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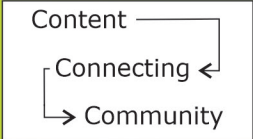
The Republican

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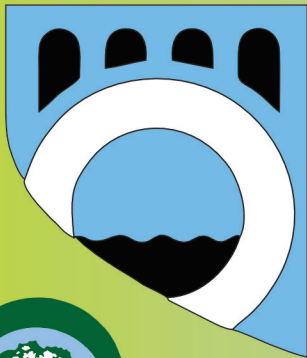
Meet the Town

of

AVON

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TOWN OF AVON



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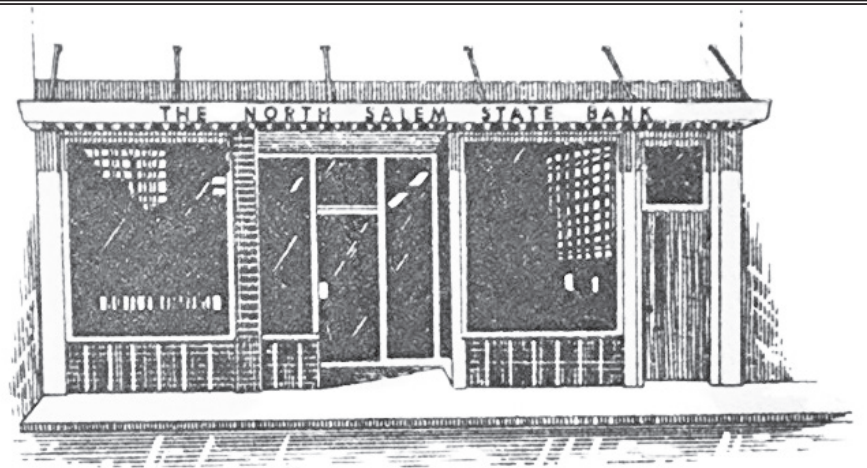


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Meet the Town

*It starts with you.
 Your family
 Your neighborhood
 Your Town
 Your Township
 Your County
 Your Community*

*A community's foundation is based on what draws us together,
 what makes us connected.*

Over most of the history of Hendricks County, The Republican newspaper has not only reported on our communities, but has been a part of them. We have been, in the words of Julian Hogate (Publisher 1890-1931), "Always standing for the best in the life of the community."

We continue this series with the Town of Avon.

*The word "neighbor" can be a verb.
 It is by our actions with others that we
 get to know our neighbor,
 and in doing so, we get to know ourselves.*

*If you're not familiar with your neighboring towns,
 attend an event there, shop at a local store,
 eat at a local restaurant,
 or just find a seat and wait for someone to join you
 and begin to tell you about their town.*

*Our thanks to the Hendricks County Community Foundation,
 our advertisers, Melissa Gibson, The Republican staff
 and to the residents of these towns for
 allowing us to introduce them to you.*

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HCCF Supports Avon Washington Township Public Library

The Avon Washington Township Public Library has been serving the residents of Avon for over 100 years with over 100,000 visitors each year! We are grateful for our local libraries which provide an invaluable resource to our community.

Two different Designated Funds at the Community Foundation have been established to support the library and award grants annually to support operations as well as for the care of the Huron Heritage Room's Avon High School yearbook collection.

You can leave a legacy for something you care about through a Designated Fund at HCCF. These funds award grants each year to support an organization of the donors' choice.

Do you want to make a difference in Avon? Contact us today!

Where Local Good Grows



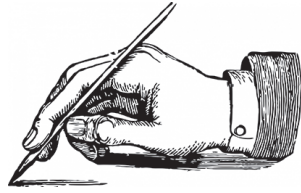
**Hendricks County
 Community Foundation**

6319 E. US Hwy 36, Suite 211, Avon, IN 46123
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Introducing Avon

The following was taken from the Hendricks County Union of May 2, 1872 and may be the first local item submitted by "Bacon," the newspaper's Avon correspondent. It not only gives a brief description of the town, but an example of the correspondent's sense of humor and history. The pen name points to the theory Sir Francis Bacon was the real author of works by William Shakespeare, "the Bard of Avon."



Avon is situated on the Indianapolis & St. Louis R.R.

It would be difficult to tell the size of this burg, for all claim to be in town, even from Barker's saw-mill on the west to Shipman's wagon shop on the east; and from Meritt's nursery on the north to Daywood the carpenter on the south. So the population would doubtless be somewhere between 5 and 5,000.

