

**a note  
from the  
MAYOR**



submitted by John  
Grutsch

Hi to all of you and I hope you are enjoying this pleasant summer with more moisture than normal.

I hope many of you were able to join in on the live broadcast of Prairie Home Companion's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary show from our beautiful Lake Wobegon Park. It was a fun event to enjoy. Amazing how well an event this size could be planned in such a short time. I wouldn't want to have to plan it like this every year. A big thank you goes to all staff and volunteers who gave their time off to help make it go so smoothly.

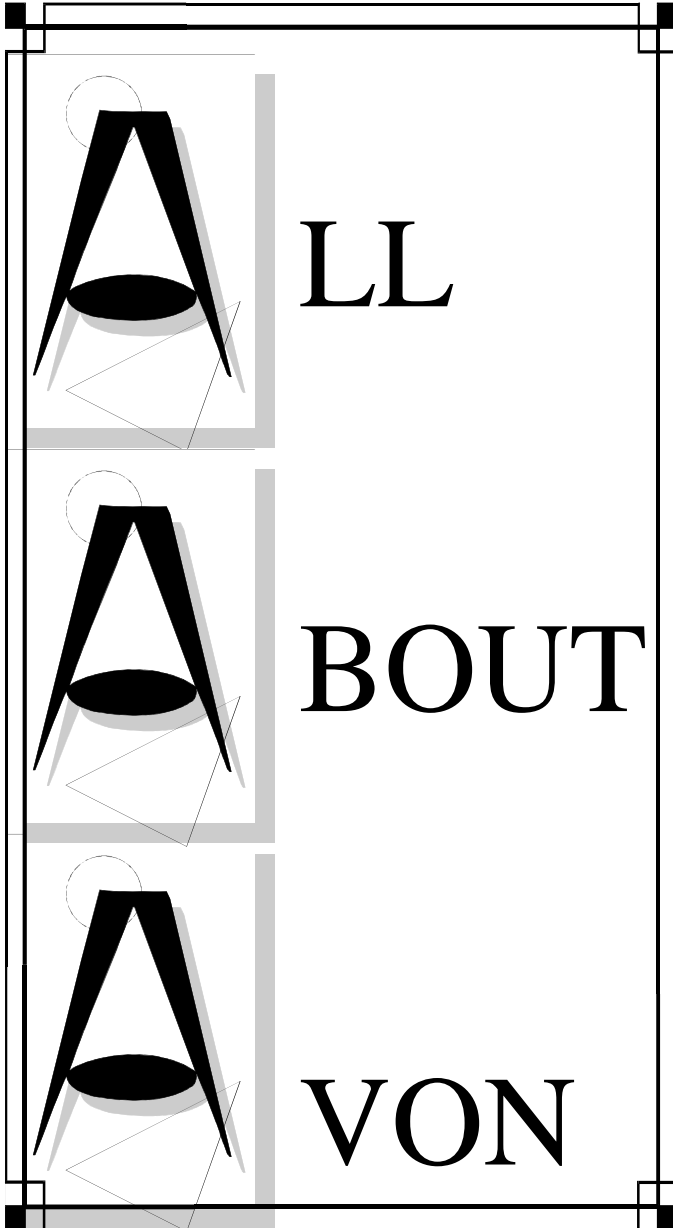
We are in the last month of the three-year contract with PeopleService. Because Joel Birr worked for the city before being hired by PeopleService we are able to keep him as our day-to-day operations man. We hired Jon Forsel as our Class A operator who will bring us the needed hours per week to fill the needs of the MPCA. Congratulations to both of them on being the new boys on the block. They will both complement an already highly dedicated staff.

Because of the amount of money we spent the last three years, our water and sewer fund is short approximately \$145,000.00. This will need to be brought back to a plus. We will need to raise water and sewer rates, and I really hate to say that. I have fought very hard to not do that.

We are expecting about \$100,000.00 dollar cut from LGA for the year 2010. Staff is in the early stage of trying to cut that amount out of their department's yearly budget. With saying that, I urge all of you to be patient in this tough economic time. Both staff and council know the needs of the city, but we just do not have the funds to do those projects at this time.

I hope many of you were able to join us for our revisioning night and free meal. It is a great process to be part of.

