

Summer 2008

Volume 11 - Number 2

CITY NEWS



A joint City and Township Newsletter

Utility Billing

We are now on "summer average" for sewer usage. Sewer consumption from April 16th – September 15th (reflected on the May 1st – October 1st billing) will be charged based on water usage average from the previous September 16th – April 15th. If you have any questions please contact Kathy at 356-7922.

Direct Deposit

You can now sign up to pay your utility bill automatically. See page 8 for more details.

Red Cross Bloodmobile

The Avon Women of Today will be sponsoring a **Red Cross Bloodmobile on Wed., July 23, 2008 from 1 to 7 pm at the Avon Community Church.**

A new state law passed that will be effective July 1, 2008 states that 16 year olds may donate blood with permission of a parent or guardian's signature. Encourage any sixteen year old to begin this wonderful "gift" of life. Special prizes will be given to them as an appreciation of their donation.

Contact Gail @ 356-7970 or Mary @ 363-4682 or e-mail almeschenk@aol.com.

*"The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give Blood."*

ALL
ABOUT
AVON

What's inside.....

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Avon Police Dept

by: Chief Corey Nellis

The police department has responded to 483 calls for service this year.

As spring and summer approach the police department has received numerous complaints regarding animals on private property, in city parks, elementary school playground. All dog owners are responsible for their animals and the mess they may leave behind. City

and at the responsible **Ordinance**

#91 requires that dogs be under the control of their owners at all times and must be on a leash when in public. The ordinance also requires that the owners pick up after their dogs. The number one complaint that we receive is that dogs go into parks and the beach and leave behind feces, which are not cleaned up by the owner. I know that many dog owners do pick up after their dogs, but I am asking those that don't to start. The police department has the discretion to issue citations for violations. If the police department continues to receive large numbers of complaints, citations can be expected.

The beach will soon be open again for the season and the police department is going to continue with the beach patrol program that was implemented last summer. The police department will have staff on the beach monitoring behavior during busy periods. There are four large signs on the beach which clearly state beach rules. The signs also state that there will be zero tolerance for violations. The police department truly wants to make the beach a safe, family-friendly environment where people can enjoy themselves.



Reminder: Anyone choosing to drive golf carts within the city limits and on city streets need to purchase a golf cart permit from the city for a cost of \$20.00/year. Golf carts cannot be driven on county roads, but county roads can be crossed.

The police department is trying to work with the city regarding parking problems along Chinook Avenue. Every year parking on Chinook Avenue is a concern, especially during garage sales, graduation parties or other family events. Chinook Avenue is not wide enough for vehicles to be parked across from each other on the street and still allow enough room for traffic flow and emergency vehicles. The police department asked the city council to consider prohibiting parking on one side of the street year round. We are asking those affected by this proposal to respond to the following survey.

Do you support restricting parking on Chinook Ave. to one side of the street? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, which side of the street? East ___ West ___

Other
Comments:

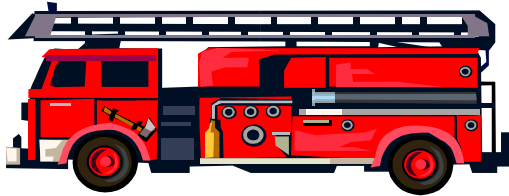
Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return survey to Avon City Hall

AVON FIRE & RESCUE

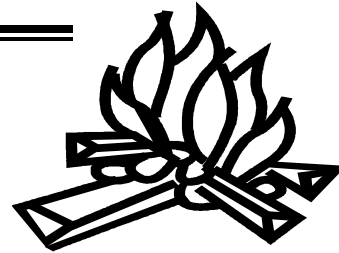
BY: ERIC LINN – Fire Chief



CALL BEFORE YOU BURN!

Eric Linn – 363-0005
Ed Maile Jr. – 356-9160

Angeline Buettner – 356-7382



Thank you to everyone who has already purchased a Fire Department **raffle ticket**. If you would like one please contact a member of the Fire Department. A big thanks goes out to the retired firemen of Avon (Hook and Ladder Company) for helping sell raffle tickets.