We have two stores, the one kept by R.M. Bartley and the other by Barker & Bro. The former has the P.O. and the latter the telegraph office. At both stores they keep almost everything from a two-cent piece down to a sack of coffee.

During the past year Mr. Bartley and Mr. Barker have each built quite a neat house and Moses Williams, the telegraph man, is now building a "fearful" house. We have a beautiful stream south of town (some thoughtless persons call it a branch). It has running or standing water at least 1/4 of the year (if the season is not too dry).

Most of the citizens are as yet farmers, though we have two loafers, two bummers and a runabout. All Avon needs to bring it to a level with other places is a lawyer and a doctor, through at present they both enjoy the rest they so much need.

Bacon

Did You Know?

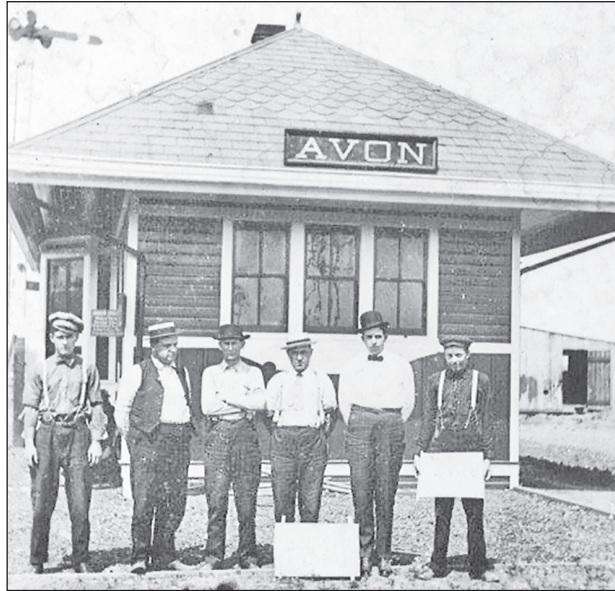
Professional golfer Patrick Rogers graduating from Avon High School. He played college golf at Stanford University, winning 11 times, tying the record set by Tiger Woods and now plays for the PGA.

The Town of Avon was the first community in Hendricks County designated as a Tree City USA.

The CSX rail yard in Avon is one of the four largest rail yards in the United States.

The Avon High School Performing Arts department is world renown, with the Avon Marching Black and Gold ranking number one in the state by ISSMA for seven years in a row. They earned nine state championships in ten years. Next year, the band will be marching in the 2024 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Town of Avon



History

"The supply of towns and villages of this township is very limited, there being but one small village in it and until very recently it has been entirely destitute of any, but since the building of the Indianapolis and St. Louis railroad through the township, the town or village of Avon has sprung up. This is a nice, enterprising little village...."

1874 People's Guide of Hendricks County

Some might believe the history of Avon is somewhat short, given the Town wasn't incorporated until 1995, but the settlement of the area can be traced back to 1823. The early family names included Hadley, Cox, Barlow, Payne, McClain and Huron.

A post office was established in 1833 under the name "Hampton," which lasted several years. In 1852, O.J. Huron accepted a commission as postmaster, giving the office the name "White Lick." A few years later, merchant John Smoot opened a store and in 1867 petitioned for a post office. There was no suggestion on the petition for a name for the post office, so Washington officials gave it the name, "Smootsdell."

The coming of the railroad brought more names for the emerging town. One of the men staking out the route labeled it "New Philadelphia." When the railroad was completed, another stake was placed at the location where the station would be, with the name "Avon" written on it. The name stuck, but the post office didn't. It was discontinued in 1902.

The interurban line started construction in 1904. The first car came through in 1906. The route came from Indianapolis through Avon to Danville, with 22 stops along the 19.8 mile route. The company's original plan was to expand the line to Rockville, but the plans never came through.

When Avon became incorporated, it received its own Zip Code (46123) but it was decided to build a larger post office at Danville rather than a new one in Avon.

The Road to Incorporation

The Indiana Constitution provides for residents of a town to petition their county commissioners to incorporate to provide municipal services through taxation.

The first town to incorporate in Hendricks County was Danville, the county seat of government, in 1835. Avon is the newest incorporated town, becoming official in 1995.

