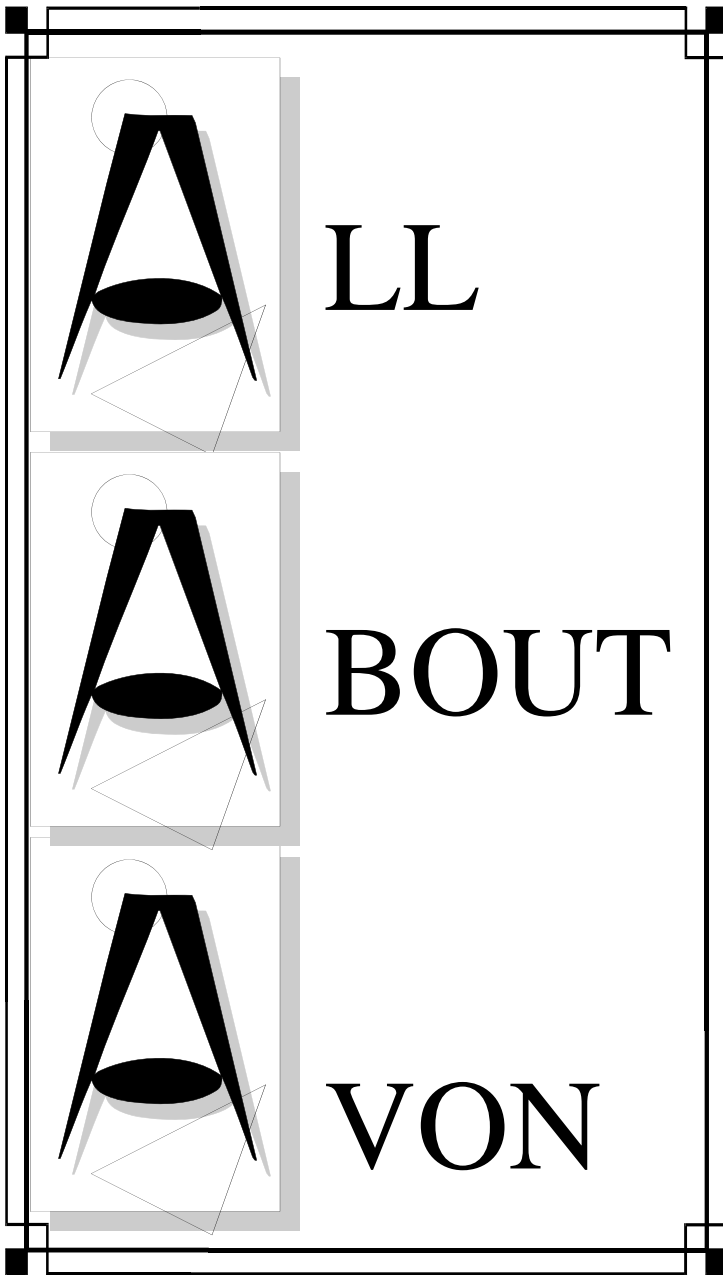


Spring 2008

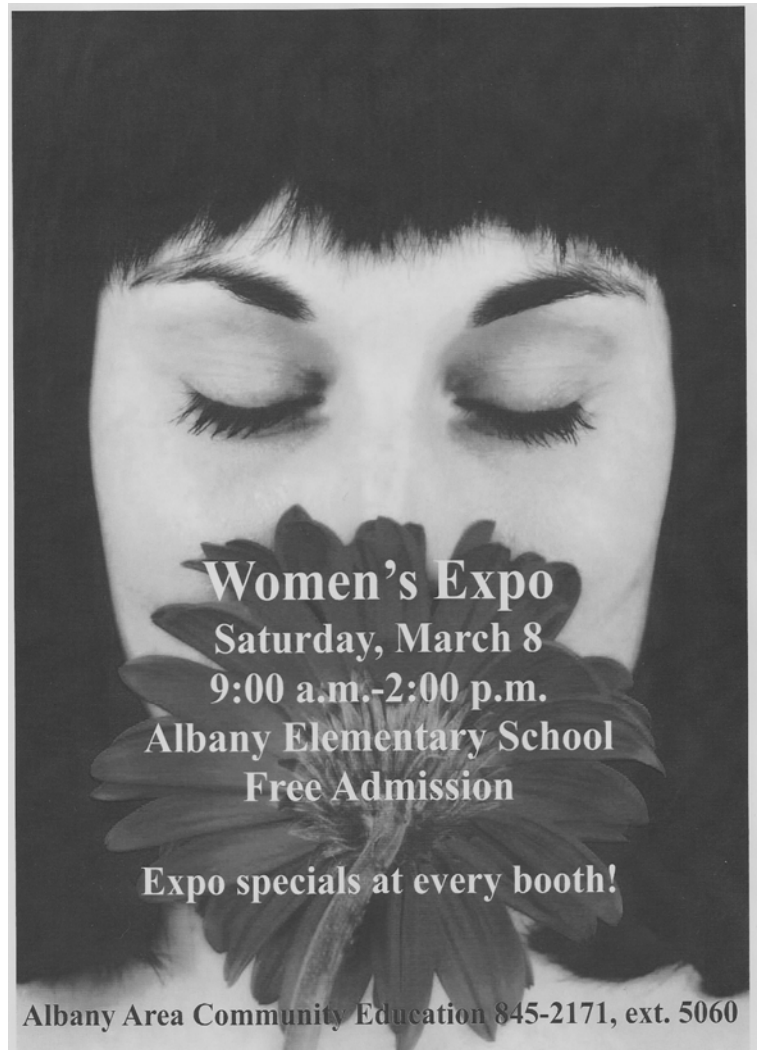
Volume 11 · Number 1

A joint City and Township Newsletter



What's inside.....

1. Women's Expo & City Wide Garage Sales
2. Avon Fire and Rescue
2. Seasons of Avon contest
3. Avon Police Department
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5. Avon Lakers
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Sponsoring the event is the Avon Chamber Commerce, Albany Chamber of Commerce and Albany Area Community Education.



AVON FIRE AND RESCUE



By Chief Eric Linn

The Avon Fire Department closed out 2007 with a total of 1,445 hours spent responding to 135 calls placed. The breakdown call types placed both fire and medical, are as follows:

Fire Calls		Medical calls	
Structure	4	Car Accidents	17
Grass	9	Respiratory	10
Chimney	0	Heart	7
Auto	3	Seizure	6
Smoke Alarms	3	Falls	14
C-O2	4	Other Trauma	12
Gas Leaks	1	Over Dose	5
False Alarms	4	False Alarms	1
Other	4	Stroke	2
		Dizziness	5
		Other	24

Spunk Days will be here soon and our members will be selling Fire Department raffle tickets once again. We will sell 250 tickets at \$50 each. The prizes will include several cash awards. Proceeds will help the fire department with equipment and training costs. Please contact a member for a ticket. Thank you graciously ahead of time for your support of our efforts.

