

Summer 2009

Volume 12 - Number 2

A joint City and Township Newsletter

A note from the MAYOR



Submitted by City of Avon Mayor
- John Grutsch

Hello, spring is finally here!

The citywide garage sales on May 8th and 9th were a great success. Many people were in town for the 2-day event. Hope everyone sold what they needed to.

Spunktacular Days is around the corner the weekend of June 19 - 20. It is a great time to support our community and visit with family and friends. Please use caution as the roads become congested with traffic. Summertime activity in Avon increases traffic so please drive with patience and caution.

I would like to thank everyone for making your yards, homes, and businesses look so appealing. I felt last summer Avon looked the best it ever had. It showed that many of you truly had pride in the appearance to your property and took great care of it.

We will be changing the answering machine at city hall with emergency contact numbers. Please keep a copy of the city newsletter with the important numbers in case of emergency.

The parks department is busy making improvements in our parks and playgrounds. Please allow them to complete their projects before you use them so we can keep things safe. I thank them for their hard work and dedication. Avon is a great community. I hope you all have a safe and fun summer. Thank you.

CITY BUILDING PERMITS

The turnaround time to obtain a building permit is a minimum of 10 days. Please make sure you submit your building permit application in enough time for it to be processed by Avon City Hall. Please remember the Zoning Administrator and the Building Inspector both need to review the application and sign off on all projects. The Building Inspector stops in the office two days a week. Please plan accordingly as to when you will be starting your project. Thank you.

Amy Pogatchnik
Zoning Administrator
320-356-7922



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**** Avon TOWNSHIP** residents
please contact Renee Smith at
356-7224 for building permits.



Avon Police Dept

by: Chief Corey Nellis

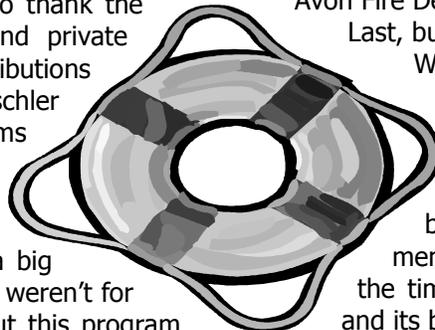
As of May 15, 2009 the police department has responded to 500 calls for service this year.

As spring and summer approach, the police department has received numerous complaints regarding animals on private property, in city parks, and at the elementary school playground. All dog owners are responsible for their animals and the mess they may leave behind. City Ordinance #91 requires that dogs need to 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 that are never 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 please start. The police department has the discretion to issue citations for violations.

All dogs in the City of Avon are required to be licensed. A license can be purchased at city hall for \$5.00 annually. The police department has a volunteer intern on staff this summer and one of his projects will be to identify dogs within the city and determine if they are licensed or not. If we find out that your dog is not licensed a letter will be sent out to you regarding this matter. Licensing provides the police department the ability to return your dog if it gets loose and also requires all dogs to stay current on vaccinations. 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 during busy periods monitoring behavior. 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.

The police department would like to thank the following businesses, organizations, and private individuals who have made contributions towards the beach patrol program: Tischler Wood Products, Lumber One, Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Homes, Aunt Annie's Quilts & Silks, Avon Lions Club, Michael & Chris Lafleur, and Don & Marge Heurung. I want to extend a big **THANK YOU** to those that donated. If it weren't for your donations, the city would have cut this program



due to the current economy and the budget cuts the city is facing.

I also want to extend a **THANK YOU** to Midsota Manufacturing for their donation of the use of a 16 foot enclosed trailer. The police department used the trailer to pick up a large shipment in Minneapolis. Thank you very much. We appreciate your support.

Reminder: Anyone choosing to drive **golf carts within the city limits and on city streets** needs to purchase a golf cart permit from the city for a cost of \$20.00 per year. Permits can be purchased at the police department. Golf carts cannot be driven on county roads, but county roads may be crossed. City Ordinance #73.08 addresses the use of golf carts within the City of Avon.

I want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer of 2009.

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

AVON FIRE & RESCUE



by: Eric Linn – Fire Chief

Firemen's raffle tickets are still available. If you would like to purchase a ticket for our cash raffle please call any fireman. This year all money raised will go towards equipment needed for our new pumper tanker. We hope to have this truck in service some time this fall. Thank you for supporting our effort!

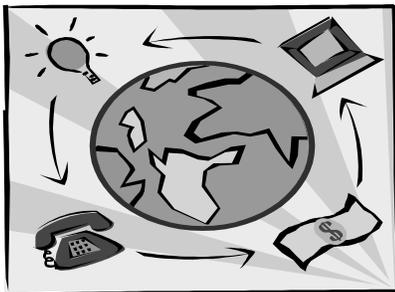
Avon Fire held our annual appreciation dinner for our wives and retired members. Thank you all for coming. We had a very nice evening and look forward to next year.

We also want to thank the Avon Lions for inviting us to share the event with their appreciation dinner. It was nice to see two committed groups come together. Thank you for all your continued support. Thanks to Fisher's Club for a great dinner and having us. Fisher's was gracious enough to donate meals to all of our active members. Thank you very much from all of us at the Avon Fire Department.