The Avon Fire Department recently held their **annual appreciation dinner** at Fisher's Club. Fisher's did a fine job and also donated a portion of the cost to show their appreciation for the services we provide. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to our wives and also our retired members and their wives. And a big thank you to John, Karl and Carlin Petters and also the staff at Fisher's Club.

Avon Fire and Rescue does charge for **illegal burning or burning without a permit**. This charge was enacted to help stop illegal burning and cover the expense of extinguishing these fires. Contact a fire warden for a burning permit before burning. (See information box above.) This does not include a recreational fire that is a three-foot fire ring only.

Reminder: **Cooking** still remains the **leading cause of home fires and fire injuries** in the United States. Simply paying attention when you are cooking will keep your dinner and everything else from getting burned.

Thank you for your support. Have a fun, safe summer.

The Seasons of Avon

We received some fantastic spring entries and have chosen the following winners:

- ❖ Michael Kiekenapp
- ❖ Del Thomas



Submission Rules:

- ~ 4 x 6 matte finish photograph
- ~ photos must be taken in the Avon City limits
- ~ photographs may include people, but the persons should not be recognizable
- ~ the winning photos will be framed and displayed in the City Hall building
- ~ mail or drop off entries at city hall
- ~ you may submit as many entries as you wish
- ~ winners will be asked to also submit photos electronically so that they may be enlarged

Summer photo deadline: August 11, 2008

There are so many great photo opportunities in Avon during the summer! Think about submitting some of your favorite memories!

include information below on back of each entry:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Date picture was taken: _____

Where picture was taken:

Signature

Photographs become property of the City of Avon. City has the authority to enlarge and display photograph as they so choose.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Submitted by: Nate Brenner, Public Works Assistant

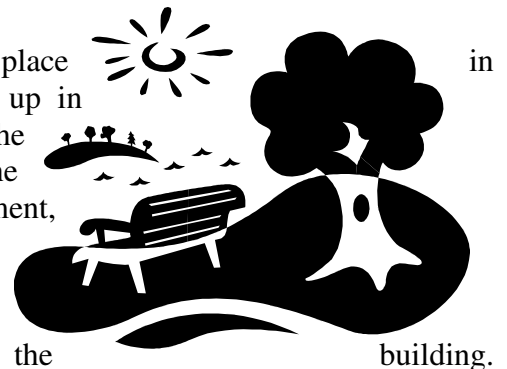
STREETS

Crack filling will be completed by the end of May. We will also be seal coating the Lake Horizons addition behind the elementary school. Seal coating is done to make the roads last longer by putting oil over the road to close up all the pores that allow water to get underneath the bituminous surface.

The reconstruction of Stratford Street from Chinook east across main street to Dolphin Avenue is being planned for next spring (2009). A number of meetings and public hearings will be held to inform residents about the project. More information will be posted as time goes on.

PARKS

There are a number of exciting and beautifying projects that will take place in 2008. Two new baseball fields are in the process of being finished up in Stratford Park along with getting a sprinkler system installed to get the grass established. The biggest project for the summer will be the reconstruction of Suncrest Park. It will get new playground equipment, sprinkler system and leveling off to make it more user friendly. Ochotto Park will be getting a new fence along the bluff along with some shrubs to add to its beauty. The Lions shelter has new cement under the lean-to that was added two years ago along with a pad all the way around the building. This will be very nice for Spunktacular Days.



A lot of time and donations have helped all of these projects shape up. Thanks to everyone that has helped. Anyone interested in helping construct playground equipment feel free to call Ray at 248-4992 or Nate at 293-7328. Please keep our parks looking great by picking up garbage and dog feces. Also remember that ATV and snowmobiles are prohibited in all city parks - violators will be cited.