The first mention found of Avon incorporation, although tongue-in-cheek, was in the November 8, 1894 issue of The Republican: "There is some talk of having the west side of the township incorporated so that its citizens may established police powers, in order to protect themselves against harness cutting, chicken stealing, shooting stock, cutting down fences, bicycle thieves, etc."

Three-quarters of a century later, on July 3, 1969, Avon residents were invited to a meeting to discuss the possible incorporation as a town. The town limits under consideration were 10th Street on the north, Jessup Road to the south, and Corottoman Court and Casco Drive to the east. No boundary line was given for the west side. No further mention of the proposed incorporation was found.

The subject was resurrected in 1992. The area would be bounded on the east by Raceway Road, on the west by CR 400 E, on the south by CR 300S, and on the north by CR 200 N. This did not include approximately 100 acres that had been annexed into the Town of Plainfield.

A meeting on the proposed incorporation took place February 27, 1992, with about 300 in attendance. Dean Turner, who chaired the meeting, said growth was coming to the area. "Whether we incorporate or not isn't going to speed it up or slow it down. It's going to happen."

On July 7, 1992, a petition of the Town of Avon Committee to incorporate was withdrawn when the group was unable to raise the \$18,000 to mail certified letters to all landowners in the township.

In March of 1994, the subject was brought up before Hendricks County Plan Commission, who voted 4 to 3 against to the plans for incorporation. John Higbee, who, with William Bailey, sought a favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission, said "in 20 years from now, there will no longer be an Avon" and that it would "...run the risk of being absorbed into another community."

On October 10, 1994, a petition for incorporation was put before the County Commissioners, who approved the request. Four residents of Washington Township filed a complaint against the Commissioners in an attempt to overturn the incorporation. In January 1995. When the opponents failed to post a \$25,000 bond to keep their case alive, the way was cleared for Avon to become a Town.



Avon Town Employees



ROBERT POPE
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



DAWN LOWDEN
COUNCIL VP



JULIE LOKER
CLERK-TREASURER



KATHY SELCH, DEP.
CLERK-TREASURER



STEVE EISENBARTH
COUNCIL MEMBER



TIM ROBERTS
COUNCIL MEMBER



GREG ZUSAN
COUNCIL MEMBER



RYAN CANNON
TOWN MANAGER



SUSAN HARDY
EXEC ADM ASST



CRYSTAL McGRANAHAN
PD ADMIN ASST



AMY HUNTER
RECEPTIONIST



JARED WADE
COMM DIRECTOR



ANGEL GINO-GINO
COMM & MARKETING



JOHN TAYLOR
ECONOMIC DVLP



BILL PEEPLES
PLANNING DIRECTOR



IAN LEORA
SENIOR PLANNER



JUSTIN McBRIDE
CODE ENFORCEMENT



DAVE MARGASON
DEP CHIEF ENFORCE



MIKE TULLI
BLD COMMISSIONER



NATE NOYES
ASST BLD COMM



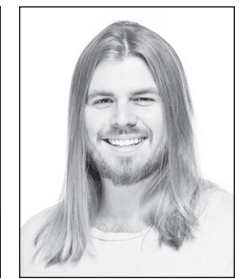
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BUILDING TECH



DREW WILSON
ENGINEER TECH



STEVE MOORE
PUBLIC WORKS DIR.



KEETON OLSEN
PUB WKS ASST. MGR



BETSY PORTER
PW ADMIN ASST



SEAN STOOPS
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BRIAN NUGENT
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PARKS MAINTENANCE



LORENZO AGUILAR
PARKS MAINTENANCE



Avon Town Hall
6570 East US Highway 36, Avon, IN 46123
Phone: 317-272-0948
Council meets at 7:00 PM
on the 2nd & 4th Thurs, Town Hall
AvonIndiana.gov



Longtime Avon Residents Witnessed Rapid Change



Gepff Bradley, Sr., (seated) and Geoff Bradley, Jr. at the Avon-Washington Township Public Library.

{The Avon-Washington Township Public Library has been collecting oral histories from longtime residents. The stories may be found on the Town of Avon website.}

Current resident Geoff Bradley Sr. recalls moving from Bridgeport, a small town off of U.S. 40 to a farm near Raceway Rd. in 1944.

“It was just farmland then,” Bradley Sr. said. “Bud’s Auto Parts was on U.S. 36 (LKQ today). I remember a small filling station and restaurant called Brown’s and we’d go down there to eat lunch in elementary school.”