Thank-you, Johny G



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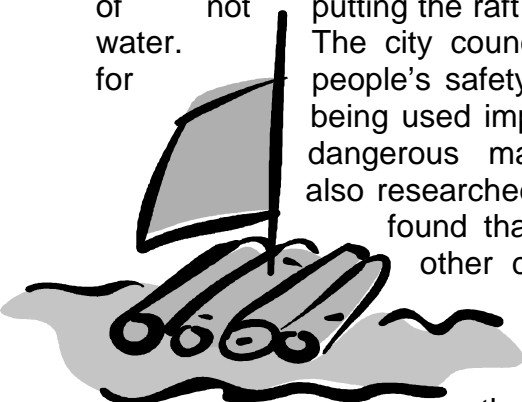
# AVON POLICE DEPT

BY:  
Chief Corey Nellis

As of August 13, 2009 the police department has responded to 892 calls for service this year.

The beach has been busy again this summer, however the weather has somewhat reduced the numbers at the beach. The police department responded to very few calls at the beach this summer. The beach patrols' presence continues to show positive results. Only a couple of citations were issued at the beach over the entire summer. The police department has every intention of continuing to make the beach a family friendly environment for all to enjoy.

There was one big problem at the beach this summer and that was the damage done to the swim raft. The floats were dislodged from the bottom of the raft. At the August city council meeting the council voted three to two in favor of not putting the raft back out into the water. The city council cited concern for people's safety as the raft was being used improperly and in a dangerous manner. The city also researched this matter and found that the majority of other communities who had swim rafts have also gotten rid of them, due to liability issues and drownings. Having a swim raft sometimes encourages people who cannot swim to attempt to use the raft anyways. Since the raft was brought into shore there have been several positive comments on the friendly environment at the beach.

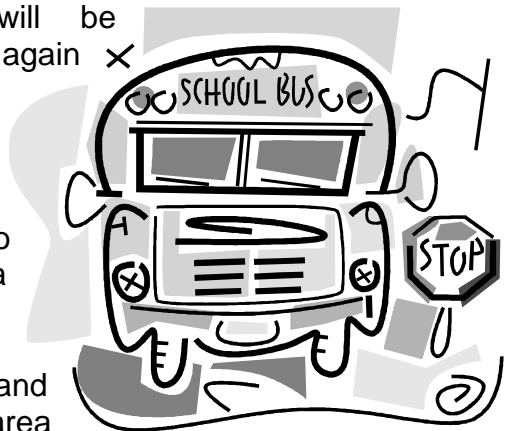


Anyone that would like to view a video of how the raft was being misused can go to

[www.cityofavonmn.com](http://www.cityofavonmn.com) and click on the link for "middle spunk raft".

The police department has recently received numerous complaints of vehicles not yielding to pedestrians that are trying to cross city streets in crosswalks. State law requires that vehicles stop for pedestrians who are waiting to use the crosswalk. The vehicle must remain stopped until the pedestrian crosses the road completely. The police department is going to pay close attention to these violations and take the appropriate action. You may have already noticed that cross walk signs have been put out randomly throughout the city on County Road 9 hoping to draw driver's attention to this matter.

School will be starting again soon and as always I want to ask drivers of vehicles to pay extra attention when driving in and around the area

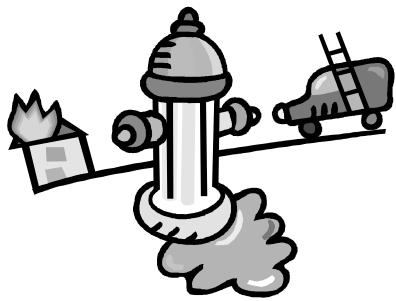


schools. Drivers please reduce your speed to 20 mph or under when the lights are flashing in the school zone. Thank you in advance for your attention in this matter.

As winter approaches I want to remind all residents that no parking is allowed on city streets when two inches or more of fresh snowfall has accumulated. The on-street parking is restricted until the city maintenance department has cleared the roadway. Snow from driveways cannot be blown or shoveled into the street after the street has been cleared.

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





# AVON FIRE AND RESCUE

BY: Eric Linn – Fire Chief

The Avon Fire Department would like to thank all the supporters of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing benefiting Avon and Albany Fire Departments. According to preliminary numbers, this year's golf outing raised \$17,000 for each department. (Approximately \$1,000 will be donated to both the Avon and Albany Police Departments.) This money will be put towards a new water tanker that we will take delivery of this fall. A special thank-you goes out to the Blattner Family Foundation for their generosity and sponsoring this event.

October 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

## Fire Prevention Week

[www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)

Fall is upon us and school will soon begin again. Avon fire will be visiting the local schools and promoting fire safety. Please follow up with your children to talk about fire safety and prevention in your home.