COMPOST SITE

The compost site is now open to City and Township residents for **leaves, grass and small brush**. It is located in the fenced in area to the south of the wastewater treatment plant. To get to the compost site, go north on Angelfish Avenue, take a right at the T-intersection and then take a right into the first gate by the compost sign. Signs were installed to help distinguish the different items location. The site will be open daily from 8 am to 8 pm. If you have any questions call Ray at 248-4992 or Nate at 293-7328, Monday through Friday during the hours of 7 am through 4:30 pm. Thank you.



BUILDING PERMITS

Doing any building or remodeling?
You need a building permit!!

For **CITY** of Avon land use and building permit questions contact Amy Pogatchnik at 356-7922 or amy.p@cityofavonmn.com

For questions about **CITY** building codes contact Dan Marthaler, Building Inspector at 249-7533



Building permits are required to re-side, re-shingle, remodel, replace windows/doors, build decks and for all new construction projects. **Zoning permits** are required for driveways, small utility sheds, signs, fences, concrete/paving stone patios and walls.

Please submit your applications at least **two weeks in advance of the project start date**. Please remember that by law the **city has up to 60 days to issue a building permit**. Building permits **WILL NOT be available the same day that the application is turned in**. Until you have the actual permit in your hand, your application has **not** been approved. The city building inspector, along with the zoning administrator, needs to review and sign off on all applications. **Please make sure that you allow plenty of time for the application to be processed**. Thank you!!

Avon TOWNSHIP residents -- contact Renee Smith at 356-7224

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Place: East of Wobegon
Date: Wed, June 11, 08
Time: 9 am – 1 pm
Cost: Free



Trailhead Park



Items Accepted Include:

Paints, cleaners, poisons, roofing tar, fuels, automotive chemicals, sealers, garden chemicals, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs (household, no 8-foot bulbs), adhesives, aerosols, solvents, mothballs, mercury, etc.

Items NOT accepted:

Business waste, medical waste, appliances, agriculture waste, household garbage, furniture, explosives, car batteries, and tires

For more information call
Stearns County Environmental Services
at (320) 656-3613 or 1-800-450-0852.



DOG LICENSES:

If you live within the city limits you must **license your dog**. Please bring in proof of your dog's up to date rabies vaccinations. Cost of the license is \$5.00 and it expires one year from date of issuance. It is the **pet owner's responsibility** to keep the license up to date.

Buecker's City Sanitation

Bueckers City Sanitation picks up your leaf & grass waste at the curb *weekly* from April thru November, on the same day as your trash pick up (weather permitting). Clippings need to be bagged - not set in drums, boxes or cans. Twigs & small braches (3 inches or less in diameter) must be tied in 3 foot long bundles.

Avon Chamber News

By Jan Schleicher-Executive Director

Bring out your red, white and blue for this years **Spunktacular Days** theme "Let Freedom Ring", June 20 and 21, 2008!

Many special events are in the works for this year including **local veterans** as our Grand Marshals in the **parade** and a **special breakfast** honoring them. **Kid's events** include a fishing contest, Just for Laffs entertainment, turtle races, petting zoo and games. The adults can join in the water ball fights, beanbag toss and volleyball tournament. There will be plenty of food and brew. Visit the farmers market and craft fair. As always there is live music both nights and Saturday night will include a very special fireworks display. Tell your friends and family to mark their calendars!

Shelly Pierson is the special projects coordinator for the **City of Avon Resource Guide**. It will serve as a great guide for new and existing residents in the area and will include up to date information on the community including information about the local businesses, churches, schools and more. Shelly, along with the Stearns-Morrison Enterprise, is very excited about this new marketing tool for the community and welcomes your involvement. If you are interested in placing an ad, need more information or have any questions, please feel free to contact Shelly at (320) 845-2700 or via email spierson@acnpapers.com.



If you haven't paid your 2008 Membership dues please contact JoAnn at 249-1550. You can find the membership dues form on the website at www.avonmncchamber.com. The mailing address is Avon Chamber of Commerce, P0 Box 293, Avon MN 56310.

