom Hricovec came to this country in 1914 when he was 7 years old. He and his family fled Czechoslovakia prior to World War I and settled in Avon as farmers. "We've always been farmers," said Marilyn Misencik, Tom's daughter. "He was raised 'old school', very strict," she said, "and so were we."

"Grandpa had sent word to my grandmother to get out of Czechoslovakia because the Russians were coming and they were taking all the boys to join their army," Misencik explained. "Grandma just made the last cattle boat to America with the kids. Grandpa made it out of Germany and joined her here in this country."

Tom Hricovec's moto was simple: *If you can learn how to work, you can accomplish anything.*

Young Tom grew up and married Mary Rink. They took over the Rink farm where Tom's Country Place is located now, 3442



Some of the Hricovec clan were on hand at the Council Meeting to accept the City's Living Legacy Award.

Stoney Ridge Rd. They had three children, Marilyn, Tom, Jr., and Bill. Misencik remembers:

"We grew everything we ate," she said. "I was a little kid when my mother took me to the store in town. I couldn't figure out what all that stuff was on the shelves. When I asked her, all she said was that was what city people ate, not us. We grew everything for ourselves except coffee and sugar. That's it. Most farmers around here did that until around 1950 or so when they started shipping fresh produce from the West Coast. After that, there was no more money in small farming...no one could make a living at it."

All along Tom Hricovec had a dream of opening a catering business. With the farming business becoming more of a challenge, he finally made it a reality. He and every neighbor along the road came to help construct Tom's Country Place in 1959. "My dad was such an outgoing guy," said Misencik. Everyone wanted to help and be a part of it."

The business was an immediate success. They made everything from scratch, especially their famous chicken. Tom and Mary even grew their own produce on the property, and Mary brought her family recipe book and started cooking.



It became a family thing. Everybody helped; everybody worked. All the cousins and anyone else that wanted to work came to help with the events. "He took

on every kid in the neighborhood and a lot of kids from Lorain that had gotten into some trouble. He taught them how to work. Believe it or not, they all loved him for it. He really changed their lives," said Misencik.

Tom Hricovec's moto was simple: ***If you can learn how to work, you can accomplish anything.***

Eventually, when their parents could no longer run the business themselves, Tom's sons, Tom and Bill, left their successful construction business and came home to run the catering business. "My brother Bill was the most like my dad," said Misencik. "He was just as outgoing as Dad with the neighbors and at the church. All of us would go out to the business and work with my brothers. It was our way of having fun."

Now, Bill's son, Billy, owns and runs the

...that “give back” legacy that has been carried down by each generation since 1859...it’s like in their blood...

Tom’s Country Place. Miscencik says that Billy has brought the business into the 21st Century, but he still carries on what he learned as he was growing up. “My grandpa started it,” said Billy Hricovec. “It was always about hard work, family and faith with him and my dad and uncle.”

On August 9, 2016, Mayor Bryan Jensen presented the Hricovec family the first Living Legacy Award from the City of Avon. “I established this award to honor people in the community who have given their time, effort and support generously to our city,” said the Mayor, “and when I thought about who should be the first to receive it, Hricovecs were the obvious choice.”

“Five generations of the Hricovec clan have lived here, and each member understands the importance of giving back,” said the Mayor. “It is that “give back” legacy that has been carried down by each generation since 1859...it’s like it’s in their blood...it’s who they are in Avon,” he said. “That’s what we’re honoring here today.”

It may be that the real story is not necessarily about this wonderful family. It may be about the idea of legacy...what we leave for others to remember about us. Your legacy is your story. We all have one, whether we recognize it or not. Our legacy is about life and living not how much wealth we have or how famous we’ve become. It’s about how we use that money or fame, now and in the future.

What better time of year to think about our legacy? The holidays are when we reflect on the past year and the choices we have made. The challenge is what we do today and how that impacts the future. Are we kind? Are we friendly? Do we include or do we exclude? Do we love or do we hate? Are we teaching our children to listen and laugh and share, or are we teaching them something else?

Most of us won’t ever be an Albert Einstein or Shakespeare or Lincoln, or even a Tom Hricovec. We are just plain ordinary folks doing the best that we can. And that’s all that anyone can ask of us. Regardless of what our best is, we leave behind our own legacy. We leave our story behind, and how we made a difference...or not.



Tom’s Country Place is located at 3442 Stoney Ridge Rd. in Avon, Ohio.



