



## Mayor Jensen's Message to the Community



*Mayor Jensen with his parents*

When I was much younger, my dad told me to slow down and enjoy life. It was good advice that I did not understand when he said it to me. I do now, and I wish he was here so I could tell him, "Dad, I get it."

At the time, I was running a business and married with young kids. I followed in his footsteps and was elected to city council. I was always in a rush trying to get to certain places at certain times. I was so wrapped up in reaching a destination and getting there as fast as I could, I missed out on a lot of other things. Looking back, I regret not

slowing down to enjoy my kids as they grew up or things my family did together. It really hits home for me when I spend time with my grandkids.

Recently, I was driving somewhere and realized I wasn't driving nearly as fast as I once did. I laughed because it reminded me of thoughts I once had about how older people drive. Now, I'm one of them. Then it dawned on me that they get it, too. Someone else said this more elegantly, but here's my take: the journey is as important as the destination.

As we race through life, do we also miss chances to help those who need us — neighbors, coworkers, family members or friends? So many are hurting. It's even more complicated because we continue to be so divided when we should be leaning on and helping one another.

Today, I'm more appreciative of the journey. I realize how fast time goes by. As Mayor, a husband, dad and grandfather, I am so much more aware

of how blessed I am and I'm thankful for all my family has. Being Mayor of a city this size, I see others making my mistake racing from one place to another, hardly slowing down. I hope by sharing these thoughts, I can help someone else from making those mistakes. Just as importantly, by slowing down, more of us may be able to help those who need our help and support. Don't miss chances to find happiness through the journey.

Thank you for the privilege of being your Mayor.

Bryan K. Jensen



*Mayor Jensen with his wife and grandkids*

The TRUTH is, that all of the "STUFF" here on earth we work SO hard to buy and accumulate... does NOT mean a thing. At the end of the day... people will be cleaning out our "STUFF", going thru our "STUFF", figuring out what to do with all of our "STUFF"... this "STUFF" we've accumulated in our life. The only thing of VALUE that remains are the MEMORIES and what we deposit into others. May we all learn to spend less time accumulating "STUFF" and spend way more time making MEMORIES. —Unknown

COUNCIL CORNER

# Reviewing the Charter of the City of Avon



**What is a Charter?**

A charter is the constitution of a city. It defines the powers and functions of elected officials as well as the organization and procedures of local government. A chartered city is one that possesses a unique set of laws that forms the legal foundation of its local system of government. The legal document that articulates these laws is called a charter.

The Charter of the City of Avon was last reviewed in 2017. It is required to be reviewed no more than 5 years from the year in which it was last reviewed. A Charter Review Commission consisting of 9 members and 2 alternates all of whom must be electors of the City of Avon and holding no elective office with the City of Avon shall be selected by the Selection Committee and shall be seated by City Council on or before January 31 of that succeeding year. All applicants for positions on the Charter Review Commission shall submit their applications on or before November 1st in the year preceding the seating of the Charter Review Commission. The Selection Committee shall inform Council, in writing, of their selections on or before the last regular meeting of Council of that same year. The Selection Committee must ensure that all Wards within the City are represented. No more than 1 member from the same immediate family or household will be permitted to be seated on either the Selection Committee or the Charter Review Commission. The Selection Committee is encouraged to strive for balance with the goal of achieving as diverse a cross-section of the community as possible.

**The 2022 Charter Review Commission Members as appointed by Resolution No. R-31-21 and adopted by City Council on December 30, 2021, are as follows:**

- Patricia Ashley, Ward 1**
- Mary Berges, Ward 3**
- Elizabeth Damstra, Ward 3**
- Clint Gault, Ward 4**
- James Gemelas, Ward 1**
- Joseph Glick, Ward 1**

- William Logan, Ward 4**
- Marcel Mylen, Ward 2**
- John Weigman, Ward 1**
- Melissa Ramirez-Alternate A, Ward 3**
- Bruce Klingshirn-Alternate B, Ward 4**

The Charter Review Commission shall meet the first Thursday in February, for a period not to exceed 150 days. During this period, the Commission may recommend to Council such alterations, revisions, and amendments, if any, as in its judgement are desirable. The Council shall submit to the electors not later than the next succeeding November election each such proposed alteration, revision, or amendment. The members appointed to said Commission shall serve without compensation. Meetings of the Charter Review Commission shall be open to the public.