Bradley Sr. attended the original Avon school building but moved to the “Annex,” an additional building adding a 20 x 95 ft. gymnasium, fluorescent lighting, automatic oil-fired boilers and a communication system, when he entered the seventh grade.

He remembers the widening of U.S. 36, bringing the main thoroughfare from two lanes to four lanes up to the Danville line.

“They did a big ribbon cutting and Gov. Bowen came out, the Avon band played,” Bradley Sr. said. “I think that did a lot for the growth on U.S. 36.”

In fact, the Bradley family was a part of development as more people migrated to the Avon area.

“Dad was a farmer and we owned about 160 acres from Raceway to what’s Ronald Reagan now,” Bradley Sr. said. “When the economy would present itself, he’d cut streets on his property and sell the land by lots. There were some farmers that weren’t happy about the growth, but he made a lot more money doing that than farming.”



The Bradley family farm near Raceway Road.

Glen Bradley, Bradley Sr.’s father, named the streets after his children, nieces and nephews; streets off of County Road 100 S., such as Bradley Dr. and Andrea Ct., along with the property that is now The Residences on Ronald Reagan Parkway.

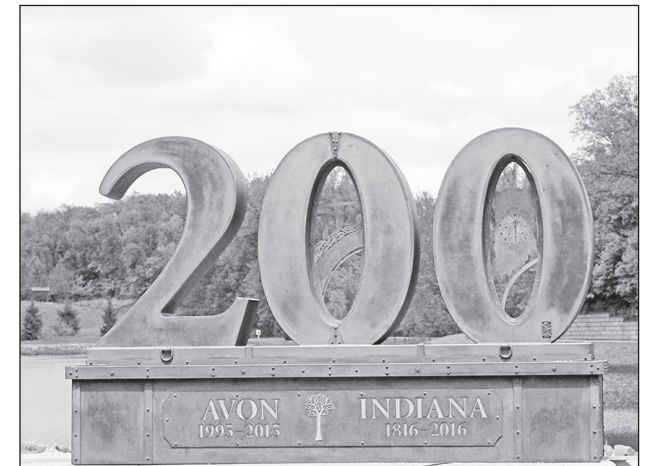
Geoff Bradley Jr. was born in 1960 and can recall riding his bike to the high school down U.S. 36 among fields and farmland.

“We had a Dairy Queen, a Monty’s Supermarket, a drug store and a fountain that we could go to eat for lunch, but you’d go to Plainfield for a McDonalds or Burger Chef and you could go to Ben Davis for other places,” Bradley Jr. said. “Lafayette Square was a big deal but at that time, but Avon was still considered country compared to Plainfield and Brownsburg.”



Glenn Bradley, 2nd from left) with fellow bus drivers for Avon Schools. When the area was still rural, many farmers found that driving a school bus was easy to fit in their schedule and a second source of income. Glenn was the father of Geoff Bradley Sr. and grandfather of Geoff Bradley, Jr.

Sculpture Commemorates State and Town Legacies



Created by sculptor Randall Flake, the “200” sculpture was approved as a Bicentennial Legacy Project. The Town of Avon commissioned the metal sculpture with the number “200” to celebrate Indiana’s Bicentennial and the Town’s 20th anniversary.

Located in the Avon Town Hall Park, the work is 12 feet high and 14 feet wide. The front of the sculpture says “Avon 1995-2015 and Indiana 1816-2016.” Inside the two zeroes are an image of the Avon Haunted Bridge and of the State of Indiana. A tree with the State Bird, a cardinal, is engraved on the base.

Angel of Hope Statue

On Sunday, December 14, 2008, the Hendricks County Angel of Hope statue was unveiled at Avon Town Hall Park.

Hendricks County Angel of Hope Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, raised the funds for commissioning and placing an Angel of Hope statue inspired by the 1993 Richard Paul Evans novel, *The Christmas Box*, in Avon’s Town Hall Park, as a place where parents can come to grieve and be healed.

“We believed that it would provide a beautiful, tranquil, dignified setting for the statue,” explained Angel of Hope President Scott Flood at the time of the unveiling. “The park is also centrally located and very accessible, so it would be easy for parents throughout the area to find, and it already serves as the site for the annual Walk to Remember.”



The Avon Seven Years War: East vs. West

Everyone knows about the American Civil War, between the North and the South. Few realize that Avon had its own war (without bullets) in the 1890's between the East and the West.