Last, but not least, thank you to all of our members.

We have recently been working double time studying for the state certifications test for Firefighter 1. This test consists of 150 point written test and several trucks on practical tests. We all have the training but had never taken the state test. Our members will test on May 2nd so hopefully by the time you are reading this we have all passed and its behind us.

Thank you guys all for spending a lot of nights, weekends studying. Thanks to the wives also for being patient and helping us get through this process. Thanks again for your commitment and continued efforts to keep training.



Visioning Session to be Held – August 13th

A **community wide visioning session** is being planned for the evening of August 13th at Avon Elementary School. This event is being funded in part by a grant from the Initiative Foundation. A complimentary dinner will be served prior to the presentation, followed by an opportunity for citizens to come together in small work groups to discuss issues, priorities, and ultimately to develop action plans for implementation.

Engaging citizen involvement is essential, more than ever, during times when local fiscal conditions continue to spiral downward. Local governments are attempting to find the right balance between cuts in services and increases in taxes. This is a process that is best accomplished with the input of those who are directly affected – the residents! The current economic situation has certainly placed a burden on local governments - however, this economy can also be viewed as an opportunity to thoroughly analyze budgetary priorities and re-evaluate service provision. In order to seize this opportunity and use it to our advantage, it is vital that citizens be engaged in the process.

A sense of community and shared responsibility can be achieved through the visioning process and through citizens not only providing input, but also by helping to implement and support changes.

This type of dialogue provides the city with an understanding of community needs and priorities that the staff and council can rely upon to help in the budgeting process.

The best way to solve a public problem is through **the effort, energy, and ideas of citizens and community organizations**. This is a critical meeting, to have your voice heard and have your priorities made known to your local officials as they plan not only how to persevere during difficult financial times, but how to direct the future of our community – into the next decade.

SAVE THE DATE: The evening of August 13, 2009.

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 Avon City Hall by June 5th, 2009. Applications available at city hall or www.cityofavonmn.com.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



Submitted by:
Nate Brenner – Public Works Assistant

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 mark the location for each item. 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.

Cement, plastic, boards and other non-biodegradable items are NOT allowed. If this problem keeps reoccurring the compost site will need to be closed.

PARKS

This summer you will notice some new playground equipment in two parks. Waters Edge is getting a playground structure and swing set. The developer provided this equipment. Ochotto Park is getting a **splash pad water park**. It will have water spraying nozzles that come out of the ground as well as an overhead nozzle to spray. This was made possible by generous donations. Thank you to everyone who donated time and funds for this project.



The **Avon Area Chamber of Commerce** would like to welcome its newest



member, The Crafty Girls of Avon. Angie Cooper, Shelly Pierson and Cindy McGaughey met while at a craft fair and have been working as a team ever since. They provide quality handmade items. Shelly (a chamber board member) works for the Avon Body Shop and the Stearns-Morrison Enterprise as well as developed and maintains the Crafty Girls website and the Avon Chamber website and other local business websites. Angie is a tailoring consultant for a local business and has her aprons on consignment at local area shops. Cindy is the secretary for the chamber and teaches onsite American Heart Association CPR and First Aid to companies that need to meet their OSHA requirements. To learn more about them, be sure and visit their website at www.craftygirlsofavond.com.

Do you sell Tupperware, Lia Sophia, Mary Kay, Tastefully Simple or have another home-based business similar to these? You can join the Chamber today for only \$25! It's a great way to promote your business locally and spread the word about your products.

The Avon citywide garage sale was a HUGE success. We had 56 registered garage sales this year. Thank you to Margo Black Financial and The Computer Guy of Avon for volunteering their time to make this event such a success.

Join us for Spunktacular Days Saturday, June 20th. There will be Bingo, Turtle Races at Avon Dental, Minnow Races at Regional Health Center, kids games at the Community Church, a craft fair and much more!

Visit us at www.avonmncchamber.com for more information.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ASSESSMENT

By Jeff Johnson - Assistant Stearns County Assessor

Property owners who are requesting for the first time the classification and assessment of their property as class 1b blind/disabled homestead must now file an application with the county rather than the state.

What is the special homestead classification? It provides a reduced class rate for property owned and occupied by any person qualifying as blind or as permanently and totally disabled.

Who qualifies? Any person (or their spouse) who is blind or permanently and totally disabled may qualify and receive the full benefit. A blind or disabled relative of the property owner might qualify for the special homestead if they occupy the home. A home that is owned by a blind/disabled person that is homesteaded by a non-blind/disabled person does not qualify for this classification. A disabled veteran may be eligible if the property is not receiving the market value exclusion from the Disabled Veterans Homestead.

The law states that the blindness or disability had to take place on or before June 30th of the year the applicant is filing for the special homestead classification. "Blind" means a person whose visual perception does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses, or, if it is greater than 20/200, the condition comes with a limitation such that the widest diameter of the person's view subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees. "Disabled" is a condition that is permanent and totally incapacitates a person from working at a job that produces income. The person must be receiving payments from a qualifying agency (i.e. Social Security Admin, Veterans Admin, Welfare Supplemental Security, pension plan, workers comp, or an insurance program) because of the disability.