**You can find the meeting agendas and minutes of the 2022 Charter Review Commission on the City of Avon website at [cityofavon.com/AgendaCenter](http://cityofavon.com/AgendaCenter).**

## BUSINESS UPDATE

### Now Open

**Scarvelli Floors**  
NEW LOCATION  
37131 Colorado Avenue

**Firehouse Subs**  
35682 Detroit Road  
*formerly Williamsburg Dry Cleaners*

**Boriken Joe's**  
36795 Detroit Road

### Coming Soon

**Charleys Cheesesteaks**  
Chester Road

**Chili's Restaurant**  
35585 Chester Road

**City Barbeque**  
Chester Road

**Duck Island Cocktails**  
New Location Coming Soon

**Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers**  
Chester Road

**McConnell Meats / Ventito Bakery**  
35840 Chester Road

**Mezquite Restaurant**  
35846 Detroit Road  
*Avon Commons formerly I-Hop*

**Raising Cane's**  
35545 Chester Road

### Under Construction

**GetGo Car Wash**  
33501 Just Imagine Drive

**Hunter International**  
37779 Chester Road

**Lorain Public Library Avon Branch**  
37485 Harvest Drive

**Vault Self Storage**  
34500 Mills Road

# Crime Prevention



The Avon Police department operates within the principles of Community Policing. It is essential that the department works with the community to both investigate and prevent crimes. As part of this process, the department conducts free security

surveys of residential and commercial properties, at the owner’s request, and provides recommendations to improve the safety of residents/employees and help protect your property. In addition, the police department offers vacation watch checks of residences and a teen home alone program if you will be out of town for extended periods of time.

The following tips have been assembled to address crimes that are most prevalent – many of which can be prevented with some advance planning and precaution.

- Light up your house
- Lock your doors (including screen doors and pedestrian doors between your attached garage and residence) and windows
- Put your garage door down (anytime, day or night, where you are not in a position to watch the garage)
- Do not leave valuables in unattended vehicles
- Lock your car doors
- Never leave your keys in an unattended vehicle
- Be aware of your surroundings and people around you
- If you see something, say something. Do not wait to call the police department.



## Purchase Your 2022 Pool Membership *Today!*

**Early Bird Discount available**

**New Memberships must be purchased in-person at the Parks & Rec. Department**

**Renewals can be purchased online**

**POOL OPENS JUNE 9th**

**SPLASH PARTY June 8th at 6 pm  
FREE admission for Avon residents!**

# of Passes Per Family	2022 Season Pass	Early Bird Discount Price (Through 6/12)	Season Pass Renewal Price
1st Person	\$80	\$75	\$67
2 People	\$140	\$130	\$118
3 People	\$196	\$181	\$165
4 People	\$244	\$224	\$205
5 People	\$288	\$263	\$242
MAX 6 People	\$328	\$298	\$275
Senior (60+)	\$42	\$37	\$35
Nanny Pass	\$85	—	\$71



### Programs & Events

- Lorain Public Library Story Time
- Parties at the Pavilion
- Avon Eagle Swim Club
- Coached Adult Workouts
- Sponsor Fun Days

Visit [avonpool.com](http://avonpool.com) for more information on hours, jobs, swim lessons, Avon Eagle Swim Club and much more!



**FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY**

## Summary of the Proposed Income Tax Rate Increase on the May 5, 2022 Ballot

February 25, 2022

1. If the .15% increase is passed on May 3rd, 2022, it would raise the current Avon income tax rate from 1.75% to 1.90% for ten (10) years beginning January 1, 2023.
2. The Avon Resident credit limit would be raised from 1.50% to 1.60%. In addition:
  - a. Anyone working in Avon (Avon residents and non-Avon residents) would pay the new tax rate of 1.90%.
  - b. An Avon resident working in another city or village would pay .30% to Avon (1.90% less resident credit of 1.60%), an increase of .05% from the .25% (1.75% less resident credit of 1.50%), currently being paid.

Retirees with **only** social security or some other form of retirement income will not be impacted. Only taxable wages are affected.

The funds raised by this 10-year income tax levy can only be used by the City to acquire residential property.

Any property acquired with these funds must be used for public parks. The levy will generate approximately \$2,000,000 annually.

The Average Income Tax Rate for Lorain County cities and villages is 1.89%. Avon's current tax rate is 1.75%. If the levy passes, the new rate will be 1.90%.

Avon's Current Income Tax Rate is comprised of the following:

General Rate <i>(does not require a vote of the people)</i>	1.00%
Safety Forces <i>(voters approved in 2002)</i>	.50%
Parks & Recreation Operations <i>(voters approved in 2007)</i>	.25%
Total Current Income Tax Rate	1.75%

Any questions may be directed to **Bill Logan, Finance Director, City of Avon; 440-937-7806**

**SAFETY DIRECTOR CORNER** by Duane Streater

## Safety & Service Director Message

### Home occupations ordinance passed

Avon City Council recently passed an ordinance requiring all home occupations be registered within the City. As modern day technology and lifestyles are changing more and more people are running a business from their home. This permit allows the City to monitor where home occupations are to make sure they are being run properly and safely and there are no adverse effects on the surrounding residents. The Home Occupation Permit is available on the City website or can be picked up at City Hall. There is a \$15.00 and the permit is valid for 3 years with renewal 30 days prior to expiration. For more information or questions contact Jill Clements, Zoning Enforcement Officer at 440-937-7810 or [JClements@cityofavon.com](mailto:JClements@cityofavon.com)

### Thank you Avon Streets, Parks and Utilities Department

I would like to recognize the employees of the Avon Streets, Parks, and Utilities Department for their work the past couple of months in clearing our streets and park areas of snow. During the significant snowfalls that we experienced, they worked many hours to ensure that our streets were plowed and salted in a timely manner.

### City projects

As we traverse into warmer weather there are many projects that we look forward to completing. We will be installing new restroom facilities at Northgate Park, Every Child's Playground, and the new Eagle Point Park. Also, we will be working on road improvement projects that include Williams Court, Shakespeare Lane, Jaycox Road from Mills to Schwartz, Moore Road from Chester to the railroad Tracks, and in the fall we expect ODOT to re-pave State Route 83 from Detroit to the southern border. We would request your patience in these areas as we work on these projects, especially if this is a route that you normally travel.

In representing the employees of the City of Avon, it is our goal to provide the best services we can to our community to ensure it is a safe and enjoyable place to live and work.



## TREE COMMISSION

# Welcome Avon Tree Commission

The Tree Commission is hard at work to make Avon a sustainable Tree City, USA. Their main goal is to create a better environment for all residents by providing tree planning, proper tree care and tree planting guidelines with a recommended tree species list. The Commission is preparing for the City's first ever Arbor Day.

PLEASE JOIN US  
**AVON ARBOR DAY**

Saturday, November 5, 2022

Noon to 3 pm

Next to the Avon Aquatic Facility

36265 Detroit Road

ACTIVITIES TREE PLANTINGS EDUCATION

## Avon Tree Commission Meeting

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Council Chambers of Avon City Hall at 7:30 p.m. The Commission Members, listed below, would love to see you at the meetings. This is an excellent venue for residents to have their questions answered and/or concerns addressed regarding trees.