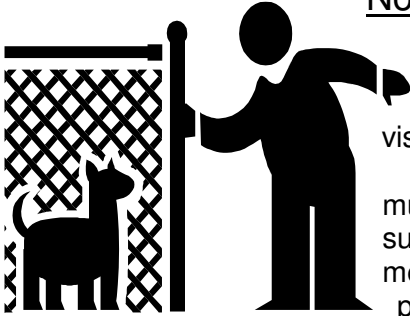
Beginning in 2009, the **City Wide Garage Sales** will be moved to the Friday of Spunk Days weekend.

Paul Buttweiler of Avon Body Shop will now distribute welcome packets for area newcomers. Please drop off advertising you would like to have put in the packets to him. These packets are delivered to all new residents of the Avon area. The Chamber would like to thank Annette Lange for her help with the welcome packets for the past five years.

Congratulations to the Albany High School 2008 graduates and best of luck in your future endeavors.

AVON CHAMBER BUSINESS PROFILE

"Now Boarding!" at Willow Hill Kennel



I am pleased to announce that Willow Hill Kennel now provides dog boarding by appointment. We have just renovated our existing kennel to better suit visiting dogs.

Willow Hill Kennel offers 18-foot indoor runs for our boarders. Each dog receives multiple outdoor exercise times daily. There are no additional fees for the supervised exercise time or group playtime or administration of necessary medications. Each dog is cared for taking into account their individual needs and preferences.

For the well being of all the dogs, current vaccinations and flea treatments are required. Vaccinations include rabies, DHLPP, and Bordatella. We prefer that boarders remain on their current diets while boarding. Above the floor beds are provided. Owners can bring their dog's belongings such as toys, treats, and bedding.

Andrea Blomberg is the primary care provider. Andrea has personally been running Willow Hill Kennel since June of 2005. She has completed coursework specifically designed for dog breeders at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. She has also recently completed the American Red Cross Dog First Aid class.

The kennel is located on our personal property at 31923 Fifth Lake Road Avon, MN 56310. So, the facility is not left unattended overnight. This also provides some flexibility in drop-off and pick-up times. Pick-up and drop-off service is available for a fee. Grooming services are also available while your dog is boarding at Willow Hill Kennel. Please call Andrea for an appointment at 320-845-2539.

At Willow Hill Kennel, it's all about your dog's well being!

"Let Freedom Ring"

Spunktacular Days

June 20 & 21, 2008

Sponsored by the Avon Area Chamber of Commerce

Medallion Hunt - begins on Wednesday, June 18 and continues until the medallion is found

One clue per day at Avon businesses. ~ Grand Prize - \$100 in Chamber

Bucks ~



Friday, June 20

Food Court - begins at 5:00 pm - many vendors - big variety

Beer Garden - begins at 5:00 pm - sponsored by the Avon Lions

Live Music - 8:30 pm - 12:30 am - by *Diamond Back*

Saturday, June 21

Breakfast - 9:00 am - Honoring Avon Veterans – St. Benedict’s Church basement
Reservations only – RSVP to JoAnn at 249-1550

Kids Fishing Contest – begins at 9:00 am - Middle Spunk Beach - sponsored by Avon Sportsmen

Volleyball Tournament and 5K Run, 1K Run, and Bike Ride - begins at 9:00 am

Farmer’s Market - 9:00 am to noon – Wobegon Park

Craft Fair - 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Kids Games - 10:00 am – 6:00 pm - by the A.H.S. Europe Trip Students

Just 4 Laffs Entertainment – 10:00 am – 6:00 pm - magic, face-painting, balloons

Turtle Races – registration at 10:30 am - races at 11:00 am - sponsored by/held at Avon Dental

Petting Zoo - 10 am – 2:00 pm

Water ball Fights – at noon - sponsored by the Avon Fire Department - Contact Adam @ 356-7838

Bean Bag Toss Tournament - at noon - register by June 18 with payment to
Avon Area Chamber, P O Box 293, Avon MN 56310