Fran and Paul Burik receive Community Service Award

Our Community Service Award winners this quarter are Paul and Fran Burik. Paul has been a resident of Avon for 35 years, and Fran has been here for 12 years. Paul is a retired architect and when he first came to our community he saw the potential for growth. Paul was put on the planning commission here in the city and worked on the first master plan to set the tone for growth in the years to come. The team saw the need to define a downtown area, and thus the French Creek District was born. This team founded the French Creek Foundation which helps promote, care for and grow the French Creek District. They worked to make it people friendly by adding sidewalks, worked on the gazebo at the corner of Stoney Ridge and Detroit Roads, and much more!

Fran is more involved in activities in the community. When Detroit Road was being widened, many of the businesses were hurting due to the construction. Along with the French Creek Foundation, Fran helped initiate the first Fall Into Avon festival to bring

awareness to businesses in the area. She’s helped plan the Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt to help raise money and beautify the city with flower baskets and other great projects in the city. Fran is also involved in the tree lighting festival as well as the garden club.

Fran and Paul have been very involved for quite some time. They have put a lot of effort in helping improve our downtown area, beautifying the neighborhood, and helping the city grow to what it is today. The population was much smaller when they started their efforts, and they’ve been a staple in the helping us grow to the vibrant city we are today. When asked why they loved living in Avon, Paul said, “When I came to Avon it was a farming community with two intersections. “To see what it is today, how it’s grown...I’m very proud to be a part of the community!”

Fran echoed a similar response noting the similarities of Avon with the small town she

grew up in. “It’s a community that has grown together and it has an amazing sense of home,” she said. “You can drive down the street and still see a tractor here and there...which shows the roots of a farming community. But also there’s great restaurants and businesses too! Everyone is so friendly!”

Thank you to Fran and Paul for all that you’ve done!! We appreciate everything you’ve done for the city of Avon!



Mayor Bryan Jensen presents the Community Service Award to Fran and Paul Burik.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT-LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING

"Hidden In Plain Sight" is the name of a traveling exhibit hosted by the Bath and Copley Police Departments. Adults are encouraged to explore and interact with the display designed to resemble a teenager's bedroom. Throughout the exhibit are items that may indicate a teen is involved in some high-risk behavior such as substance abuse, underage drinking, eating disorders, sexual activity and more.

Those in attendance at the awareness program for parents will be able to get an up-close look at the items in the room and be shown how they can be used. The program is approximately 2 hours long. Participants will be enlightened, educated and astonished.

There is no charge to attend the program. No youth will be permitted. "Hidden in Plain Sight" exhibit and program will be presented by the Avon Police Department and the Avon Local Schools on Thursday, January 17, 2017 in the Avon High School Auditorium. Doors open at 6:00 pm. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Water meter change out is complete!

The new water meters installed throughout the city provide our residents the ability to be in control of their water usage. The new system allows you to monitor how much water you used the day before, the week before, the month before, etc. You can detect water leaks in your home or irrigation system immediately. Log on to www.eyeonwater.com and create an account.



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New Cleveland Clinic Hospital opens

The new Avon Cleveland Clinic Hospital officially opened Tuesday, November 15, 2016. The 212,000-square-foot, five-story facility offers 126 private hospital rooms, a 12-bed intensive care unit, an expanded emergency room from 15 to 22 beds, new operating rooms and labs, a heart catheterization lab, an in-patient pharmacy and radiology services

The hospital will offer care in many specialties including cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, general surgery, orthopedics, pulmonology, urology, gynecology, vascular medicine and vascular surgery. Cases that are more complex and need additional specialized treatments would be transferred to other facilities within the Cleveland Clinic system.

"Our goal is to provide the highest quality care in the most efficient way at a manageable cost for patients," said Rebecca Starck, MD, president of the new hospital.

This \$143- million-dollar expansion to the existing Richard E. Jacobs Heath Center was built to meet the growing need for acute care in Lorain County, and especially in the City of Avon. The Health Center sees more than 400,000 patient visits yearly, up from about 300,000 since it opened its doors in December 2011. That's about 42,000 visits each month while the emergency department sees an average of 2,400 patients monthly. This is up 10% from last year.

Toby Cosgrove, MD, CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic, said, "It's a new kind of hospital for a new era in healthcare...this is the first regional hospital we've designed and built from the ground up." All this and close to home, too!

Avon's Citizen's Police Academy



The Avon Police Department is excited to announce the second class of the Citizen Police Academy graduated on November 8, 2016. This was a 10-week program that helped engage citizens become volunteers in the police department. Applications are typically accepted in the summer, and the classes run through the fall.

In order to be a part of the academy, applicants must pass a background check and provide references to the police department. The academy is a great way for residents to learn about the police and ways they can become more vigilant and supportive of the department in the community.

The first class had 13 residents, and the current class has 11 residents ranging from citizens in their 20s to their 70s. Thank you to all who participated, and we look forward to the third class in Fall 2017.