Thank you to John Grutsch who has retired after serving 22 years on the Avon Fire Department.

I would also like to thank Corey Naig for serving as our Assistant Chief for the past four years. Corey has stepped down from the position and remains an active member of our department. Thank you Corey for a great job as our Assistant Chief!

Officers for 2008 are as follows:

Chief	Eric Linn
Truck Captain	Eric Larson
Assistant Chief	Chris Pflueger
Fire Training Captain	Adam Pogatschnik
Medical Training Captain ..	Joel Richter
Secretary	Russ Panek
Treasurer	Gary Schmitz

The Seasons of Avon

We are now accepting entries for the Spring photo contest.

Submission Rules:

- ~ 4 x 6 matte finish photograph
- ~ photos must be taken in the Avon City limits
- ~ photographs may include people, but the persons should not be recognizable
- ~ the winning photos will be framed and displayed in the City Hall building
- ~ mail or drop off entries at city hall
- ~ you may submit multiple entries
- ~ winners will be asked to also submit photos on a CD



spring photo deadline: June 1, 2008

include information below on back of each entry:

Name: _____

Address: _____

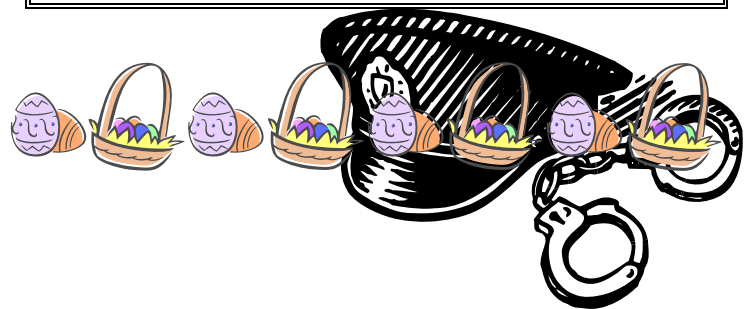
Phone #: _____

Date picture was taken: _____

Where picture was taken: _____

Signature

Photographs become property of the City of Avon. City has the authority to enlarge and display photograph as they so choose.