Food Court - begins at noon - featuring many vendors

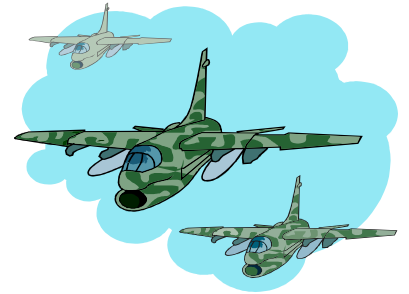
Beer Garden - begins at noon - sponsored by the Avon Lions Club

Parade - at 7:00 pm -- this year’s **Grand Marshals are Avon Veterans**

~Four Aircrafts from the North American Flight Team will fly the parade
route prior to the parade ~

Live Music - 8:30 pm - 12:30 am - by *Ramblin’ Roads* band

Fireworks – at dusk - \$500 Cash Raffle Winner Announced



*Events held at Lions Park (unless stated otherwise)
Located two blocks east of Avon State Bank*

For more info or registration forms check our website at
www.avonmncchamber.com

The City of Avon’s Utility Direct Payment Plan Q & A

Now you can pay your utility bill from your checking account automatically!!

Q: How do I sign up?

A: Simply complete and return this authorization form and attach a voided check.

Q: How soon will the automatic payment plan start?

A: The deduction should begin with the next month’s billing calculation (July 1st, 2008 billing).

Q: When will the payment be transferred from my checking or savings account?

A: It will be transferred on the third Thursday of each month.

Q: How can I be sure my bill has been paid?

A: Your monthly bank statement will reflect the automatic payment.

Q: What if I change banks or accounts?

A: You can get a new form by going on-line at www.cityofavonmn.com or stop by City Hall.

Q: What if I want to cancel the direct payment authorization?

A: You can cancel your authorization for automatic payment at any time by notifying us in writing.

Q: If I don’t sign up right now, will I be able to enroll later?

A: Yes, you can sign up at any time.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize the **CITY OF AVON** and the financial institution named below to initiate electronic entries to my checking account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you and the bank in writing to cancel it in such time as to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying you FIVE days before my account is charged.

(NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION) (BRANCH)

(CITY) (STATE) (ZIP CODE)

Financial Institution Routing Number Account Number

(NAME – PLEASE PRINT)

(ADDRESS – PLEASE PRINT)

(SIGNATURE) (DATE)

PAYMENTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR ACCOUNT ON THE
THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH DUE.

PLEASE NOTIFY US IN WRITING IF YOU WISH TO CANCEL AUTHORIZATION.

PLEASE VOIDED
CHECK HERE

FORECLOSURES

By: Jeff Johnson, Assistant Stearns County
Assessor

Much has been reported in the news media about foreclosures and the impact that they are having on residential real estate markets. The information



offered in these explanations is proof that the foreclosure problem has weakened the marketplace for residential properties.

How do foreclosures affect sale prices and property values?

Knowledge and experience together with news reports describing specific market conditions shape public opinion and have an effect on the confidence displayed among homebuyers and sellers. Both the number of properties in default and sold at auction can disrupt markets by causing an increase in supply, a sense of uncertainty and insecurity, as well as a decrease in sale prices that may result in lower property values.

Does Stearns County have a foreclosure problem?

Currently, for the first quarter of 2008, the amount of properties that have completed the foreclosure process is 116 or approximately 0.23% of the total Res/SRR parcel count. This statistic would indicate that the number of foreclosures is likely to increase for 2008 should projections be based on historical tendencies over the last four years. It would also suggest that there might be a few more properties in default compared to a year ago.

In 2007, the cities having the most foreclosures were: St. Cloud (126 = 0.86%), Sartell (42 = 0.87%), St. Joseph (36 = 2.11%), Sauk Centre (23 = 1.39%), St. Augusta (13 = 0.87%), Cold Spring (10 = 0.70%), and Paynesville (10 = 1.05%). Conversely, the greatest number of foreclosures was found in the townships of Fair Haven (9 = 1.23%) and Eden Lake (5 = 0.48%).

