

WINTER 2007 Volume 10 ~ Number 4

A joint City and Township
Newsletter

AVON FIRE AND RESCUE



BY: Eric Linn
– fire chief

The Avon Fire Department will again be in your neighborhood distributing **community calendars**. We would like to thank all the businesses that sponsored this annual calendar. Proceeds from the calendar go towards equipment.

Congratulations to the Avon Fire Department's newest members: **Jamey Widman, Casey Jansky, Jim Stang** and **George Bauer**. They have recently completed Fire Fighter I training.

A big thank you goes out to **Bill Mohs** who has retired from the fire department. Bill served 20 years on our department holding the safety officers position for several years.

Avon Fire Department would also like to thank Kevin and Chris Ehlinger. Kevin and Chris are residents of Avon and the owners of **Th!nk Creative Advertising Inc.** They have donated their time and talent to take the department group and individual photos for several years.

Last, but not least, thank you to our members for their time and commitment during **Fire Prevention Week**. We again visited schools and daycares to get the message of fire prevention out into our community. Thank you to everyone for keeping our fire calls down and being safe with fire.

Burning Permits are not required with 3 inches or more of snow cover. This allows you to burn vegetative material only - without a permit at any time. If you have any questions, please call before you burn.

CALL BEFORE YOU BURN!

Eric Linn – 363-0005
Angeline Buettner – 356-7382
Ed Maile, Jr. – 356-9160



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By: Chief Corey Nellis

As of November 13, 2007 the police department has responded to 1430 calls for service.

On November 11 the police department took a couple of reports of hit and run accidents. The first report was on Chinook Avenue SW. In this incident it appears as though a vehicle that was traveling north bound on Chinook and approaching the driveway for the cemetery, left the right side of the roadway. The vehicle went through the yard of a residence and through a wooden fence that separates the yard from the driveway into the cemetery.

The second incident occurred on Stratford Street W. In this case an unknown vehicle traveling west bound on Stratford Street W struck a parked SUV and hit the vehicle with enough force to move it approximately ten feet down the roadway and into another parked vehicle. This incident occurred at approximately 0430 hours on November 11 and the police department is looking for early 1990's or older maroon or burgundy colored passenger car. The suspect vehicle should have damage to the front end or right front side. A witness reported that the passenger's side headlight was not working after the crash.

If anyone has any information on these crimes please contact the Avon Police Department or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 255-1301 or 800-255-1301.

Since school has begun the police department has taken a couple of complaints on vehicles driving through the crosswalk in front of the

elementary school while the crossing guard is out in the roadway. We have also received complaints of vehicles driving through school bus stop arms. Please, for the safety of all children, drive with extra care around school buses and when passing through school zones.

Soon residents will see the addition of flashing speed limit signs as you are entering the elementary school zone along County Road 9. The signs currently state that the speed limit is 20 mph when children are present. The new signs will have flashing LED lights in them, which are solar powered. The lights will activate for approximately 20 minutes in the morning and afternoon when children are coming to or leaving the school. The new signs will say 20 mph when flashing. I am hoping that these signs will make a significant difference.

I need to thank a few organizations that made donations to make this project possible. Thank you to the following: Avon Lions Club, PTA, Student Council, and The Stratford Homeowners Association S.O.S. (support our students). This project would not have been possible without your involvement.

I also would like to thank the Blattner Family Foundation for their continued support of our police reserves program. This year the foundation donated \$1000 from their annual golf tournament to fund our reserve's program. For those of you that do not know, the police reserves are totally volunteer positions with the police department that help officers with a wide variety of tasks.

With winter approaching and fall almost behind us the beach has been closed for the season. I want to thank everyone that supported our beach patrol program this summer as I think it was a huge success. Beach Patrol Officers wrote a total of 57 citations on the beach last summer. The police department experienced far fewer calls for service at the beach. It seemed to be a much more family friendly environment this summer.

As always I encourage anyone with questions, concerns, or complaints to contact the Avon Police Department at 320-356-7575.





CITY NEWS

A note from the desk of:
Jodi Austing-Traut ~ City
Clerk/Administrator

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Avon Estates Development to the west of Middle Spunk Lake has progressed as scheduled. The first lift of asphalt has gone down and curb and gutter are in place in the first section of the development. There will be sites ready for basement excavation yet this year.

Water's Edge Phase III development to the northwest is also progressing nicely. The park is expected to be constructed as part of this phase of the development.

DH Blattner & Sons Expansion if you are heading out toward I-94 you cannot help but notice the massive structure in front of you. DH Blattner & Sons are constructing a new office facility for their headquarters here in Avon. Blattners are striving for LEED certification with this facility. LEED provides independent, third-party verification that a building project meets the highest "green" building and performance measures and demonstrate that a building is environmentally responsible, profitable, and a healthy place to live and work.