AVON POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Chief Corey Nellis

During 2007 the police department responded to 1,602 calls for service. As 2008 begins the police department continues to be busy and has handled almost 200 calls during the first six weeks of the year.

I have talked in the past about the placement of flashing speed limit signs along County Road 9 in the school zone. I am pleased to announce that the project has finally been completed and that the signs are catching driver's attention as speeds have been greatly reduced in the school zone.

Thank you again to the following: Avon Lions Club, PTA, Student Council, and The Stratford Homeowners Association S.O.S. (support our students). This project would not have been possible without their involvement.

Residents may have noticed that recently signs were put up in the city parks indicating that snowmobiles and ATVs are prohibited. The police department throughout the winter gets numerous snowmobile complaints and we are taking proactive steps to reduce these complaints. As far as the operation of these vehicles within city parks, it has always been prohibited by ordinance. Many residents were not aware of this ordinance so we are hoping that more residents will become informed by placing the signs in the parks.



The police department is again continuing to implement Crime Free Housing within the City of Avon. Officer Jansky recently went to training to become certified in Crime Free Housing. Some time this spring or early summer the police department is planning to host a training session for all owners of rental

property within the city. If anyone has any questions regarding this program please contact Officer Casey Jansky at the police department.

As spring approaches we are gearing up for warmer weather activities with one of them being the beach re-opening. The police department has plans to continue the operation of the beach patrol program and hopes that it is as beneficial as it was last year.

As always I encourage anyone with questions, concerns, or complaints to contact the Avon Police Department at 320-356-7575.

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Notice

*Important
DATE!*

Avon City and Avon Township will be holding their annual local board of appeal and equalization meetings at the Avon City Hall this spring. These meetings are provided to address the grievances of property owners who choose to appeal the 2008 estimated market valuation and/or tax classification. They are conducted according to the laws of the state and play an important role in the property appeals process.

The Avon City Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5th, from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Avon City Hall.

The Avon Township Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Avon City Hall.

If you have any questions regarding your 2008 Notice of Valuation and Classification or would like to meet informally with the assessor prior to the planned meeting, please contact the Stearns County Assessor's Office at (320) 656-3680.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Submitted by:
Nate Brenner – Public Works Assistant

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

The maintenance department has been busy with many different projects this winter.

We have been updating the water meters in town as some of them are over 25 years old. Over time meters may become inefficient due to age, which can cause lower water pressure in the home. If you receive a letter about changing out your water meter, please call the number on it to set up an appointment with the maintenance department.

We have been busy doing a lot of annual maintenance to vehicles and equipment at the maintenance shop.

We had a mock OSHA inspection of all city buildings done. The Maintenance Department has been working to ensure that the City of Avon is up to OSHA standards.

If anyone has questions on streets, parks and other maintenance issues contact Ray at 248-4992.

COMPOST SITE

The compost site will be open daily this year from 8am to 6pm. There will be a slight change in the location: Go down Angelfish Avenue and take a right at the intersection and then go straight through the gate ahead (instead of into the wastewater plant gates). There will be a large sign marking the compost site. You will see several different piles with signs; please put the items in the correct piles. Should there be a problem with garbage being left out there we will need to close the gates.

Thank you for your cooperation!

STREETS

The maintenance crew will be out repairing potholes and doing crack filling this spring. PLEASE SLOW DOWN and give them space when they are working on the streets. If you see any potholes we missed after we have gone out and done them call Ray at 248-4922.

There are a few projects that will be completed this spring on Chinook Avenue and First Street SW. There are also other street projects that are in the early stages of planning at this time.

PARKS

The maintenance crew along with some volunteers will be cleaning up the parks this spring. We will be doing a lot of work to the Suncrest Park. To ensure your safety, please stay off the equipment while it is being constructed.



If you would like to volunteer please contact Nate at 320-293-7328.

HAZARD WASTE PICK-UP

The Hazardous Waste Pickup will be again be in June at the Trailhead Park. Watch the Summer Newsletter and the marquee for more information.

HYDRANT FLUSHING



The maintenance department will be flushing fire hydrants at the end of April. Watch the marquee for dates. Please be careful when they are out there working. Allow them room to do their job. Thanks!

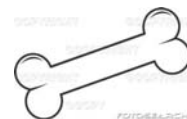
DOG LICENSES

If you live in the Avon City Limits and own a dog, you MUST have it licensed at the City Hall. Cost of license is \$5.00 and you need to bring with proof of your pet's up to date rabies vaccinations.

