

A publication of the Board of Municipal Utilities  
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Avon Lake  
 Regional Water

## SAVE THE DATE: Lake Erie WaterFest, Saturday, August 13

Learn more about the family-friendly event at [avonlakewater.org/waterfest](http://avonlakewater.org/waterfest) 💧



### SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!

**By May 1st** Fun family shots we can use in our ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT, mailing to every Avon Lake address in June. **E-mail them now to [contact@avonlakewater.org](mailto:contact@avonlakewater.org)**

**By July 15th** Entries for the 2016 LOVE YOUR LAKE photo contest. Visit our website for more details.

## FROM FLINT FORWARD: LEAD UPDATE

Earlier this year, the story about elevated lead levels coming out of faucets in Flint, Michigan, made news nationwide. While lead-based paint, not drinking water, is the main culprit in lead poisoning in the U.S., the occasion inspired state and federal authorities to ensure current safeguards are being enforced. At the same time, we took the opportunity to investigate a water outlet we're not normally privy to: Drinking fountains in schools. Since old drinking fountains can put lead into the water that comes out of them, we asked Avon Lake City Schools if we could test water coming out of some of their drinking fountains. Fortunately, all we tested had lead levels at or below normal limits. Note: Flint's crisis resulted from a human decision: A cost-cutting measure that subtracted a pipe-protecting chemical from their drinking water treatment process. While we expect Avon Lake, like the majority of cities in the U.S., will never have a problem with lead in drinking water, it's our job to be vigilant. For more, visit [avonlakewater.org](http://avonlakewater.org). 💧

## TROOP 539'S BAGS4MATS PROJECT GIVES NEW LIFE TO WOULD-BE LAKE LITTER

Did you know plastic shopping bags are a significant polluter of Lake Erie? Earth Day is Friday, April 22. Celebrate by bringing your unwanted plastic grocery bags to Troy's Girl Scout Troop 539 bins inside Avon Lake Public Library or outside our drive thru at 201 Miller Road. (No new bags, please.) The troop will be weaving them into comfortable mats for people in need. Go to [facebook.com/bags4mats](https://facebook.com/bags4mats) to see how else you can help, or for how you can make them yourself. 💧



Troop 539 and their first mat.

## YOUR MONEY AT WORK IN 2016

In addition to fixing water main breaks on demand, here are some of the more expensive items your bill payments buy around town to strengthen your water and wastewater systems. For more details, go to [avonlakewater.org/2016/projects](http://avonlakewater.org/2016/projects). 💧

What	Where	When	Cost
<b>Clean water storage additions</b>	Lake Road (underground), Walker Road (tower)	Now thru 2017	\$35 million
<b>New sanitary force main</b>	Lear Road north of tracks	* Install complete, restoration will intermittently close a lane in April	\$300,000
<b>Walker Road water main replacement</b>	Walker east of Jaycox, west of Artsdale	* Summer 2016; expect rolling lane closure	\$2.8 million
<b>New water mains</b>	Inwood-Fairfield-Berkshire, Mull, Norman, Redwood, Curtis	* 2016	\$4 million
<b>Sanitary sewer separations</b>	Mull, Norman, Inwood, Fairfield, Berkshire, Brookfield, Curtis	* 2016	\$9.4 million
<b>Wastewater plant rehab</b>	South of Lake Road across from the power plant	Summer thru 2019	\$37 million

\* Indicates traffic impact.



## THE COUNTDOWN CONTINUES

Most homes built before 1972 need to remove their storm water from the sanitary sewer system by 2/1/18 to keep wastewater out of Lake Erie and prevent basement backups. Here's how our part of Avon Lake's sewer separation is progressing.



**Mull-Norman:** Construction began early this month and will continue into October or November. In the meantime, residents are enduring big equipment on small streets as we work to prevent basement backups and overflows into Lake Erie. Crews will roll through the narrow streets several times, doing several different jobs (sewer and water line construction, storm water infrastructure changes, road improvement and rebuilding, restoration) during the next several months.



**Fairfield-Brookfield:** Residents on Fairfield, Berkshire, Inwood, Brookfield, Electric and Redwood are up next for separation (and a couple new water lines). Work should start this summer and end in 2018. 💧

**Have a home built before 1972? You may have work to do to remove your home's storm water from your wastewater.**

Watch this video to learn more.  
<http://alwtr.us/YUneed2separate>



## YOUR BILL PAYMENTS STAY LOCAL



Photo credit: Tom Misson, Ford

*CUE Todd Danielson (far right) and Board of Municipal Utilities Chair John Dzwonczyk (center) get a preview of our new fleet addition at the local Ford plant from Launch Manager Chris Habermehl.*

### PLEASE RECYCLE FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS

CFLs (compact fluorescent lamps), the popular, energy-efficient bulbs you may have in your home, contain mercury vapor. To keep mercury out of Lake Erie, do not dispose of these bulbs in your home garbage or recycling bins. Instead, drop them off at CFL recycling locations at the front of home improvement stores such as Lowe's or at Lorain County Solid Waste District, 540 Abbe Road open Monday and Wednesday from noon until 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.



## IMPORTANT DATES



**Bill payments due**



**Last day to send family photos for Water Quality Report (contact@avonlakewater.org)**



**Backflow inspection deadline**



**Waterfront Wine Festival (Veterans Memorial Park)**



**Photo deadline: Love Your Lake Photo Contest**



**WaterFest (Miller Road Park)**