### Members:

- Mary Berges, Chairman Pro Tem
- Shannon Laurenzi
- Tony Moore, Chairman and Council's Designee
- John Schwartz
- Matt Smith, Mayor's Designee
- John Traxler
- Richard Varga, Certified Arborist

Please watch for the "Tree Commission" page coming soon to the City website.



# City of Avon Department Updates

## AVON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



**Clare Harasimchuk**  
*Recreation Coordinator*

### Recreation Programs

Avon Parks & Recreation will be offering a host of activities this Spring & Summer. Visit our website for more information and registration for programs such as **Playground Days, Dance to Evolve, Seasonal Sports Camps/Clinics, Safety Town, Avon Performing Arts** and much more!

We are looking forward to our annual **Friday Night Movies in the Park**. This outdoor family-friendly event is located at Every Child's Playground near the Aquatic Facility. Join us for fun and games before the movie begins at dusk! Stay tuned for more information at [cityofavon.com](http://cityofavon.com).

### Discover Avon's latest addition to our Parks System

We would like to thank the residents for participating in "Name that Park". The votes are in and the new park name is **EAGLE POINT!**

### Stay Connected with Parks & Recreation

If you want to be up to date on the latest FUN programs and events offered by Avon Parks & Recreation, visit the Parks & Recreation page at [cityofavon.com](http://cityofavon.com) and click on Stay Connected.



*Eagle Point Park*

## SENIOR CENTER



**Carmelina Suydam**  
*Coordinator*

### Many Offerings for Avon Seniors

There are a lot of offerings for our senior Avon residents such as **exercise, cards, movies, social events, book clubs, bingo, and trips**. We will continue to have **seminars and educational events** regarding heart health, nutrition, fall prevention, dementia, caregiver stress and more. Our on-site social worker is available each day to provide assistance, referrals and specific need counseling.

To stay up to date on the latest news at the Senior Center, **please contact us to be included in our free e-newsletter database or join the mailing list subscription for \$15/year.**

## FIRE DEPARTMENT



**David Swope**  
*Fire Chief*

The Avon Fire Department's Fire Prevention and Education Bureau would like to remind everyone that when it's time to change your clocks it's time to **change your Smoke Alarm/Detector batteries** as well. The two types of smoke alarms/ detectors are Ionization (Most popular), Photoelectric, or a combination of both. The main differences of the two types are Ionization alarms respond faster to high heat and flaming fires where photoelectric alarms respond faster to low heat and smoldering fires. All alarm types can be hard wired into your home's electrical system or battery only operated. Remember hard wired alarms/ detectors still have a battery backup which need to be routinely changed as. The **life span of a smoke alarm/detector is generally 7-10 years**. The recommended location for a fire alarm/ detector is at least one per floor and one alarm/ detector in every bedroom of the house along with a CO Detector on every floor of your home. Although the Fire department will not recommend one brand of alarm over another; If you have any other questions please reach out to our Fire and Safety inspectors at **440-934-1222** and ask for Fire Prevention, or at [cityofavon.com/173/fire](http://cityofavon.com/173/fire).

## THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT



**Emily Hanson**  
*Chief Building Official*

The Building Department Team consists of (3) Building Clerks, (6) Building Inspectors and Chief Building Official. Our Team works together to provide an efficient, effective experience that follows the Ohio Building Codes to ensure your commercial and residential projects are completed to that standard.

**Spring is fast approaching!** If you are considering an addition or alteration to your home, adding a deck or patio, installing a pool, or general mechanical, electrical or plumbing upgrades, it's a good time to contact the Building Department Team at the City of Avon with any questions about your projects.

**The Building Department is diligent about registering Contractors.** This protects the homeowner in case there are any issues on a project. Each contractor must be Licensed, Bonded and Insured. All Mechanical Contractors must carry an Ohio State License. **Do not rely on social media posts** for information regarding contractors.