It began in 1890, when the railroad station was moved one mile east, and both the new and old location claimed the name of Avon. "The citizens of the old town are determined to have the station brought back," it was reported in the December 18 issue of The Republican, "while the movers are equally determined to leave it where it is now. The telegraph station has long been where the station now is and the donation of a strip of ground caused the station to be moved. It is hoped that the controversy will not be as serious as western county seat wars."

Three years later, the controversy waged on. The January 19, 1893 issue reported, "The Avon post office is much sought after. East Avon says they will have it and West Avon says they will keep it."

In February of 1893, the railroad company upped the ante and built a stock pen and "hog chute" at East Avon.

In May of 1893, a post office inspector was sent out to look over the ground amidst the agitation to move the post office to the railroad station. The newspaper noted, "Gentlemen representing both sides of the questioned attended him and it is presumed he left with a lot of information."

The May 20, 1897 Republican reported, "If the whole history of the seven years war



that has smothered and flashed between the two rival points known as east and west Avon, it would be eagerly read by every inhabitant of both cities and cause many a smile because of its many ludicrous points.

"Since the inspector was here a week ago, the east side has never ceased to smile and it has leaked out that the only cause of delay and of a democratic postmaster serving beyond his time, is in the small matter of a name, the government wanting to name the new metropolis McKinleysborough, while the citizens thereof are divided over Barker's Crossing, Shipmanville and Pughburgh, with chances in favor of the latter because it is short and handy."

Teams from East Avon and West Avon took the battle to the baseball field in the early 1900's. Well into the 1920's social items included the "east" or "west" prefix before Avon.

What is your favorite thing about Avon?

"My favorite thing about Avon is our commitment to being one strong and united community that provides the best of everything for all residents and visitors. Whether it's our public safety, our parks and trails, our schools, shopping and dining, or our residential options, our leaders are committed to providing the best options for everyone to raise their families and live prosperous lives here in Avon."

– Sean Stoops

"My favorite thing about Avon is the willingness of our residents to pull together in times of tragedy or triumph. The number of community leaders and organizations that rally around the many needs of our community is astounding."

– Brian Nugent

"My favorite thing about Avon is Avon High School Sports."

- Dave Margason

A Hauntingly Beautiful Bridge



Photo illustration of the Big Four railroad bridge at Avon, from "Artistic Bridge Design" by Henry G. Tyrrell.

The railroad played an important part in Avon's history and identity. Built in the 1870's, the railroad first spanned the Big White Lick with a wooden bridge. In 1883, the railroad company installed an iron bridge in its place.

By 1905, a project to lay double tracks called for a bridge that could handle the added weight and traffic. For the bridge at Avon, and at Danville, engineer W.M. Dunne designed a structure that would be made of concrete with a completely different design. The bridge was completed in 1906.

According to Professor James L. Cooper's book, "Artistry and Ingenuity in Artificial Stone: Indiana's Concrete Bridges, 1900 - 1942," high and wide spans could accommodate two tracks with minimum grade adjustments. Three arches with inner openings presented an imposing sight.

Henry Grattan Tyrrell, early-twentieth-century civil engineer and bridge builder, published "Artistic Bridge Design" in 1912. In it, he listed U.S. bridges he con-

sidered artistic. The the Big Four railroad's bridges at Avon and Danville were among the two dozen reinforced concrete bridges he selected, and the Avon bridge was used as one of the book's illustration.

Before the coming of the Internet and social media chatter, the biggest source of misinformation was folklore. The Big Four's concrete bridges soon acquired stories of hauntings. The tall tales are applied to both the Avon and Danville bridges, as well as other bridges throughout Indiana. The stories speculate that a worker on the bridge fell into the concrete and died, or that a mother haunts the bridge where her baby slipped from her arms and fell to its death while she crossed the bridge or several imagined tragedies.

In his book, Professor Cooper reflected, "While some Hendricks County residents know at least some of the haunts of the Avon and Danville bridges, none is probably aware that Tyrrell once included these same spans in his national gallery of artistic structures."



A Symbol of the Town

While the horrifying tall tales about the Avon Haunted Bridge bring out the curious and the ghost hunt-

ers, the Town of Avon has adopted it as symbol of its heritage.

A portrait of the bridge was once used on signs to welcome visitors to the town.