In summary, Stearns County is a diverse area comprised of rural, recreational, suburban, and urban properties. Its housing market has experienced some softening, but not to the same extent as other areas of the country and state. The number of foreclosures has increased during the past year, but these figures are not horrific when compared to the statistics reported on the coasts or in and around the Twin Cities where sub-prime financing was more common and speculative buying more prevalent.

The aggregate changes in the 2008 residential/seasonal recreational residential assessment indicated that the market was fairly stable in most areas of the county. Based on the 2007 ratio study, market value changes ranged from a decrease of around 4.00% in Holdingford City to an increase of about 7.00% in Sauk Centre Township with most districts showing only modest changes. There were 18 cities/12 townships with decreases reported in their overall value and 12 cities/22 townships with little or no total market value increases, resulting in an aggregate increase of 0.10% in the county. Thus, in spite of the changing market conditions, sale prices and market valuations appeared to either increase or hold up slightly better in most rural and lake areas when compared to the urban parts of the county.

If you have any questions regarding this information or suggestions for a future column, please contact me at 320-656-3680 or e-mail: jeff.johnson@co.stearns.mn.us

NOTE: The full-length version of this article is posted on the county web site at www.co.stearns.mn.us It is listed under the Assessor's Corner that can be accessed by going to the Assessor's Department homepage.

Avon Township News



Submitted by: LeRoy Gondringer
Avon Township Board Chairman

After a very long winter, spring has finally arrived. The Township election and annual meeting were held on March 11. **Renee Smith** was reelected Township Clerk and **LeRoy Gondringer** was reelected to the position of Township Supervisor. Thank you to the residents who took the time to vote and also to those who attended the Township annual meeting that evening.



Starting with the **election this fall**, Avon Township residents will be **voting at the St. Benedict's Church Parish Center** in Avon. This decision was made because of the large voter turnout expected for the election this fall, as well as parking and congestion issues at City Hall. More information about this change will come later. Please share this change of polling place with others.

Again this year the Township will be offering a three-dollar per **gopher bounty** for gophers caught in Avon Township by Avon Township residents. Contact a Township official for more information.

Last year the Township **sprayed selected road ditches** for brush as well as noxious weeds like thistles. It is the responsibility of the Township to keep the road right-of-way free of noxious weeds, brush, and trees that may create a safety hazard for motorists. The Township road right-of-way easement is generally 66 feet wide, or 33 feet from the center of the road to the edge of the right-of-way. Last year, there were a few people who were opposed to the Township using herbicides to kill brush and noxious weeds. If a landowner prefers to maintain their road right-of-way without the use of herbicides they are certainly encouraged to do so.

Every spring when the snow melts the junk people toss out of their car windows is once again revealed. It's unfortunate that certain people don't care enough to properly dispose of their garbage. Thank you to all the people who make the extra effort to **pick up this trash** every spring.

Be sure to check out Avon Township's **website** at www.avontownship.org. The website is updated on a regular basis and contains Township news and other pertinent information and links.

Township **Planning Commission** meetings are the **last Wednesday** of each month at 8:00 pm. Contact Township Deputy Clerk Steve Saupe at 356-2406 to be on the meeting agenda.

The Township **Board of Supervisor** meetings are the **first Wednesday** of each month at 7:30 pm. Contact Township Clerk Renee Smith at 356-7224 to be added to the agenda or for general information about the Township. Township Board supervisors are John Merdan at 356-7668, Richard Bresnahan at 356-7919, and



LeRoy Gondringer at 845-4580. Please contact them with concerns or questions you may have about Township business. Kelly Martini is the Township Treasurer and can be reached at 356-9134.

Once again be sure to note: **Township voting for the Presidential election this fall will take place at St. Benedict's Church Parish Center in Avon.**

Have a great summer.