We will continue to find detectors not working or with dead batteries in them on random checks or on calls. If you don't have a detector or haven't changed the batteries in the last year please install or change batteries today.



On behalf of all of us at Avon Fire, City of Avon, Avon and Collegeville Township, I would like to welcome four new members and their wives, to the fire department. The newest members are: Brad Lemm and his wife Lori,

Chuck Swenson, Kyle Smith and his wife Jenna, Josh Ricard and his wife, Cheryl.

The new members will begin Fire Fighter I and First Responder training in late August. Josh Ricard has completed his training and currently serves as a fulltime firefighter on the St. Cloud Fire Department.

We welcome them and their families to our fire department family and wish them good luck with their training.

## Avon TOWNSHIP Burning Permits:

This fall Avon Township residents, and other parts of Stearns County, should be able to obtain a burning permit online. Watch your local paper, or click on the DNR website for this to take effect.

[http://webapps1.dnr.state.mn.us/burning\\_permits/](http://webapps1.dnr.state.mn.us/burning_permits/)

Stearns County Fire Chiefs are working to have this available sometime this fall. Until that happens you will still need to contact a fire warden for a permit.

## Avon CITY Burning Permits:

**City residents will NOT be able to get their permits from the website.** For residents in the City you will need to contact Eric Linn, Avon Fire Chief at 250-6195.

We strongly encourage using the compost site, located next to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, when at all possible.

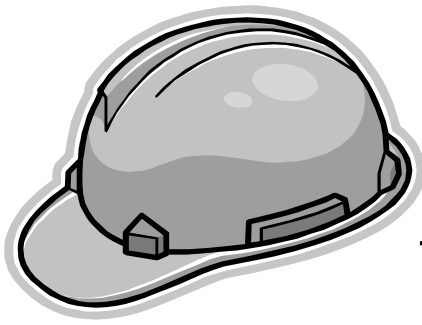
## **CALL BEFORE YOU BURN!**

Eric Linn – 363-0005 **(CITY)**

Angeline Buettner – 356-7382

Ed Maile, Jr. – 356-9160

Permits are required for any fire larger than 3' X 3'. Three feet high and three feet across, or smaller, is considered a recreational fire.



# PUBLIC WORKS

By: Nate Brenner –Public Works Assistant

## -Sewer/Water

Sewer line cleaning and fire hydrant flushing will take place in late September and early October. Watch the marquee for the exact dates of this to take place. When you see the crews out performing this work please give them the room to do their job. Drive with care and please SLOW DOWN!

## -Streets

Street repairs were kept to a very minimum due to budget cuts and LGA funding cuts. Minor repairs are still taking place and other major street repairs are still in the plans for the future. We will keep the public aware of when these major street projects come about.

Winter is right around the corner. For snow removal purposes the city ordinance states no parking on city streets if there are two inches or more of new snow, with an exception of main street, during business hours. Please give the snow removal crew ample space and time needed to safely clear the streets!!!! SLOW DOWN AND STAY BACK!!!!

## -Compost Site

The compost site will be open until November 25, weather permitting. If it closes early due to weather it will be posted on the marquee. Please refrain from using the compost site during or shortly after a rain to avoid creating ruts and getting stuck. Watch for the spring newsletter for the opening date in 2010.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!!!!

The compost site is for **grass, leaves, brush** and **tree branches**. Nothing else is accepted. If other foreign items keep finding their way into the site we will close the gates immediately without notice. It will take everyone's help to keep this open. Thanks!

## -Parks



We had a very successful year with the parks once again. There is a new playground structure out at Waters Edge that turned out great. There is also a swing set, merry-go-round, balance beam and two bucking toys out there as well. Along with this there will be trees planted around the border this fall. Next year we will work on leveling the grass area.

Ochotto Park also has a new spruced up look this year. This summer a splash pad was installed for little kids to play at. A sprinkler system was also installed as well as decorative blocks and trees. All this was done due to donations. A special thanks to all those who made these projects happen by donating time and money.

The beach will be closing the week following Labor Day. Due to the maintenance, repairs and upkeep of the swimming raft at the beach the city council voted to eliminate the raft from the beach. The vote was 3-2 of no more rafts at the beach. This decision came about because of the misuse and rowdiness that was occurring on the raft, which caused it to need major repairs.