**We issue building permits, schedule, and execute building inspections to assure compliance with the Ohio Building Codes.** The Department also performs inspections related to storm water run-off and sediment control to meet Ohio EPA requirements.

A little research can go a long way so contact the City of Avon Building Department if you have any questions regarding permit requirements or contractor registration and/or visit the City of Avon website at [cityofavon.com](http://cityofavon.com). A current **list of contractors** is provided. Your projects and improvements should be an exciting, worry-free experience, not a nightmare!

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



**Pam Fechter**  
*Economic Development Coordinator*



Congratulations to Avon's own **In Forno Pizza rated 46th top ranked Pizzeria in the USA and 1st in Ohio!!** They are located at 35840 Chester Road. Congratulations and remember to support all of Avon's small businesses!

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Daniel Fischbach**  
*Chief of Police*

As the City continues to grow, so does the demand for services. In the police department, we will be **adding an additional four full time police officers** to our ranks in 2022 bringing our total authorized strength to 48 full time sworn officers. In addition to the sworn staff, we have civilian support staff consisting of four part time community service officers, two part time dispatchers, six full time dispatchers, one custodian of records and public information officer, and one administrative assistant. Together, the men and women of the Avon Police Department responded to 19,993 total calls for service in 2021. Of those calls, we responded to 1,063 traffic accidents and filed 934 criminal case reports resulting in 476 criminal arrests.

## UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



**Brian Bruce**  
*Superintendent of Utilities*

The Utilities Department in partnership with our water meter manufacturer Badger Meter will begin a necessary **Endpoint Changeout Project in 2022**. Many of the current endpoints will no longer transmit at the end of 2022 due to changes in Cellular Technology across the country. This is a project The City of Avon has anticipated and was prepared for. The endpoint is the transmitting unit connected to your water meter that sends water use data to our meter reading system. The project is expected to start in May or June and be completed within a few months. More specific information is available in the City Council passed Ordinance 7-22 which can be found at [cityofavon.com](http://cityofavon.com).



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## Save the Date

Lois Shinko's  
Aunt Teak & Uncle Junque  
Avon Citywide Garage Sale Weekend  
**June 25-26**

*For more events or to submit  
an event for your organization,  
please go to [allaboutavon.org](http://allaboutavon.org).*

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*

Postal Customer  
Avon, OH 44011

### All About Avon City News Staff

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**Avon Senior Center** 440.934.2417  
**Building Dept.** 440-937-7811  
**City Hall** 440.937.7800  
**Fire Dept. Non-Emergency Line** 440.934.1222  
**Planning/Zoning Dept.** 440-937-7823  
**Police Dept. Non-Emergency Line** 440.934.1234  
**Utilities Dept.** 440-937-5740

[www.allaboutavon.org](http://www.allaboutavon.org)  
[www.cityofavon.com](http://www.cityofavon.com)



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ARBOR DAY ART: FREEPIK.COM

Sponsored Article



## The Amazing Benefits of Exercise

“If you need inspiration to make your health a priority, remember the many benefits of exercise can add up to living longer and feeling good,” explains Rebecca Starck, MD, president of Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital at Richard E. Jacobs Campus.

### Dr. Starck reminds us that exercise:

Increases your heart rate, gets your blood flowing and releases endorphins, leading to **higher energy levels** and a feeling of **well-being**.

Reduces stress and anxiety, leaving you feeling relaxed for a **good night's sleep**.

Increases your brain's sensitivity to serotonin and norepinephrine, which can help with depression.

**Maintains muscle mass; strengthens and repairs muscles.**

**Wards off chronic diseases** like Type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

**Reduces chronic pain and improves physical function** for low back pain, fibromyalgia or other conditions.

**Boosts brain health** by improving blood flow to the brain and reducing inflammation.

Adults should aim for a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise five days a week.

**Visit [ClevelandClinic.org/Avon](http://ClevelandClinic.org/Avon) to learn more about Avon Hospital or call 440.695.5000 to schedule an appointment.**