When the Town of Avon's logo was revamped a few years ago, a stylized version surrounds the letter "O" in the new design.



Avon Parks Provide Place for Reflection and Recreation



The tranquil beauty of Avon's Town Hall Park can be seen in this view of one of the lakes that are part of scenery.

Amid the growing number of shopping centers, housing developments, and drive-thrus, the Town of Avon has maintained areas for residents and visitors to take time for a walk-thru, quiet reflection, and a variety of recreational opportunities.

For many, the Town Hall Park, established in 2002, the crown jewel of the Parks System.

Located behind the Avon Town Hall, the park consists of 83-acres, and features lakes, two miles of paved trails, picnic tables, and benches, as well as playgrounds, restrooms and shelters, an 18-hole disc golf course, bocce court, outdoor ping-pong tables, and the only free, public outdoor radio control race track in Hendricks County.



Town Hall Park has hosts an annual RC festival featuring remote control boats, airplanes, cars and trucks, with racing and demonstrations.

The Avon Park system also includes:

Burnett Woods: Located in Avon at the Northeast corner of Dan Jones and 100 S, the Burnett Woods Nature Preserve is owned and operated by the Central Indiana Land Trust. The 80-acre property has a 1.7 mile marked loop trail which is open to the public from dawn to dusk.

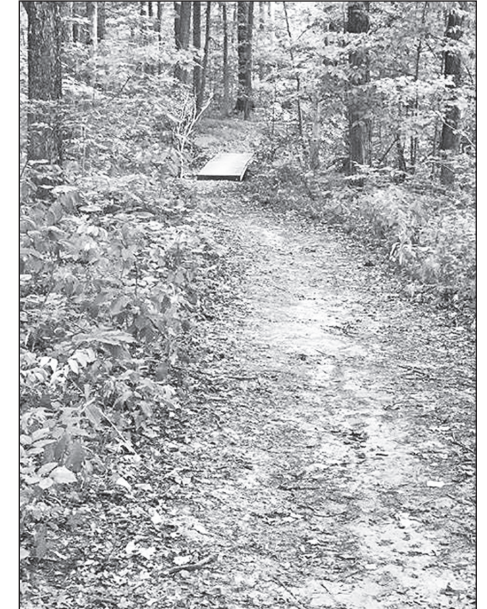
Gable Park: Gable Park is a 10-acre facility located off Gable Drive behind Ashley Furniture. The site of Avon's salt barns and the semi-annual Heavy Trash Day, Gable Park also contains a 3-acre fishing pond. As with Avon Town Hall Park, the lake is catch and release only, and requires a state fishing license. Swimming, wading, ice fishing, and ice skating are not allowed on any of the Town lakes or ponds.

HRH YMCA Park & Trail: Through a partnership established in 2011, the park and trails at the Hendricks Regional Health YMCA are open to the public. The trails are open to walking, running, and other non-motorized traffic. The park and athletic fields are also open to the public when not in use by the YMCA. Pets are permitted, but must be leashed. Owners are responsible for cleaning up pet messes. Pet waste pick-up stations are available for this purpose.

If you had to name one feature of the Town to tell a visitor about, what would it be?

If I had to share one feature about Avon with a visitor, I would brag about our parks and trail system. We have some of the most beautifully well maintained parks in the county that offer a wide variety of activities that offer something for everyone year around. Our trail system is remarkably well maintained all year long providing paved and primitive walking paths throughout the town that provide connectivity with other trail systems in Hendricks County.

- Sean Stoops



Barnett Woods Nature Preserve is owned and operated by the Central Indiana Land Trust.



In 2013, Hendricks Regional Health donated two concrete outdoor ping pong tables to Avon Town Hall Park.

The Town of Avon currently manages over 13 miles of multi-use trails and is in the midst of a trail and pathway expansion project to improve connectivity among Avon's neighborhoods and with adjacent communities/trails.

The White Lick Creek Trail is a major trail-building initiative to create a scenic, multi-use, north-south trail that follows the White Lick Creek. Long term, the trail will connect the Plainfield Recreation Center to Williams Park in Brownsburg by way of Washington Township Park. A branch off of the White Lick Creek Trail will create a connection to Avon Town Hall Park and the Avon-Washington Township Public Library. Design connecting Avon Town Hall Park to Washington Township Park is completed.