Has your pooch gotten loose? Below are the costs according to ordinance:

<u>Pickup Fee:</u>	<u>Licensed</u>	<u>Unlicensed</u>
1st Offense	\$10	\$20 + license fee
2nd Offense	\$15	\$25 + license fee
3rd Offense	\$20	\$30 + license fee

Overnight Dog Kenneling
Licensed: \$20/night + pickup fee
Unlicensed: \$30/night + pickup fee



IT'S BASEBALL SEASON!



Submitted by: Dan
Zimmermann

With spring around the corner, thoughts once again turn to the baseball season. For the Avon Lakers, it is no different. Manager Dave Kalthoff has been busy scheduling games and attending Victory League meetings with some of his teammates, as the 2008 season approaches. This year, the City of Avon has invited us to give a short report on the baseball park and the team. We came up with a list of items that we'd like to share:

** How long has Avon had a town amateur baseball team? We've got pictures from the early 1900's, but no one on the team knows when Avon had its first team. If anyone out there has information on past teams, please share it with us. If you have pictures, we'd like to see them - maybe we can put them on our website.

** Speaking of websites, the Lakers have had one for the last few years. You can find us on the internet at www.avonlakers.com. We have season schedules, results of games, team stats, career player stats, and plenty of other interesting information.

** We hope to have another good team this year and are looking forward to another shot at the Regions and the State Tournament. The regular season starts near the end of April, and we will have schedules printed up and available at some of the businesses in Avon.

** If you have not been to a Lakers game before, maybe this year you can stop in. Admission at league games (usually played on Sundays) is only \$3 for adults, \$1 for high school students, and free for all youngsters. Home exhibition games are free to all. We also have a nice concession stand with beverages and snacks available at reasonable prices.

** We are continually working on improving the park, and this year hope to buy a riding lawn mower to maintain the outfield. We also plan to build a larger shed for storage. If someone has a good quality used mower that cuts a 50" swath or more, let us know.

** The baseball park in Avon also hosts Albany High School baseball games, as well as summer tournaments for the Albany Legion team and the Avon - Albany Babe Ruth team.

To get in touch with the Avon Lakers with information or questions, call Dan Zimmermann at 356-7821.

Stop in to catch the action this summer at the nicest baseball park in central Minnesota!

Elections!!!

by Kathy Schulzetenberg

Just in case you have missed all the hubbub in the news it is an election year again! I will soon be looking for election judges.



"How are election judges chosen?" I

am required to first contact anyone who is either on a list as having gone to a caucus and at that time expressed an interest in being a judge or **who contacted City Hall wishing to be put on our list**. If after that I do not have enough names (must have equal party representation) I then start making phone calls. Once my list is compiled it is taken to the City Council for selection and approval.

Training starts later this summer and judges are paid an hourly stipend for training and on election days. Meals are included on election days.

Anyone who is interested in being an election judge, please call me at 356-7922 at the City Hall. I had a superb group of judges to work with in the past and look forward to another great election year!

Speaking of elections --- this year there will be three **seats up for election/re-election**. The mayor is a two-year term and the council positions are four-year terms. This is a great opportunity to get involved with your



community and to make a difference! Not able to commit at this time? Talk to one of the already elected City Council Members and give them your ideas, concerns or just offer your support!



AVON CHAMBER NEWS

Submitted by:

Mary K. Eisenschenk, 2008 Chamber President
avonmncchamber@hotmail.com
and Jan Schleicher, Executive Director

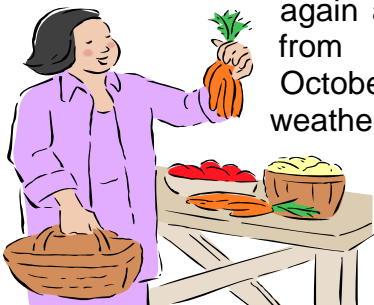
The Avon Chamber of Commerce along with the City of Avon hosted a workshop “**7 Habits of Highly Effective People**” presented by Dr. Robert C. Cavanna of Resource Training and Solutions on January 30th. There were 38 people from the area who attended. The chamber is planning more workshops in the future.

The fourth annual **Women’s Expo** will be held on Saturday, March 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Albany Elementary. There will be special discounts from businesses as well as drawings for door prizes and bingo from purchases made. Contact Lynn Jenc at 845-2171, ext 5060 if you would like to register. Call today, as there is limited space available for vendors.

We will be having a Cash Raffle to help toward expenses for **Spunktacular Days**. Tickets will sell for \$10 each and there will only be 1000 printed. The cash will be paid out daily during the month of June. Winners will be posted weekly at businesses and also on the website.

Spunktacular Days will be on Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21. Volunteers are needed. This year’s theme is “Let Freedom Ring” and the grand marshals will be Avon Area Veterans!