The parks board is working on plans for improvements to make in 2010. One of the big topics of discussion is the beach getting a new facelift next year starting with a new retaining wall and better sandy areas. The Parks Board is planning to raise funds for beach improvements. Donations to support physical improvements to the beach would be appreciated and are tax-deductible.

The city would like to send out a big thank you to all those who have volunteered time and talents to keep the parks and flowers on Main Street looking nice along with those who have donated money to park improvements as well as many hours in time improving them. Thank You!

<p align="center"><b>City of Avon Clean- Up Day</b>  <u>Saturday, October 17</u>  <u>9 am – 12 noon</u>  <u>in parking lot east of the Wobegon Park</u></p> <p>City residents are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to dispose of unwanted items. Proof of residency is required. NO household hazardous waste will be accepted. For a list of prices, check the bulletin board at City Hall or call Bueckers City Sanitation at 1-877-352-2876.</p>
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**\$\$\$REWARD\$\$\$**

The Avon Area Chamber of Commerce is offering a \$50 reward for a missing card table and eight chairs. The table and chairs were under the bingo tent at the Lions Park during Spunktacular Days. They disappeared Saturday night. The backs of the chairs are stamped "General Rental Center" and the bottom of the card table has "GRC ALB" painted on it in big blue letters. Please call the Chamber at 356-4115 for information or to turn in the table and chairs.

The Chamber would like to welcome Albany Mutual Telephone as a new member.

Founded in 1951, Albany Mutual Telephone has been providing communication solutions for approximately 3000 cooperative members

in the Albany, Freeport, New Munich, and surrounding rural areas. To learn more about them, visit their website at: [www.albanytel.com](http://www.albanytel.com) or call 845-2101.



The Chamber would like to welcome Naturally You Photography as a new member. Naturally You Photography specializes in portrait photography for the family, children, engagement, wedding, maternity, baby and more. For your portrait needs call 845-7031 or visit [www.naturallyyouphotography.com](http://www.naturallyyouphotography.com).



With Halloween falling on a Saturday this year there will be no "official" trick or treat at the businesses. Feel free to check with individual businesses to see if they will be giving out any treats that day.



The new Avon Resource Guide has been printed. Pick up your copy at local businesses. Refer to our website at [www.avonmnchamber.com](http://www.avonmnchamber.com) for a list of chamber businesses that will have copies available for you.

We would like to thank you for joining us! Spunktacular Days was a huge success this year. The educational "Go Green" tips were a great hit. September 24<sup>th</sup> is the first planning meeting for the 2010 Spunk Days at 7:00 pm at City Hall. JOIN US!!! We would like to welcome more participation from individuals and community organizations. Next year's Spunktacular Days will mark our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! If you are interested in involving your organization in the planning of Spunk Days or in being on the committee for next year, call us at 356-4115.

If you are new to the community and you have not received a welcome bag from our welcome committee, please contact Shelly at the Avon Body Shop at 356-7268 ext. 0 or you can email her at [shelly@avonbodyshop.com](mailto:shelly@avonbodyshop.com). If you are a business and would like to donate an item that advertises your business (i.e., cups, pens, etc.) please feel free to contact either the chamber at 356-4115 or Shelly at the information mentioned above.

Stop by the Wobegon Park and check out the new map! It's updated with all the current chamber businesses.

## Avon Moms Group

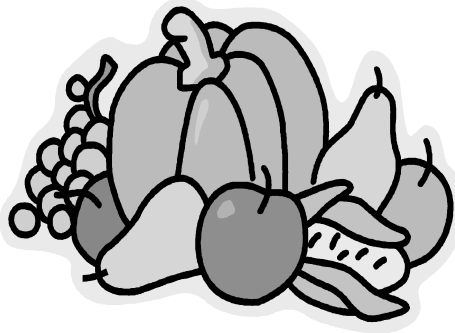


Come check out the new group in town! Avon Community Church is sponsoring Avon Moms Group. This group is open to all moms and their children. (No daycare groups please.) Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month September through May, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.

Each month we have special activities and door prizes for the moms and childcare will be provided in the church nursery for those who chose to utilize that option. Some of our upcoming months include card making, financial speaker, crafts, and BINGO! Snacks are provided for everyone. And this group is FREE to attend!

If you have any questions please feel free to call the Avon Community Church at 356-9001 or Mandy at 836-2305. We hope to see you there!!!





