

A publication of the Board of Municipal Utilities

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Avon Lake Regional Water

INAUGURAL LAKE ERIE WATERFEST INSPIRES CROWDS, ENCOURAGES ATTENDEES TO LOVE THEIR LAKE.

One week before WaterFest, hundreds of thousands of Ohioans in and near Toledo lost water due to toxic algae, providing the region and lawmakers a water wake-up call. While now safe from many pollutants because of 1972's U.S. Clean Water Act, changes in climate and agriculture practices have caused Lake Erie's phosphorus content to rise toward river-burning-era levels. With phosphorus (and warm lake temps), comes algae—and no regulatory oversight.

Lake Erie WaterFest, sponsored in part by Kopf Builders, PolyOne, NRG, and MWH, was held August 9 at Miller Road Park. An estimated 1,000 attendees learned about the dangers facing Lake Erie today, and had the opportunity to get up-close-and-personal with a wide variety of recreational water-based activities, from fly fishing to kayaks to kite surfing to stand-up-paddleboard yoga. Food trucks, artists, food vendors and musical entertainment (including the farewell performance of ALHS student band Redneck Agenda) delighted attendees, and nearly 150 competitors ages 7 and up took part in the first-ever Avon Lake triathlon and kids' Splash & Dash. See you next year! 💧

Thank you, sponsors!



BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



TOXIC ALGAE UPDATE: The name of the game is early detection. We test early and often once blooms begin. While the toxin microcystin was found in our water intake in late August, it was never found at significant levels. The small amount we did detect was easily removed with the standard treatment. As always, we remain vigilant in the protection of your water supply.

FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS CONTAIN MERCURY, POLLUTE SOIL, LAKE

Mercury is a toxic substance that can damage the brain, heart and lungs, and cause brain damage in children and fetuses (Source: EPA). Mercury pollution in Lake Erie has been a hot topic for years. There have been great strides made in recognizing and reducing mercury pollution. The pollution comes from a wide variety of sources, some of which are from your domestic homes. You can be a part of the solution to mercury pollution. CFLs (compact fluorescent lamps), the popular, energy-efficient, coil-type bulbs you likely 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 home improvement stores such as Lowe's or at Lorain County Solid Waste District, located at 540 Abbe Road (@ Broad Street, in the old DIY building, open Monday and Wednesday from noon until 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.). 💧



FRAZIL ICE UPDATE

As many of you know, during the now-infamous “polar vortex” that passed through here last January, we experienced a partial blockage in our water intakes due to frazil ice. Frazil ice forms when supercooled air descends on open water, immediately sending shards of ice straight down the water column to the bottom of the body of water ... which is where our water intakes are.



Frazil ice will happen again (it's happened before, just not to this degree). While the lessons learned and solutions used for January's event will likely make frazil ice a non-issue in the future, we have (and are) adding redundancies to our system to try and reduce the impact on your future water provision without significantly increasing the cost of your water. Here's a look at what we've done—and what we may still do. 💧

SEWER SEPARATION UPDATE

Many Avon Lakers living in homes built before 1972 are inadvertently sending millions of gallons of raw sewage into Lake Erie each year. Homes built before the U.S. Clean Water Act (1972) were built on combined sewers. With too much rain too fast, these combined sewers overflow, sending raw sewage straight to Lake Erie. Avon Lake Regional Water is working to change that by building sanitary sewers in these pre-1972 Avon Lake neighborhoods. Once each home's connection to this new sanitary sewer is built, these older homes can separate the water leaving their homes, allowing our city to reduce sewer overflows and help keep Lake Erie cleaner while avoiding EPA fines.



Here's where we are in the project:

Belmar basin (north and just west of Troy), the 13th neighborhood to undergo separation, is now complete. The project was completed ahead of schedule.

Moorewood basin (north of Redwood Elementary School) began its separation this summer, and is expected to be complete in the spring/summer of 2016.

The Final Three: Avondale, Fairfield/Berkshire/Brookfield/Inwood, and the 45s. Expected starts: 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively. Residents have until 2019 or three years after their new sanitary sewer is installed—whichever comes first—to separate their home's water. 💧

WHAT WE'VE DONE ALREADY

- Modified intakes and intake structures
- Modified our ability to backwash intakes
- Modified tank filling and drawing operations
- Developed a relationship with a local portable pump company in case of need for quick delivery of large-capacity temporary pumps

WHAT WE'RE CONSIDERING FOR THE FUTURE

- Improving our ability to “bubble” air at intakes
- Other grate modifications, possibly heating
- Adding a third water intake in Lake Erie
- Adding clean water storage capacity within Avon Lake
- Pursuing increased interconnection with other water producers

The Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities meets at our administration building, 201 Miller Road, at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. As always, all are welcome.

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