The **Farmer’s Market** will be available again at the Wobegon Park from June 7th through October 4th (or 18th – weather permitting). Hours will be 9 am – noon on the first, third (and fifth) Saturday of the month.

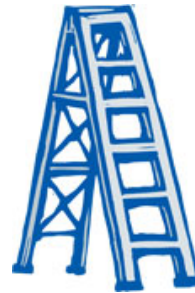


An Avon **city directory** is in the process of being made through Stearns Morrison Enterprise. Please respond to them as quickly as you can when they contact you, as we’d like to have this completed and out for distribution by June. It will be printed annually in the future.

Chamber bucks are available at Avon State Bank and are valid at any chamber business.



Mary Eisenschenk-Lumber One has taken over as **Chamber President**. JoAnn Dirkes will stay on as Past President for the transition. We would like to thank Annette Lange/Lange Trenching and Margo Black-Scepaniak/Black Financial for their dedication and commitment. Their terms have ended and we welcome Dr. Jennifer Kalpin of Avon Dental Clinic to the Board of Directors.



PLANNING AND ZONING

By: Amy Pogatchnik, Zoning Administrator

City of Avon

Total building permits issued in 2007: **51**
Total value of projects: **\$6,647,481.00**

There have been changes made to Chapter 13 of the City of Avon Zoning Ordinance. Subdivision 11 Shoreland Alteration has added language regarding vegetative alterations. **Please see page 7 in this newsletter with the new language.** If you are planning to do any alterations within the lakeshore area, please contact Amy Pogatchnik--Zoning Administrator at 356-7922 or amy-avoncityhall@mywdo.com to complete any paperwork that may be required.

The NEW City of Avon Zoning Ordinance is now available on the City’s website at www.cityofavonmn.com



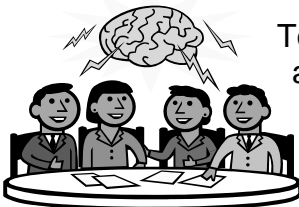
AVON TOWNSHIP NEWS



Submitted by:
LeRoy Gondringer
Avon Township Board Chairman

Spring is typically the busiest time for Township officers. We are busy preparing the budget and levy for the coming year so it can be approved by Township residents at the annual meeting. We are also discussing and planning potential road projects and other road maintenance issues for the coming year.

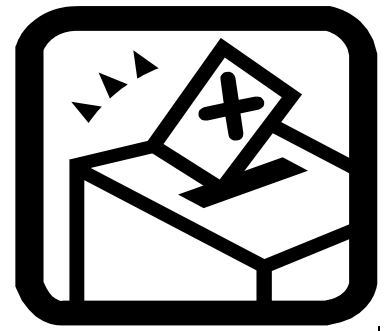
This year the annual meeting will be March 11 at 8:00 PM at the Avon City Hall. The Township election will also be March 11 at Avon City Hall. The polls will be open from 12:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Filing for a 3-year term for Township Supervisor is LeRoy Gondringer. Renee Smith filed for a 2-year term for Township Clerk.



If you are new to the Township or have never attended a Township meeting, this would be a great time to meet your Township officials and witness grassroots government at work. At this meeting a moderator is elected for the meeting to help conduct the business of the Township with your full participation. If you have an issue you would like to have on the agenda for the annual meeting you may either contact Township clerk, Renee Smith 356-7224 or it can be added to the agenda at the meeting.

Lange Trenching, the contractor Avon Township has used for the past 20 years or so for snow plowing, as well as a host of maintenance projects, has indicated a desire to discontinue plowing snow for the Township. They do a very good job getting the snow plowed in a timely and professional manner.

Don't forget to
VOTE on
March 11
and also attend
the annual
meeting!



One of the major responsibilities of this Township is to have well maintained roads and keep them free of snow and ice while still being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of the Township. The Township board has been exploring a number of options for plowing snow when Lange Trenching decides to park the plow trucks for good. We have discussed hiring another contractor, having the Township buy their own equipment, or possibly working with neighboring Townships to get the snow plowed. Each of these scenarios have positive and negative aspects to them. At the annual meeting this year we will be discussing these and other options available and also gathering the thoughts and input of Township residents.

By the time you read this newsletter, Stearns County Board of Commissioners hopefully will have adopted the new Comprehensive Plan they have been working on for the past two years. In a nutshell, the plan gives an overview of areas within the County where development should be encouraged, where it should be discouraged, and where, because of certain unique features, development may be allowed if certain conditions are met. This Plan sets the direction in which the County will proceed as they draft a new Zoning Ordinance.

"Things turn out the best for
people who make the best of the
way things turn out."

Art Linkletter