## Healthy Community Partnership Session II

Our community benefited from the wisdom and direction that came from the first Healthy Community Partnership (HCP) session held August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004. It led to a **Land Use Task Force** (creating the Joint Powers Board), a **Downtown Main Street Task Force** (main street beautification and upgrade of County Road 9), a **Community Use and Seniors Task Force** (creating the Over the Hills of Avon Club), and an **Economic Development Task Force** (creating Avon Community Improvement Committee (ACIC) and the Farmer's Market).

Other outcomes of community organization since 2004 have been the **Avon Area Arts**, **Avon Lakes Association** and the very active **Avon Parks Board**.

On August 13, 2009, a flurry of activity began again to set up for our second HCP session to begin at 6 pm that night at the Avon Elementary. In attendance were 153 people who signed in and sat at 20 tables. After a welcome from City of Avon Mayor John Grutsch and Township Board Chair Leroy Gondringer, and a historical perspective from Hugh Knox, our facilitator, Nadine Schnettler led the show.

Everyone together created a list of Avon Community **Assets**, **Challenges** and **Desired Outcome**. These were written on large sheets of paper and taped to the walls of the room – visible to all. At the end, everyone voted with sticky dots for their choice of Desired Outcomes. This information has been tabulated by category and ranked by the

number of votes. Of the 80 Desired Outcomes, those with the most votes are: **new grocery store with pharmacy** (57), **community center with library** (56), **economic development plan for small businesses** (25), **retirement or assisted living facility** (15), **band shell on Zimmer property** (15), and **new township hall** (13).

A total of 43 people volunteered to help with their favorite project. The whole list will be available at <http://www.cityofavonmn.com/>

Altogether, it was a very productive session. The volunteers who organized this meeting give many thanks to all who braved the very warm weather to participate. Events like this bring the community together, give us an opportunity to share and discuss ideas, and help direct community development.

The votes of those who attended will inform the activities of our voluntary committees and our City Council. If you feel passionate about one of the projects – get involved.

### THREE EDA POSITIONS OPEN

The City of Avon announces three open seats on the Avon Economic Development Authority. EDA members review and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on all matters pertaining to economic development within the City of Avon. This is a volunteer position (paid a small stipend). Eligible candidates must reside within city limits. If interested, please submit an application to Jodi Austing-Traut at City Hall.



### Nestled between Lakes and Wooded Hills

The Centennial History of the Avon Area

Books are available for sale at the City Hall  
and Avon State Bank for \$29.95.



# Avon Area Arts

*Where fine art meets the front porch.*

## AUNT ANNIE'S QUILTS AND SILKS (and blues and roots too!)

Aug 30: The Pines

Sept 11: Kim Simmonds

Oct 11: Brooks Williams from Massachusetts

Oct 18: Morgan Davis from Nova Scotia

Oct 31 – Nov 1: Fall Back Local Music Revue

Info: contact Lucy at Aunt Annie's 320.356.1061 or [auntanniesquilts@aol.com](mailto:auntanniesquilts@aol.com)

THE LOFT EXHIBIT (Avon Area Arts Artists) Sept 18 – Oct. 21. The LOFT Exhibit is part of the Downtown Art Crawl: Friday, Sept. 18th, 5 to 9.

Raised in the Hills Teen Art Show: Oct 10 - 11

Back Roads Pottery Tour: Oct 24 - 25

Contact JD Jorgenson at [jdpottery@gmail.com](mailto:jdpottery@gmail.com), 320-309-1529 if you are interested in participating.

## AVON FARMERS' MARKET

9 am – noon, 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, Wobegon Park

## MILLSTREAM ARTS FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 11 am – 5 pm, Main Street, St Joseph. The Millstream Arts Festival is an outdoor, juried art show with a wide variety of visual arts, music, dance, enticing foods, and hands-on art activities for children.

[www.millstreamartsfestival.org](http://www.millstreamartsfestival.org)

The Creative Circle is meeting the first and third Fridays at 10 am in Avon. Anyone is welcome. We are mostly writers, but we welcome anyone to discuss the pleasures and the pitfalls of a creative life. For more information contact Linda Larson at [notes4linda@hotmail.com](mailto:notes4linda@hotmail.com)

AVON AREA ARTS will hold occasional evenings for members and art supporters to socialize and network. (Base membership is only \$25!)

Look for future events and membership information at: [www.avonartsconnection.org](http://www.avonartsconnection.org)

CenterPoint Energy  
names Community  
Partnership Grant  
recipient -  
Avon



MINNEAPOLIS - June 1, 2009 –

CenterPoint Energy recently awarded the city of Avon a Community Partnership Grant totaling \$2000 for tanker truck equipment for use in serving the community.

