



## Readers share ideas for new businesses/retail: Short Takes on Avon, Avon Lake

Julie A. Short, Correspondent By Julie A. Short, Correspondent

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Last month it was reported in this newspaper that the home improvement store Menard's would be building a store in Avon on Chester Road very close to Lowe's. It also was reported that Levin Furniture would constructing a new store off Nagel Road at the Interstate 90 interchange and leaving its current location in Avon Commons.

The former Ethan Allen furniture store location at Avon Commons continues to sit empty. Soon Levin Furniture will be moving from the Commons to a new building near the Interstate 90 interchange on Nagel Road, leaving two large empty storefronts.

Julie A. Short

Social media was buzzing with comments regarding what businesses we do and do not need in terms of stores or restaurants in the area. I have covered Avon off and on as a reporter for 15 years. I have witnessed lots of changes. When I moved here Avon Commons was just being completed. The Commons seemed like just enough stores and restaurants to satisfy most people's needs.

Fast forward 15 years and we now have, Aldi, Bar 145, BJ's, Best Buy, Bob Evans, Burger King, Chipotle, Costco, Marc's, Mitchell's Ice Cream, Red Robin, Panera Bread, Petco, Starbucks, Walmart, Winking Lizard, Wendy's and a host of other smaller retail establishments (including plenty of auto parts stores, mattress stores and banks). But is it enough? And when is enough, enough?

Since so many people have opinion on what Avon should or shouldn't look like in terms of retail, I asked readers to email me what stores/businesses they would like to see come to Avon or the surrounding area.

Below are a few ideas/comments from the emails I received, as well as some posted on social media:

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### Avon HS Sports

- "A Chick-fil-A would be a great eatery to have in Avon. A couple of other suggestions would be a Whole Foods Store and a Fin Feather and Fur."
- "I would like to see a Dollar Tree in Avon"
- "How about a Dairy Queen at the corner of Nagel and Detroit roads on the south side of Detroit across from Holy Trinity church? Get rid the eyesore buildings that are there now. Also, they need to aggressively look for tenants for Avon Commons. That seems to be having more empty buildings there every time I go there. One other thing is how about they stop building new buildings in the city with no tenants. A prime example is a new building on Detroit Road near Third Federal Bank. It's been sitting there empty for over a year. Why was it built?"
- "Would LOVE for Wegmans to come to this area. Incredible grocery store. I do think we need another gas station where GetGo is going in, so I'm pleased about that. And if Brookpark can't convince IKEA to build there...Avon has enough land for them. That would be awesome!"
- "Avon needs a real good bakery and a butcher! We lack these two things most of all."
- "I want a Boston Market...NOW!"
- "We need more gas stations."
- "I would like a Meijer."
  
- "Would love a Container Store, Hobby Lobby or Pottery Barn."

All are great ideas, thanks for taking the time to respond. Hopefully city leaders can attract businesses that will keep a majority of the population happy. Stay tuned...

**Volleyball facility proposed:** Not to be outdone by baseball, football and soccer, volleyball players in the area may soon have their own facility if a proposal to build an indoor volleyball complex is approved by city officials in Avon.

Tony Tahan, owner and director of **Spirit Volleyball Club** (SVC), recently presented plans during a city council work session to construct an approximately 20,000-square-foot building that would include courts, as well as a snack/dining area. The facility would be built on Recreation Lane near the French Creek YMCA and All Pro Freight Stadium.

Founded in 2001, SVC is currently based in Elyria. The goal is to have a permanent building rather than lease/rent space.

There are currently 38 teams at the facility with players from local middle and high schools participating.

Including Tahan, 37 coaches instruct teams at SVC.

Tahan is the head volleyball coach at Columbia High School and has previously coached volleyball at By Village High School. He has also coached soccer in the area.

Also still in the works for the proposed area is the construction of **Bo Jackson's Elite Sports training facility**. The \$6 million domed multi-sport training facility was approved by city council approved back in October 2013. According to city officials, the project is still active but no updated timeline for construction has been presented.

**Music and ice cream:** The annual Band A La Mode concert will take place Feb. 28 from noon - 5 p.m. at Avon High School. Specific band times are as follows: noon - 5th grade band; 12:35 p.m. - 8th grade band; 1:10 p.m. - 6th grade band; 1:45 p.m. - 7th grade band; 2:20 p.m. - high school jazz band; 2:55 p.m. - high school symphonic band; 3:30 p.m. - middle school jazz band; 4:05 p.m. - high School wind ensemble and 4:40 p.m. - indoor drum line (main gym).

Admission is \$5 for adults and children 6 and older.