Image Landsat

History Walk project underway

The FirstEnergy Foundation contributed \$10,000 toward making the History Walk project a reality. Sponsored jointly by the French Creek Foundation, the Avon Historical Society and the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the project is in its final stages.

The History Walk will consist of fourteen display stations placed along an outdoor walkway at the new municipal center where the Avon Aquatic Center, the Post Office and the Police and Fire stations are located. Eventually, the center will house a new city hall and other recreation attractions.

This truly has become a community project. Avon High School journalism students researched the topics and created a list of interesting facts for each. The Historical Society provided old photographs that illustrate the amazing growth the city has experienced, and the Landmarks Preservation Commission was responsible for production.

The fourteen topics include: History Walk Introduction, Wilbur Cahoon, Natural History, Connecticut Western Reserve, Greek Revival Architecture, Famous People, Churches and Schools, Social Changes, Immigration, Stone Houses, Avon Farms, Towns and Districts, 19th Century Artifacts. Avon High School Tech Club created an app that will direct people to more in-depth information on the web.

Each display station, including printing and installation, costs \$1,400. Avon resident, Jean Fischer, generously donated the funds to erect the Wilbur Cahoon display. Fischer currently lives in the original Cahoon home on Stoney Ridge Rd.

The total cost for the History Walk will be approximately \$19,600. The City is sponsoring funds for the Introduction plaque. We are still seeking support to complete the project. Please contact **Clint Gault, President of the French Creek Foundation, at (440) 937-1551** for further details if you are interested in helping to preserve Avon's past.



Clint Gault and Sharon Vorisek accept FirstEnergy check for \$10,000 supporting the History Walk Project on behalf of the French Creek Foundation.



Thanks to the following students and Avon High School Staff for supporting this collaborative effort: Journalism Class Advisor, Michele Frederick; Students—Dom Mass, Alexis Dill, Kayla Graham, Lauren Orlando, Sierra Pabon, Emily Robertson, Hunter Polinski. Tech Club and Club Advisor, Scott Seighman.

This Norton S. Townsend display is located near the Avon Gazebo at the corner of Detroit and Stoney Ridge Rds. The History Walk markers will be similar and mounted the same.



what makes
AVON
such a
great place?

NEW CITY VIDEO

Go to the City of Avon website, www.cityofavon.com, and watch the new video highlighting the best Avon has to offer!

We're proud of where our community started and what it's grown to today. This video highlights some of our accomplishments and showcases why Avon is a great place to live and visit!

Take a few minutes and watch the video...you might even see a few familiar faces. Ted Gordon, Maximum Velocity, Producer and Director of Video said, "There was such an overwhelming willingness by the residents of Avon to be on camera. They seemed to embrace the city and the direction that Avon is moving in!"

Everyone we interviewed was so excited about the project. Thanks to all who participated. We hope you love it!

Police officer fundraiser

If you find yourself asking the question "Is there a cat sleeping on that officer's face?" perhaps we can help. The Avon Police Department is participating in an annual event that allows male employees to grow beards and female employees to paint and decorate their nails in other than traditional colors.



Officer K. Krugman has donated his way to months of extra time before he reports for duty as he won't need to shave until February!

Employees who wish to participate must pay a monthly fee. The money that is collected is then donated to a local charity, group or individual in need as selected by a vote of the participating Department members. The event lasts for the months of November through February. Last year's recipient was St. Jude's Children Hospital and the department raised \$1250.00.





Be the Change!

This year, the theme at Holy Trinity School is “Be the Change”. To kick off the year, the message was shared with students in a video from members of the Cleveland Indians, the Cleveland Browns, the Avon Police Department and the Avon Fire Department. Mayor Jensen also spoke on the video challenging the students to “Be the Change” they want to see in the world.

Mayor Jensen asked students to do something to “Be the Change” for the next thirty days and let him know about their progress. The kids stepped up to help more around the school by picking up classmates’ materials, volunteering to move boxes and other items to storage and attending sporting events just to support fellow students. One student chose to hold the door open for all students for twenty five minutes during morning arrival. Other students are carrying neighbors’ groceries, paying for a stranger’s ice cream at Mitchell’s, sorting toiletry products for the homeless and volunteering their time at animal shelters.

Some of the behaviors are spilling into students’ homes as more of them make an effort to assist siblings with homework and help with chores without being asked.

