

WATER *line*

*A publication of the
Board of Municipal Utilities*

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WELCOME TO YOUR LAST BILL FROM AVON LAKE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES. (SORT OF)

Next quarter, your water and sanitary sewer bill (and this newsletter) will reflect our new name.



**Avon Lake
Regional Water**

**Serving the region,
protecting our resource.**

As you may have heard, we will soon be known as Avon Lake Regional Water. Nothing else about us is changing. We haven't been bought out or taken over by anyone.

We've been "Municipal Utilities" for a long time. If it's hard for you to use our new name, that's okay. Our new name was chosen to better reflect who we are and what we do: Get you the best water at the best price possible, while protecting Lake Erie and the rest of our environment.

In the meantime, here are a few answers to some questions you might have for us:

Q: So ... what's the deal with the name change? Why bother?

A: While you may not care what you call us, only that we keep good water coming/going at a good price, there are a couple of important reasons for our name change.

- *Saving your money by saving our staff time.* "Municipal Utilities" has proven confusingly vague for customers over the years. We've had hundreds of callers/visitors ask us about electric, gas and garbage bills and services. That time adds up, both for our employees (whose salaries you pay with your water/sewer payments) and for customers who drive here to pay their electric bills. While that may never completely stop, putting "water" in our name will help avoid confusion in the future, saving time and money for all.
- *Honoring our past and present while embracing the region.* We will always be an Avon Lake-based entity, but Avon Lakers pay much less for water than most Ohioans

in similar-sized cities because of the large amount of water we sell to our regional customers. Think Costco. By selling in bulk, we realize a significant amount of efficiency, and pass those savings on to you.

- *To better serve you in time of water emergency.* "Municipal" literally means "of the city." With a name like "municipal utilities," the natural inclination in times of water outage or basement flooding has been for residents to call the police or fire department, if not city hall. While that approach certainly works, we are separate from the city in a couple ways, including that we have water staff available to you around the clock, seven days a week. Calling us directly at 440.933.6226 can shorten our response time to any water emergency you might be experiencing. And, as we all know, time is important when you're talking about a water emergency.

Q: Do I need to do anything differently regarding my payments?

A: No. Feel free to start using our new name on your check's "pay to" line, but we've had folks writing checks to us as "A.L. Water" for years, so don't worry, your check should go through just fine. All autopay/debit transactions will continue unaffected. No reason to lift a finger.

Q: What about your existing contracts?

A: They will continue unaffected, now and always. To provide an analogy to the private sector, both "Avon Lake Municipal Utilities" and "Avon Lake Regional Water" are essentially "doing business as" names. All our contracts have always been (and will continue to be) signed and authorized by the Board of Municipal Utilities. And that name isn't changing. 💧

Earth Day is April 22

Celebrate by buying someone a reusable water bottle and encouraging them to kick the disposable-bottle habit. Plant a tree. Pick up some litter. Recycle that soup can (along with the rest of the plastic, paper, and metal you use that day). Look into composting this summer. Don't forget: We just have this one planet we're living on, and everything we do affects it. The more people, the bigger the effect. Do what you can to minimize yours.

GOT IRRIGATION? BACKFLOW INSPECTION REPORTS DUE MAY 25

Don't forget: If you've got a sprinkler system, now's the time to schedule your backflow prevention inspection. We need to have the report from your designated inspector by May 25. 💧

COST-CUTTING LAWN CARE TIPS

Speaking of Earth Day, consider passing on the nitrogen-based fertilizer this year in favor of your lawn's own clippings ... at least until fall, the time when scientists, like the ones at Ohio State University, have found that fertilizer has its most profound effect.

Here are some tips from the Ohio State University extension office to get you ready for lawn care this year. Assuming, of course, that it ever gets warm here again.

The word on watering.

- Lawns require only one inch of water every week to stay green and growing.
- Overwatering and/or too-frequent watering means too much top growth and too-shallow roots, requiring more-frequent mowing and leaving grass more susceptible to pests and heat-drought stress.
- For maximum root growth, water weekly, one inch of water per time. If your soil can't take that much water at once (i.e. high clay content), go for twice-weekly waterings of ½" each. (IMPORTANT NOTE: Don't forget to subtract out what nature has already provided.)
- Best time to water: Early morning. (Less water lost to evaporation.)
- Worst time to water: Evening. (Lawn stays wet all night, encouraging disease development.)

Forget the bag.

Let your lawn's clippings work for you, saving time, energy and money on bagging/fertilizing, and reducing the amount of waste going to our landfills/nutrients into Lake Erie. By leaving your clippings on the lawn and allowing them to work their way

back into soil, you can realize these benefits and still maintain a beautiful, green lawn.

Grass clippings contain valuable nutrients that can generate up to 25 percent of your lawn's total fertilizer needs. A hundred pounds of grass clippings can generate and recycle as much as three to four pounds of nitrogen, one-half to one pound of phosphorus, and two to three pounds of potassium back to the lawn. These are the three most important nutrients needed by lawns and commonly supplied in lawn fertilizers. The other good news is that grass clippings do not contribute to thatch (an organic debris layer between the soil and live grass) since grass clippings are 75-85 percent water and decompose readily. 💧

COMPLIMENT OF THE QUARTER

"Please thank your crew who worked tirelessly through the night to fix my water ... and then knocked on my door to let me know the repair was complete and my water was running again."

—Donna D., Parkland Drive

Save a tree while keeping your costs down.

Sign up for Autopay and/or eBill delivery at:

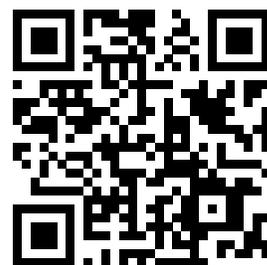
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avonlakewater.org/get-connected/

for the latest in water-related tips and updates.



Keeping citizens informed.

The Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities meets at ALMU's administration building, 201 Miller Road, at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. As always, the public is welcome to attend.

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