

# water **LINE**

*A publication of the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities:*

*Charles D. Whitmer, Chairman*

*David J. Marquard*

*John G. Dzwonczyk*

*Anthony L. Abram*

*Paul R. Phillips*

## 2011 was a successful but stormy year

The year 2011, dominated by severe storms and flooding, was the wettest year on record. In addition to responding to a record number of basement backup calls, ALMU accomplished the following:

We identified and removed stormwater sources in previously combined sanitary and storm sewer areas, undertook an infiltration and inflow study that discovered a significant amount of stormwater is entering foundation drains and are determining how to best solve the problem. We clarified foundation drain regulations and launched a pilot program to disconnect sump pump foundation drains from the sanitary sewer (*41 residents have signed on*), and are moving forward to install flow relief structures, while we work with residents to remove more stormwater from the sanitary sewer.

The Board approved a three-year water and sewer rate increase that was initiated in July of this year. The combined increases will cost the average Avon Lake residential customer about \$36 (10¢ a day) during each of the first two years, and about \$22 (6¢ a day) in the third year; a three-year phase in that will make your budgeting easier.

Our management negotiated favorable contracts with the electric,

gas, and phone companies that will result in savings of \$50k to \$60k annually.

ALMU began providing sewer services for LORCO customers in Eaton and Carlisle Townships and started negotiations to provide water services for the City of Westlake – adding customers to keep rates low for Avon Lake residents.

Our staff continued to upgrade the water and sewer infrastructure by completing three major service projects: Relocation of the ETL1 water line to accommodate the I-90 Interchange; rehabilitation of the Inwood, Dellwood, and Bellaire sanitary sewers; and replacement of the Belmar waterline.


We ramped up our communications effort with bi-monthly opinions in *The Press*, blogs on *Avon Lake Patch*, several interviews and segments on *ALC-TV*, and mentions in over 80 print and electronic media articles, to provide you with helpful and timely information. We also launched a Facebook page, Twitter account, and a new website that will keep you informed and make it easier for you to get the most out of your water and sewer services.

Let us know how you think we can improve our performance by contacting us at [www.avonlakewater.org](http://www.avonlakewater.org).



Raw water samples are tested daily for algae at the Avon Lake water treatment plant laboratory.

## No Odor! Great Taste!

If you hadn't noticed that your tap water didn't have a musty/earthy odor and taste this summer, we worked hard so you wouldn't notice. 

From June through September, during the algae season, we added 40 tons of powdered activated carbon (PAC) to our water plant's raw water process. That's an investment of \$80,000 (\$650/day) so that you could really enjoy a refreshing drink of water, shower/bath, or dip in the pool.

Lake Erie's central basin, the source of supply for our water plant, supports algae growth due to the level of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) entering the water. Algae are microscopic organisms that are found naturally in surface water. As the algae begin to decompose, they can leave our beaches looking unsightly and produce gases that have a "swampy" or "freshly cut grass" odor.

At our water treatment plant, raw

water is tested daily for the presence of algae and the appropriate amount of PAC is added to adsorb the algae odor and taste. Alum is added and the solids are allowed to settle out before the water is filtered and chlorine is added to kill any remaining

**Do you qualify for a \$300 sewer credit?**

The Board of Municipal Utilities authorized an extension and expansion of the Foundation Drain Sump Disconnection (FDSD) program. Through 12/31/12, the Board authorized \$36,000 for 120 residential properties located in the formerly combined sewer areas of Avon Lake, that have sumps pumping foundation drain water to the sanitary sewer. Each resident/property owner will receive either a \$300 sewer credit or a \$100 sewer credit and a basin pump for permanently preventing their foundation drain water from entering the sanitary sewer. Visit our website ([www.avonlakewater.org](http://www.avonlakewater.org)) for more information and call us at 440-933-6226 to see if you qualify. All who take part in the program will be required to complete an acknowledgement.



**New Year Wishes**  
By Todd Danielson

Warm wishes for 2012! We hope your 2011 was all that you wanted it to be and that 2012 meets or exceeds your expectations.



Chief Utilities Executive  
Todd A. Danielson

Avon Lake Municipal Utilities has set its expectations high for 2012, which will mean some disruption for you, but much better overall service once the disruption is complete.

There are three projects/programs that will be undertaken in 2012 that we want to highlight here.

The first is Stormwater Stay Away program. During 2011, 65 homes were identified as having sumps that pump foundation drain water into the sanitary sewer. Homeowners are addressing these issues, which will prevent over 100,000 gallons of water from entering the sanitary sewer during a 2" rain event. An additional \$36,000 has been authorized for 2012, which means another 120 homes can take part in the program and prevent an additional 200,000 gallons from entering the sanitary sewer and potentially backing up in basements. ALMU is working with the City Council regarding potential landscaping and property transfer ordinances to further help reduce the volume of stormwater entering the sanitary sewer.

The second is the Redwood Blvd. water main replacement between Duff and Crestwood. In 2011, there were 5 main breaks on Redwood. The replacement will help improve service and will reduce the potential waterline breaks that will occur when the sewer separation takes place.

The third is the Belmar Combined Sewer Separation, which covers parts of Belmar, Ashwood, Mooreland, Artsdale, Redwood, and Electric. The project will prevent combined sewage and stormwater from this area discharging directly to Lake Erie during storm events and allow residents to connect their properties to the storm sewer to improve drainage.

Follow us on twitter @AvonLakeWater, like us on Facebook, or visit our website [www.avonlakewater.org](http://www.avonlakewater.org). We will keep you well informed as these projects move forward.

**Whitmer, Dzwonczyk, Phillips elected to Municipal Utilities Board**

Charles D. Whitmer was elected to his fifth term, and John G. Dzwonczyk and Paul R. Phillips to their third and second terms on the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities.

At the Board's 2012-2013 organizational meeting, Chuck Whitmer was elected Chairman, Dave Marquard and John Dzwonczyk Acting Chairmen, Todd Danielson Clerk, and Rick Eberle as Acting Clerk for two years. Eberle was also re-appointed as Chief of Utilities Operations for a two-year period.

Avon Lake's Board of Municipal Utilities is unique among public Utilities. Its five-member board is organized as an independent legislative body under Avon Lake's Charter. Board members are elected to serve four-year terms by the citizens of Avon Lake.

Its primary responsibilities are to oversee the Utilities' operations and finances, employ staff, establish policy, and implement the Utilities' strategic plan. One of the Board's primary goals is to grow both the bulk water and wastewater treatment business. Currently approximately 85% of the



Randy Phillips, elected to his second term, is an attorney at Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista, a Lorain County law firm, specializing in business legal services.

water and 10% of the wastewater processed are services sold to customers outside the city.

Thanks to the independent action of the board members, both past and present, Avon Lake has a water and wastewater system that provides high quality drinking water and safe wastewater treatment at one of the lowest water and sewer rates in Ohio.

Chuck Whitmer, elected to his fifth term, is President of The Whitmer Company, a consulting and distribution business in the water treatment and swimming pool industry.



John Dzwonczyk, elected to his third term, is president and CEO of JGD Associates Inc., a consulting engineering firm in the petroleum industry.

**No Odor! Great Taste!**

FROM PG. 1

bacteria. The algae/sludge is pumped directly to our wastewater plant where it is compressed into dry cakes and hauled away to an EPA-approved landfill.

The finished water is then stored and pumped through the city's distribution lines to your tap as needed – another example of how your Avon Lake Municipal Utilities invests your water and sewer dollars wisely so you can enjoy high quality drinking water and safe wastewater treatment at reasonable rates.