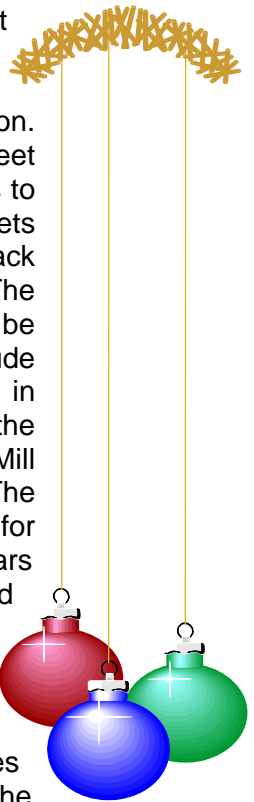
Characteristics of LEED-certified buildings:

- ~ Lower operating costs and increased asset value.
- ~ Reduce waste sent to landfills.
- ~ Conserve energy and water.
- ~ Healthier and safer for occupants.
- ~ Reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.
- ~ Demonstrate an owner's commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Kudos to Blattners for their commitment to a healthier community.

STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Chinook Avenue and 1st Street reconstruction is complete. The project went well despite some rainy weather during construction. The city has established a street reconstruction program and plans to have many of the city streets reconstructed, resurfaced or crack filled within the next 5 years. The next projects expected to be considered (2008-2009) include crack sealing on Barracuda and in Lake Horizon's Addition (behind the elementary school) as well as Mill and Overlay of Stratford Street. The city has been setting aside funds for these projects for the past few years and this summer we issued General Obligation Bonds that will be utilized on a revolving basis to fund the street reconstruction program over the next few years. No tax increases are expected as a result of the upcoming street projects.



Snow Plowing Policy

- ❖ No parking on any city street at which more than 2 inches of fresh snow has accumulated until such time as the snow removal crews have cleared the roadway.
- ❖ Clearing snow away from mailboxes is the responsibility of the homeowner.
- ❖ It is the owner's responsibility to repair or replace any mailbox that does not swing away when hit by snow or snow plow.
- ❖ Posts, fences, or anything else, put up by residents on city right-of-way damaged by snow removal equipment is also the homeowner's responsibility.
- ❖ Please keep fire hydrants clear of snow.
- ❖ Snow may NOT be dumped into the city street.

SKATING RINKS

The SKATING RINKS will open weather permitting. There will be two rinks located at the Ochotto Lake Park. The WARMING HOUSE will be open for use but will be locked if vandalism occurs. Please turn the skating rink lights off if you are the last one using it.





Avon Businesses Trick or Treat

Participating businesses in Avon experienced another great turnout this year for the annual Businesses Halloween Trick or Treat. It was estimated that over 250 children participated in the event this year. The Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all the businesses that participated and the volunteers from the Avon Fire and Police Departments.

“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” Training Workshop

The Chamber of Commerce is planning a workforce development workshop for January 30, 2008 at City Hall. Resource Training & Solutions of St. Cloud will be conducting the training. Based on Steven Covey's best selling business book of all time, 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People' workshop provides a foundation for lasting change and effectiveness at the personal, interpersonal, managerial and organizational level. Registration will be available soon through the Chamber of Commerce. Cost of attendance is \$30 for Chamber members and their employees. If you would like to join the chamber, and take advantage of this incredible opportunity contact JoAnn at 249-1550.

Downtown Business District

The Avon Downtown Business District Committee (DBDC) is a group consisting of Avon residents and business owners who have the desire to make a positive impact on their community through various projects and initiatives.

The mission of the DBDC is to build consensus and cooperation among the many groups and individuals who have a role in the revitalization of

downtown Avon, to preserve and enhance the physical appearance of downtown by rehabilitating buildings and making streetscape improvements, to find solutions to new challenges and opportunities, and to market and promote the downtown to area residents, visitors, new businesses and potential investors.

If you would like to join the team and help make a difference in your community, please contact Lee Miller at City Hall (356-7922) for more information.

Customer Appreciation Days

Our first annual Customer Appreciation Days held on September 14th and 15th was a huge success. There was a lot of exposure for the businesses in town that participated. It was decided at the Board meeting shortly after Customer Appreciation Days that this event would be on the calendar for next year.

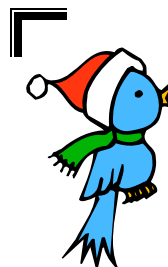
Wobegon Park Sign

There is a new business directory sign at Wobegon Park. The sign was designed and built to match the other buildings in the Wobegon Park. It displays a detailed map of Avon and a business directory of current chamber members. The directory is categorized by the type of business along with their address and phone number with the intent to advertise area businesses to visitors who use the trail.

The Avon Area Chamber of Commerce funded the project. The chamber board members extend special appreciation to Jerry Litchy who donated his time to build the sign.

**Santa Days
Crafts**
with the Avon Women of Today
Avon City Hall Sat., Dec. 1
noon to 4 p.m.





Women's Expo

March 9
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Albany Elementary

Watch for special discounts



The Seasons of Avon

We are very pleased with the response to the Seasons of Avon contest! We received many fantastic autumn entries and have chosen the following winners:

- ❖ Karen Korneck
- ❖ Wayne Dingman
- ❖ Nick Thomas

The winners will have their entries displayed in the Avon City Hall offices.

