

A publication of the Board of Municipal Utilities

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## Avon Lake Regional Water

Serving the region,  
protecting our resource.

### "I HAD NO IDEA MY HOME WAS SENDING RAW SEWAGE INTO LAKE ERIE."



An Avon Laker since 1969, Lorrie Coughlin knows a lot about her city—and her music. A lifelong singer, she's been part of the pastoral ministry at St. Joseph Catholic Church since she moved here. One thing she never knew until recently: Her current home was contributing wastewater to Lake Erie during heavy rains.

"When I got my first letter [about the sewer separations], Avon Lake Regional Water came out for my inspection and told me I had my own separation project to do. I had no idea my home was sending raw sewage into Lake Erie. The lake is such an important part of Avon Lake, it was important to me that I do my part to stop that from happening."

To save money and mess, Coughlin, who lives in the Moorewood sewer separation area (completed in 2015), looked for a way to do her project before her new sanitary sewer was built, but she didn't have the cash on hand at the time. Enter Avon Lake Regional Water's Lateral Loan Program, created this past summer. Lorrie applied immediately.



Excavation, construction, connection. Coughlin's project lasted only about a day, but the benefits to her and Lake Erie are permanent.

"My loan went through quickly, and the contractor worked directly with Avon Lake Regional Water to get their work approved and their payments. Not only was the project done faster than I expected [a little more than a day], I'm already getting my credits on my wastewater bills—something I wouldn't have gotten if I'd waited until after my February 2018 deadline, so my \$3,500 project now costs \$2,500." [Editor's note: Homeowners who separate their home's outgoing water by connecting to each of two sewers qualify for both a loan and \$1,000 in wastewater credits. Both loan payments and \$25 quarterly credits are reflected in each Avon Lake Regional Water bill.]



### LORRIE'S LIST

A few thoughts for other Avon Lakers who still need to separate their home's outgoing water

- Get more than one quote.
- Find friends who need to separate and get a package deal.
- Get the contractor list from Avon Lake Regional Water ([avonlakewater.org/contractors](http://avonlakewater.org/contractors)).
- Reseeding may not be included in the contractor's quote. Find out what is. Backfilling? Connection?
- If you don't use the loan program, make sure your contractor gets approval for both your project and your final connection with your new sanitary sewer from Avon Lake Regional Water.

### [LATERAL LOAN PROGRAM]

10-year, 2%-interest loan.  
Get/submit your loan application:  
(440) 933-6226 or [avonlakewater.org/loan](http://avonlakewater.org/loan).

### SEPARATION STATUS

**FAIRFIELD-BROOKFIELD SEPARATION:** In progress now through late 2017/early 2018. Homeowner deadline to ensure storm water is out of sanitary sewer: February 2019.

**THE 45s:** Project design in progress, active construction expected fall 2017 until 2020. Date for summer resident info night TBD. Homeowner deadline: June 2019.

All other Avon Lakers who used to live on combined sewers need to ensure they are not contributing storm water to their new sanitary sewer by next February. Not sure if this applies to you? Call us at (440) 933-6226.

Most homes built before 1972



must separate their outgoing water by Feb. 2018



## EMERGENCY WATER STORAGE CONSTRUCTION NEARS COMPLETION

*From big dig to green grass (and sometime snowfield), your underground water storage is now online*

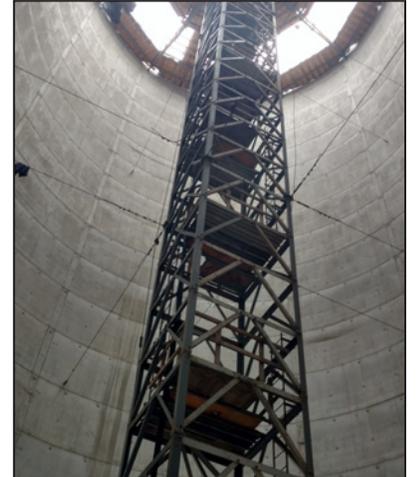
Excavation began in the summer of 2015—now, work is largely complete, and water is flowing through this 3-million-gallon addition to your water system on its way to your home, as it helps protect you and your family from water outages caused by frazil ice, toxic algae or other unusual circumstances.



*Workers started digging in July of 2015. In the intervening 17 months, giant clearwells (that's the name of the big, underground tanks that hold clean drinking water before it is pumped out) were constructed and high-power pumps and other important equipment were installed. Part of your drinking water now comes through here before it gets to you.*

### **Elevated storage tank pedestal rises in the west**

A lot can happen in less than 6 months. The base and tower section of Avon Lake's new elevated storage tank, located on Walker Road near Avon Lake's western border, is complete. Construction of the bowl will be starting soon, with filling, testing and cleaning to follow. The project is on schedule and will become a permanent part of your water system near the end of 2017.



*Left: A large foundation needed to be built before construction on the pedestal could begin. Center: The completed pedestal towers 13 stories above workers. Right: The pedestal's inner structure will soon house the pumps and pipes that will transport water between the in-ground water pipes and the bowl, which will be placed on top of the pedestal. [Note: Water towers work because of gravity. The weight of the water inside constantly pushes down, sending water from the bowl to the water pipes in your home.]*

These two projects mean you will soon have access to 6 million additional gallons of fresh water, which will come in handy in case of an emergency. (Considering Avon Lakers use 2 to 3 million gallons each day, that's a very good thing.) 💧

## WATER RATES ON THE RISE (AGAIN)

We know it's not happy news—and more increases will follow—the plus side is it's only 4 percent. Starting in July 2017, then again in July 2018, the average water bill will go up about \$1.50/quarter. The system additions we're making are important and necessary, but expensive, and our rates need to go up to pay for the increased debt. Don't forget, we always get competitive quotes (it's mandated by the state), and are constantly working to shave our expenses in other areas.