“Congratulations to the cities awarded this year’s Community Partnership Grants. We are pleased that these grants will help the cities we serve obtain the tools necessary to enhance response in the event of an emergency,” said David Baker, division vice president of regional operations for CenterPoint Energy. “We believe that our Community Partnership Grant Program builds strong communities; supporting a shared commitment to public health and safety.”

The 2009 CenterPoint Energy Community Partnership Grant program leverages local funds through grant allowance up to \$2500 to communities served by the company. Priority is given to franchised communities that have not previously received a grant. The cities that receive the grants must use the grant dollars for emergency response equipment or special projects in the community. Due to an overwhelming response to the program, CenterPoint Energy issued grants to 68 communities totaling \$124,700, this year.

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission and distribution, natural gas distribution, competitive natural gas sales and services, interstate pipelines and field services operations. The company serves more than five million metered customers primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. Assets total over \$17 billion. With about 8,800 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 130 years. In Minnesota, CenterPoint Energy is the state’s largest natural gas distribution utility, serving nearly 790,000 customers in 260 communities. The utility also operates a non-regulated business in Minnesota called Home Service Plus®.

For more information, visit the Web site at [www.CenterPointEnergy.com](http://www.CenterPointEnergy.com).

# Avon Township News

Submitted by:  
LeRoy Gondringer  
Avon Township Board  
Chair



This past spring, the Township Board appointed a Facilities Task Force Committee to review the space needs of the Township. The committee, comprised of residents from every corner of the Township, met about every other week for two months to discuss these needs. This committee gathered information by touring facilities like Colledgeville Township's maintenance facility and township hall. After all needed information had been collected and discussions about the Township's needs took place, the Facilities Task Force Committee presented three proposed options to the Township Board for their consideration:

- 1) Construct one building which would house a maintenance facility, meeting area, and office space;
- 2) Construct two buildings with one being a maintenance facility and the other being a meeting room, a storage area for Township records, and office space;
- 3) Similar to the second option, but with the two buildings being connected by a walkway. The committee listed sound reasons for each option and also looked at areas in the Township where they felt the facility should be constructed.

After accepting the recommendations of the committee, the Township board is now looking into the costs of each option and researching location sites.

The Township board is planning a meeting for this fall to get Township residents' input and approval to move ahead with this project.

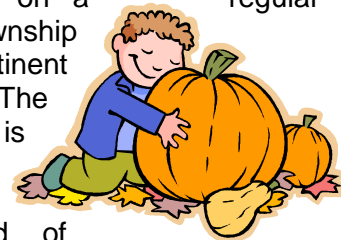


Another issue concerning Avon Township right now is CapX2020. For those who are unaware, CapX2020 is a 345-kilovolt transmission line that will run from Fargo to the St. Cloud area.

This line is designed to expand the electricity infrastructure in our area therefore ensuring continued and reliable service. It will meet the growth in electricity demand and will also support renewable energy expansion. Of the three proposed routes through our area, one of them runs through Avon Township just south of Pelican Lake. The Township board has been following this process from the beginning and will continue to monitor its progress. For more information, log onto [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com), call 1-866-876-2869, or send an email to [fargoinfo@capx2020.com](mailto:fargoinfo@capx2020.com).

Contact one of the Township Board officers if you see a road issue that may need our attention.

Be sure to check out Avon Township's website. The website is updated on a regular basis and contains Township news and other pertinent information and links. The website address is [www.avontownship.org](http://www.avontownship.org).

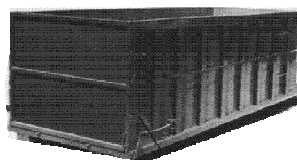


The Township Board of Supervisor meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Contact Township Clerk Renee Smith at 356-7224 to be added to the agenda or for general information about the Township. Planning Commission meetings are the last Wednesday of the month at 8:00. Both meetings are held at Avon City Hall.

Township Board Supervisors are John Merdan 356-7668, Richard Bresnahan 356-7919, and LeRoy Gondringer 845-4580. Please contact them with concerns or questions you may have about Township business.



Bueckers City Sanitation can help you with your construction, demolition or clean out projects? Whether you are cleaning a garage, remodeling, building a new structure or even tearing one down, they have the size of box you need for your debris.



Give Bueckers City Sanitation a call today!  
**877-352-2876**