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

winter photo deadline: March 1, 2008

spring photo deadline: June 1, 2008

summer photo deadline: September 1, 2008

(Note that we have already received entries that fell into the winter, spring or summer categories and will be waiting to judge those at that time.)

include information below on back of each entry:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Date picture was taken: _____

Where picture was taken: _____

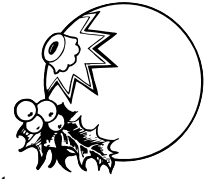
Signature

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

A message from the Zoning Administrator

By Amy Pogatchnik

Website



Please visit the NEW City of Avon website at www.cityofavonmn.com If you have any ideas for changes or additions to the website, please email Amy at amy-avoncityhall@mywdo.com

The new Zoning Ordinance is also on the website. We do not have a current zoning map on the website as we are in the process of updating our maps. Notice will be given when the new maps will be completed.

The City of Avon website also has information regarding the Avon Estates project and street projects that are currently taking place in Avon.

Building Permits

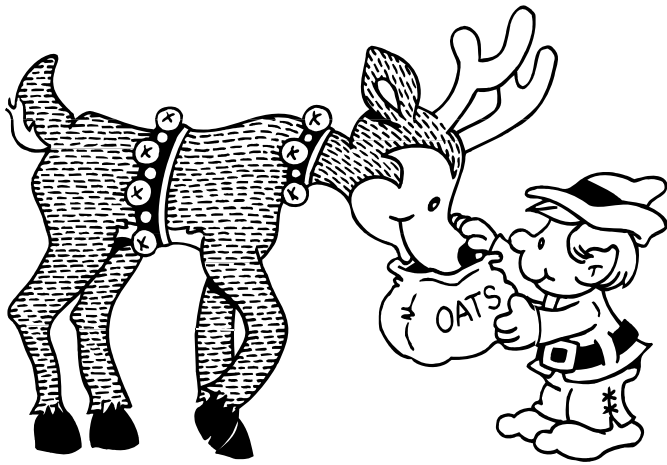
All building permit applications can be obtained from the NEW City of Avon Website.

The City of Avon now requires property owners to apply for a permit for plumbing and mechanical work. For applications, please go to the "building permits" page on the website and at the bottom of the page all the application forms are listed. If you have any questions regarding plumbing or mechanical work, please call Dan Marthaler, Building Inspector at 320-249-7533.

NOTICE: Sewer Rate Increase

Effective January 1, 2008 there will be a 5% rate increase on sewer access and usage charges. The access rate will increase from \$9.24 - \$9.70, usage rate will increase from \$3.77 - \$3.95 per 1000 gallons. The council is planning proactively to ensure that the city is keeping up with cost increases related to general sewer system operating expenses and inflation. The change will appear as of the February 1st bill.





AVON TOWNSHIP NEWS

Submitted by: LeRoy Gondringer
Township Board Chair

The website being established for Avon Township is now up and running. Township residents will be able to access minutes from past meetings, agendas for future meetings, download permit forms, review ordinances, and link to other websites. Check it out at: www.avontownship.org.

Winter season is upon us once again, which means the snowplows will be at work again. In an effort to keep the snowplows operating in a safe and efficient manner we ask Township residents to move vehicles and other items as far away from the roadway as possible. Also, when snowfall does occur, pushing snow across Township roads is not allowed.

The snow ridges that are sometimes left on the road can be a hazard for the snowplows as well as residents. Out of respect for Township residents, the snowplows will vary the route with each snowfall so the same residents are not always the last to be plowed out.

In the summer of 2007 the Township blacktopped one mile of Tower Road and the mile of 365th Street between County Road 155 and County Road 3 at a cost of \$100,000. The cost of asphalt keeps rising as the cost of oil and fuel rise.

This year the Township used a rubber-based material to fill the cracks on roads instead of the tar-based material used in the past. The process involves grinding a 3/4" x3/4" groove in the tar through the crack and filling it with a rubber-based material. As the road expands and contracts with freezing and thawing the rubber also expands and contracts. This will keep moisture from getting under the road and will keep the roads from further cracking. The downside to this method is the cost. This material costs about twice as much as the tar-based crack fill, but should last five to ten years depending on weather conditions. The tar-based crack fill had to be redone every year. Long term, we feel this will be a better value for the Township residents. This year we used this material on the roads that were black topped last year including a portion of Two Rivers Road, 186th Avenue, 377th Street, a portion of Queens Road, 154th Avenue, 331st Street, Norman Road, Noble Oak Circle, and Nordica Road.

Stearns County is in the final stages of updating their Comprehensive Plan. This plan will have a direct impact on development in the county for the next fifteen to twenty years. A draft of the plan may be viewed by logging onto the Avon Township website, clicking on the links tab, then on Stearns County MN, then the See Comprehensive Plan link.

Avon Township officials have reviewed the plan and are in general agreement with the sections concerning the Avon area. The County Commissioners will hold a public hearing in the near future to hear public testimony and comments. The meeting time and location will be posted in the local newspapers soon. This will be your final opportunity to express your views on the plan. season.

Joy to You &
Yours