How do you apply? Complete the application for Special Homestead Classification: Class 1b Property. This form may be requested by writing, e-mailing, calling, or visiting the county assessor's office or at: www.co.stearns.mn.us/1497.htm. The completed application and required attachments are to be forwarded to Stearns County Assessor's Office; Administration Center, Room 37; 705 Courthouse Square; St. Cloud, MN 56303; Telephone: 320-656-3680 or e-mail: jeff.johnson@co.stearns.mn.us

Bueckers CITY SANITATION SERVICES & DEMOLITION



It's that time of year when we are all trying to clean up our lawns by removing leaves, thatch and mower clippings. If you are a resident in the City of Avon, part of your refuse and removal service is the removal of this lawn "debris" from April 1st to November 31st, weather permitting! Bueckers City Sanitation will haul away your leaves, thatch and mower clippings if it is prepared properly. This waste must be bagged and weigh less than 50# per bag. The bags should be placed next to your recycling and not by the trash. This debris is picked up the same day as your recycling and refuse pickup! Please note, small "twigs", must be no larger than 1 inch in diameter and must be less than 3 feet in length to be picked up.

If you have any project where the debris does NOT fit into the above category, such as tree removal, trimming or shrub trimming, removal, you need to haul the debris to the city compost site located at 300 Angelfish. The compost facility is open daily to city and township residents.

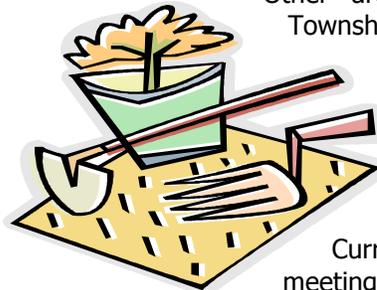


Submitted by: LeRoy Gondringer
Avon Township Board Chairman

At the Township Annual meeting held March 10, the Township residents in attendance instructed the Township Board of Supervisors to appoint a **Township Facilities Task Force**. The role of this committee will be to examine the facilities space needs of the Township and recommend to the Township Board a plan of action. The residents felt we needed to move forward with a Facilities Committee for various reasons.

The primary reason for the space needs assessment is due to the fact that the snowplowing contractor the Township hires has indicated he would like to discontinue snow plowing for the Township. This prompted the Township to explore hiring a different contractor. The contractors we have consulted were either plowing snow for another Township and were not

interested in expanding, or were just not interested. The other option explored was for the Township to buy equipment and plow the snow ourselves. After visiting with other Townships that own their own equipment, we became convinced we could actually save money for the taxpayers of our Township if we built a maintenance building, bought snow plow trucks, and hired someone to operate them.



Other areas of concern for the Township include having a permanent place to vote and hold public meetings as well as the need for a central, secure location to store official Township records.

Currently the Township meetings are held at Avon City Hall and elections are conducted at St. Benedict's Parish Center. Official Township records are stored in a number of locations, including City Hall and various Township Officer's homes. We are confident the committee will access the present and future space needs of the Township and develop a common sense plan that will benefit all residents of Avon Township.

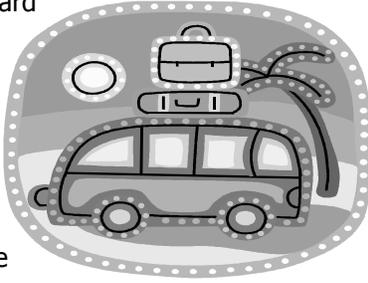
After the Task Force completes the building needs assessment of the Township they will make a recommendation to the Township Board. The Board will then schedule a meeting at which the Township residents will be invited to review the recommendations of the Facilities Task Force and solicit additional comments or ideas on how to address the building concerns outlined. The final decision to construct a Township Facility will be made by the residents of Avon Township.

In April the Township Board conducted the yearly road inspection tour and have identified areas that need attention. Overall the Township roads are in good condition with just a few exceptions. We will need to do some major repairs on a portion of 182nd Avenue and minor repairs on a few other roads. We are looking at rebuilding the portion of 165th Avenue north of Queens Road. We are also cutting brush along roads and other general maintenance work. Please drive with care when you come upon township maintenance workers. 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.

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.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MEETING OF JOINT PLANNING BOARD AVON CITY AND TOWNSHIP

The Joint Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on MONDAY, JUNE 8th at 7:00 pm at AVON CITY HALL to discuss the following:

A public hearing will be held to discuss the following:

1) Change wording of Orderly Annexation Agreement (OAA) Section 5B to further define neighborhoods within the OAA. 2) Change wording of Section 10A to establish Joint Planning Board meeting dates. 3) Consider adding Mildred's Addition, Ehrlichman Addition, and Alcott Acres in the Growth Area. 4) Individual properties will be grouped and defined as neighborhoods for purposes of the Orderly Annexation Agreement.

Jodi Austing-Traut – City of Avon/Avon Joint Planning Board