Adults 60 and over and military veterans are \$3.

Children 5 and younger are free.

**Paws to read:** Students in grades K-4 can have fun practicing reading skills by reading aloud to a dog from Therapy Dogs International. Dogs will be at the Avon Lake Public Library Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. - noon for 15 minute reading blocks. Register at the Children's department or by calling 440-933-8917.

**All aboard:** The Waugaman Gallery at the Avon Lake Public Library will be transformed into a model railroad complete with scenery and working trains Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and March 1 from 1 - 4 p.m. Members of the National Model Railroad Association MCR Division 4 will be on hand to share their hobby. All ages are welcome to attend.

**Tax assistance:** The Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) invites all taxpayers who are required to file a municipal income tax return for any RITA municipality to attend a free Taxpayer Assistance event on March 3 from 1- 7 p.m. at North Ridgeville City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road, North Ridgeville.

Agents will be on-site to answer questions and assist with RITA municipal income tax return preparation. To receive assistance bring with you all necessary tax

documentation, including the following: Social Security Numbers for yourself and your spouse; W2s from all employers and Form 1099s; Federal Schedules C, E, & F, Federal forms K-1, 2106, 3903, & 1040 (if applicable); and addresses and dates for each location in which you resided during 2014.

RITA agents will work with taxpayers on a first come, first served basis. Depending on the size of the turnout, wait times may occur; please plan accordingly. For more information, contact RITA Customer Service at 800-860-7482.

**Garden Club meeting:** The Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club will meet March 4 at noon in the Gallery Room of the Avon Lake Public Library, 32496 Electric Blvd. After lunch and a short business meeting, Grant Thompson, Lorain County Metro Parks Chief Naturalist, will present a program on Monarch butterflies. For more information, call 440-934-1939.

**Avon Safety Town:** Online registration for Safety Town begins March 2. Sponsored by the Avon Parks & Recreation Department and the Avon Police Department, the program is designed for children entering Kindergarten. The week-long sessions will take place at Avon Village School and in the Avon Safety Town. Each day will focus on a different topic such as fire safety, riding the bus and healthy living.

Sessions this summer include: Session I - June 8-12; Session II - June 15-19; and Session III - June 22-26. Each session will have an 8 - 10:00 a.m. and a 10:30am-12:30 p.m. class.

Safety Town is not a requirement for entrance into Kindergarten. The program is open to Avon residents/students that will be entering Kindergarten in the fall. Registration ends May 1. Log on to [cityofavon.com](http://cityofavon.com), click "departments," then "parks and recreation."

**Dr. Seuss' birthday:** Celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday at the Avon Branch of the Lorain Public Library System March 2 at 6:30 p.m. Have fun with games, crafts and more. Preregistration is required and is available online at [LorainPublicLibrary.org](http://LorainPublicLibrary.org) or by calling the library at 440-934-4743.

**Ward meeting:** Join Avon Lake Councilman David Kos for a Ward 4 meeting March 4 from 7- 9 p.m. at Troy Intermediate School, 237 Belmar Boulevard, Avon Lake. Residents can hear what is going on and ask question of council reps, the mayor, police and fire chiefs, public

works director and a representative from Republic Services.

**Writing contest:** Congratulations to the following Avon Middle School students who qualified for the **Power of the Pen** regional writing competition in March: Julia Binick, Tiara Eddington, Isabelle Giannetti, Sarah Guggenbiller, Rachel Hapanowicz, Emmie Liauw, Richard Perrins, Ari Schraff, Greg Sedlak, and Abigail Smith.

**New display:** Stop by the **Miller Nature Preserve**, 2739 Center Road, Avon, from now through March 22 and enjoy the "Dinosaur Grove" : Dinosaur Extravaganza display. There are ferns, fossils, artifacts, puzzles, dino-scavenger hunt and many dinosaur photo ops (don't forget to bring your camera). The display is open daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

On March 19 from 6- 8:30 p.m. guests can dine with the dinos and enjoy the display and a meal featuring ribs. Registration is required by March 13. Pay at the door, members are \$14 and non-members are \$18. Kids meals are \$8. Call 440-937-0764.

Later that evening a special presentation, "Famous Fossil Fish of Northeast Ohio" by speaker David Chapman from the Cleveland Museum of National History, will take place. Registration is required by March 16. Members are free and the non-member fee is \$3 at the door.

*If you have news to share regarding an event, award or other interesting tidbit happening in Avon, send me an email at [jshortavon@aol.com](mailto:jshortavon@aol.com).*

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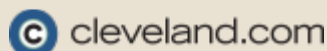
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