



Avonlakewater.org

*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*

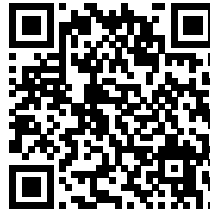
## Your Utilities, Your Vote

You elect the Board of Municipal Utilities to represent your interests and assure ALMU is making decisions to best balance quality, quantity, cost, and service. The August 7 ballot will have two charter amendments that affect the Board. One relates to executive sessions, and the other relates to meeting dates.

**Issue #5** on the August 7 ballot relates to executive sessions, which are meetings where the Board may meet privately to discuss certain matters. The Ohio Revised Code allows executive sessions to discuss legal, personnel, collective bargaining, real estate, and security matters, as well as matters required to be kept confidential. In 1988, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that city charters superseded the ORC when charters state all meetings must be in open session. When City Council brought a charter amendment to the voters in 2005 to allow Council to meet in executive session, it was overlooked to provide the same ability for the Board. Voting "Yes" on that charter amendment will allow the Board to meet in executive sessions as allowed in the Ohio revised code. Voting "No" will require the Board to conduct all business, including discussing security

matters and legal issues, in open session.

**Issue #6** on the August 7 ballot would require the Board to meet on a different night than any regularly scheduled Council meeting. From its inception in 1929, the Board designated the first and third Mondays as its meeting date so that it would not conflict with the Council's second and fourth Monday legislative meetings. In recent years, Council has begun holding Collective Committee meetings on the same night as Board meetings and other committee meetings on other nights. If committee meetings are considered regularly scheduled Council meetings, then voting "Yes" on the amendment would significantly limit when the Board can meet and require the Board to switch its meeting date whenever Council or a



Board Contact Info

Council committee decided to change its scheduled meeting date. An often changing meeting date would make it hard for the Board to meet and for you to attend. A "No" vote would allow the Board to determine the most appropriate time to hold its meetings.

The Board of Municipal Utilities encourages you to vote on August 7. If you have questions regarding these amendments, Board members welcome your call. See: <http://alwtr.us/mnbrs> for contact information. •

## ALMU monitors your beaches for E. Coli bacteria

The Ohio Department of Health, through a grant from the USEPA, monitors beaches along the Lake Erie shoreline for E. Coli bacteria. Our Miller Road Park and Veterans Park beaches are monitored by ALMU on behalf of ODH.

Water samples are collected at

the beaches and tested daily at the Avon Lake Water Plant laboratory for the presence of E. Coli bacteria. The sample results are reported to the Ohio Department of Health and, if the results are greater than the recreational standard (235 colonies of E. Coli/100ml of water), an advisory is posted to warn swimmers of the risk of illness. The advisory remains posted until the sample result is below the recreational standard.



Beach Guard

ALMU Chief Lab Analyst Ted Popiel said, "Bacteria levels rise during heavy rains and windy weather, and drop during calm days. With the exception of the opening day of the season, and the days in June when we experienced high wind and heavy rain, the lake's E. Coli values have pretty much remained below the recreational standard."

Sample results are also reported to the City Engineering and Recreation Departments, and the Ohio Beach Guard Website. For daily advisories and test results, see <http://alwtr.us/BchGrd>.

We hope you enjoy the beach and swim a little easier knowing the quality of the water. •



ALMU Chief Lab Analyst Ted Popiel collects a water sample at Veterans Park for E. Coli testing.



Grass typically grows best when it receives about an inch of water per week; and fewer, deep soakings are better than more frequent shallow soakings because that helps to establish a deep root zone that is more resistant to drought. The Water Use It Wisely website recommends about 0.75" of water be applied in one soaking in order to wet deep enough for the root zone 6" to 10" below ground surface. See <http://alwtr.us/wtrmg>.

This would mean that in the absence of rain, you need to water about every 4 days. For those of you who have a seven day timer, backing off to two deeper soakings, rather than three shorter soakings should help your lawn. The best time to irrigate is a few hours before sunrise. This allows the water to soak into the ground prior to high evaporation times of the day. Though it might seem better to irrigate soon after dark, allowing grass to remain wet all night puts it at risk for mold and fungus diseases.

We want you to most effectively use our water. Call us with questions or comments at 440-933-6226 or [contact@avonlakewater.org](mailto:contact@avonlakewater.org).

## You can still receive a \$300 sewer credit!



If you live in one of Avon Lake's formerly combined sewer areas, there's still time to participate in ALMU's Foundation

Drain Sump Separation Program.

The Board of Directors has extended the program through 12/31/12, authorizing \$36,000 for 120 residents/properties located in the formerly combined sewer areas of Avon Lake. Each resident/property owner is entitled to receive either a \$300 sewer credit or a \$100 sewer credit and a basin pump that will permanently prevent foundation drain water from entering the sanitary sewer.

All you have to do is complete an acknowledgement form and apply for a FREE building permit to participate.

For a copy of the form and program rules, visit our website at [avonlakewater.org](http://avonlakewater.org) or call us at 440-933-6226 to make sure you qualify. •

## Green power is a big win for ALMU customers

ALMU's primary energy supplier is FirstEnergy Solutions. Recently, ALMU extended its contract with FirstEnergy Solutions to save money and use renewable energy for 25 percent of ALMU's demand.

The renewable energy will be generated at the Seneca Pumped StorageHydro Plant in Warren, Pennsylvania. See <http://alwtr.us/spsgs>.

Chief Utilities Executive Todd Danielson said, "Working with FirstEnergy Solutions, allowed us to save the greenhouse gas equivalent of 600 cars on the road per year and save 5 percent on energy costs – that's a big win for our customers." •

## Stay hydrated this summer

Be sure to drink enough water while you are enjoying family summer fun. Since 60% of your body is water, it is essential to replace the water you lose, which for most people is about two liters or more on a hot summer day.

Buying a safe plastic or metal bottle and filling it with tap water is the best way to stay hydrated for many reasons. Your ALMU tap water costs much less than a penny per gallon and the reusable container is friendlier to the environment.

The Mayo clinic recommends that you drink a glass of water with each meal and between each meal, and always remember to hydrate before, during, and after exercise.

Have a happy, healthy summer! •



Kara Goodwin pauses to rehydrate at Veterans Park.