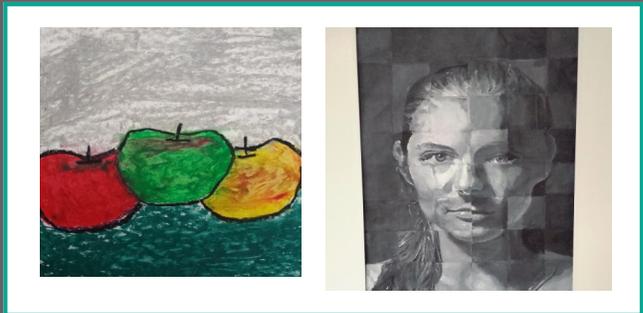
“The excitement in the building is heartwarming and contagious,” said Principal Kim Kuchta, “as more and more students focus on being respectful. The staff and students thank the Mayor for all the support the City of Avon has given us implementing our project. And a big thanks goes out to our Indians and Browns, too!” she said.



These 7th grade students accepted a check from the Ohio Catholic Credit Union for their “Be the Change” efforts. The youngsters had a bake sale to raise additional dollars and donated it all to The Blessing House, an organization providing safe, temporary housing for children and families.

October Art Award Winners

1. Catherine Yingling – Grade 2 Holy Trinity
2. Bree Collins – grade 12 AHS



1

2



Mayor’s Art Awards October & November 2016

November Art Award Winners

This month focused on middle school artists .

1. Isabelle Niederst— St. Mary
2. Zoey Papanikolaou— Holy Trinity
3. Bahar Zehir—Avon Middle School



1

2

3



Homecoming



Heritage Halloween





Fall Into Avon



Senior Center Halloween Party



Patriot's Day



Crusher's Event

Chamber of Commerce Business Expo



December 3, 2016 Tree Lighting Schedule

- 2:00 - 3:00 PM** — Avon Isle: Drop-Off Entries for Gingerbread Contest
- 3:00 PM** — Olde Avon Village: Ice Carving
- 3:30 PM** — Olde Avon Village: Avon High School Marching Band, Enjoy Cocoa and Treats by the Fire
- 4:00 PM** — Olde Avon Village: Elsa & Anna from Frozen®
- 5:00 PM** — Olde Avon Village: **Santa Arrives** at Olde Avon Village and Introduces the Child Who will Ride with him to the Tree Lighting Ceremony, Follow Santa to the Heritage Square Gazebo
- 5:15 - 5:45 PM** — Gazebo: Santa, Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Avon High School Choir, Caroling
- 5:45 - 7:00 PM** — Avon Isle: Santa, Live Reindeer, Refreshments, Crafts & Activities
- 6:30 PM** — Avon Isle: Gingerbread House Contest Winners Announced
- 7:00 PM** — **Contestants must pick-up their Gingerbread Houses before 7:00 PM**

See www.FrenchCreekFoundation.com for full details and updates.

Avon Senior Center 2017 Membership Drive

If you would like to find out more about the Senior Center, including our fantastic **senior transportation services**, please call 440-934-2417, or email the Senior Center Coordinator at Carmelina@cityofavon.com with any questions. You do not have to be a member to participate in most of our activities, but senior households who join the Avon Senior Center by January 20, 2017 will receive an \$8.00 credit voucher to be redeemed on any one (1) senior social event during the 2017 calendar year. Plus, you will receive our bi-monthly newsletter, *The Senior Buzz*, mailed directly to your home, and have the ability to participate in policy making and voting privileges for issues concerning the Avon Seniors Board. Just fill out the Membership Form below and submit it to the Avon Senior Center. Hurry! Deadline for credit vouchers is January 20 2017! *P.S. You do NOT have to be an Avon resident to join!*



**AVON SENIORS, INC. 2017
MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM - \$10.00 per household**

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

IS THIS A NEW ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER? CIRCLE ONE: YES NO

MEMBERSHIP FORM MUST ACCOMPANY PAYMENT

Please make check payable to: Avon Seniors, Inc.

Mail/Drop off dues to: Avon Senior Center; 36786 Detroit Rd., Avon, OH 44011

_____ Save a tree! Don't mail my newsletter, please email it to me at:

For	Staff	Use:	Date
Amount Paid _____			



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Christmas Tree SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Get a fresh tree whose needles don't easily fall off -or- a UL-listed artificial tree that is "flame resistant/retardant."
- Place the tree away from heat sources!
- UL-listed Christmas Lights (Pay attention to Indoor/Outdoor use)
- Check your decor for damage and replace as needed.
- Don't overload your sockets -- no more than 3 light strands in a row.
- Turn off your lights before bed or while you're away from home.
- Dispose of your live tree soon (less than 4 weeks after putting it up) and recycle, don't light it on fire!
- Take down decorations outside sooner to help them last longer. Go ahead and replace decorations that didn't make it by hitting up the after-Christmas sales.

Smart Kids 101