In 2017, officials from Brownsburg and Avon broke ground for the Bicentennial Trail connecting the two towns' trail systems between County Road 200N

in Avon and the B&O Trail in Brownsburg. The two towns shared the cost for the trail to improve access for pedestrian and non-motorized travel from Dan Jones Road at US 36 to the B&O Trail.

The Bicentennial Trail one of 80 projects around the state selected as a Legacy Project by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission to mark State's 200th anniversary.



My favorite thing about Avon is the future growth and development of the Avon Park system. We have a few undeveloped properties we are currently working on concept park designs for. I love that we have opportunities to give back to our residents and community through these properties and trail systems. I'm excited that one of Avon Parks' goals in 2023 is to have more education on the Avon Park system, especially as we grow and add more parks and trails.

- Shelby Marshall, Parks Director

Avon Schools Grow, Students Excel



In two short years, the Avon High School Speech and Debate team has grown from 10 participating Avon students to over 70 students, despite COVID restrictions. In 2020, for the first time in school history, 11 Avon High School students qualified to compete at the national tournament.

Avon: Commencement exercises of the high school were largely attended, the class of twelve was the largest ever graduated. The Republican, May 3, 1923

Today, the Avon Community School system is home to more than 10,500 students and expects larger numbers in growth over the next few years.

“We’re not the largest town, but our school district has the highest number of students by a large number and that’s one of the things that drive people to our community,” Town Council President Robert Pope said. “I know the schools are the reason my wife and I chose Avon and the people in this community is the reason I chose to run for office.”



Nine school busses wait in back of the new Elementary School at Avon in 1985. The busses carried more students than any other school in the county at the time.

Today, the Avon school system has 6 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 2 intermediate schools, a high school, and an early learning center.



The Avon High School Performing Arts department is world renown, with the Avon Marching Black and Gold ranking number one in the state by ISSMA for seven years in a row and earned nine state championships in ten years.

A Library Built on Dreams



Built in 1982, the Avon-Washington Township Library has had additions and renovations to create a place for residents of all ages to explore literature and learning.



Officials broke ground for the new library on Avon Ave. in 1982.

Avon is accumulating a neat library with the proceeds of library entertainments. Up to the present time these entertainments have netted some thirty dollars. The Republican, Feb. 9, 1888

The dreams and efforts of a few have built today’s Avon-Washington Township Library.

Before 1920, Washington Township paid \$1,000 a year for for its residents to be able to use the Guilford Township library. The Washington Township officials decided it was time to have its own library. A township fair and homecoming that fall raised \$300 for the library fund. The library was set up in the Avon school building, with some 500 books.

In 1965, the library moved to the Avon Shopping Center with 3,000 books.

In 1982, ground was broke for a library building at 498 Avon Avenue.



In late July, 2022, members of the Avon Town Council, Washington-Township Avon Library and Avon School Corporation celebrated an official Library sign along U.S. Hwy. 36.



The library has devoted a large green space for outdoor learning events.

20 Notable People of Avon

As part of the Town of Avon's 20th Anniversary Celebration on November 30, 2015, a contest took place to select 20 Notable People of Avon who have made a positive impact on the Town and beyond. Residents submitted names to a Selection Committee, with the following list as a result.

1. ADRIAN PARSONS

moved to Washington Township in 1852, served his country in the Civil War and was wounded in action. He served as Hendricks County Recorder, Washington Township Trustee, and as a teacher. In 1884, Parsons bought an 82-acre farm in Washington Township and around 1891, he bought soybeans from Japan and became the first farmer in Indiana to engage in the purposeful and sustained experimentation and production of this grain. He is recognized as Indiana's Soybean Pioneer by the American Soybean Association.



2. FLORENCE CAR-

TLIDGE gave 50 years of service to her community as a member of Avon Optimist and Rotary Clubs, Board Member of the Washington Township Public Library and Hendricks Regional Health Foundation. She was a founding Board member for Sycamore Services, a leader in making a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.



She won the Indiana State Tennis Championship seven times and was ranked 4th nationally in Women's Doubles.

In 2008, she sold her property to Hendricks Regional Health YMCA and her family donated the Cartridge Barn to the 4-H Fairgrounds to be used for educational purposes and special events.

3. JIM MILLER played basketball for Avon High School and graduated in 1954. He was an Indiana high school basketball coach for 37 years and retired with a record of 607-251. He won 16 Conference Championships, 18 sectionals, 5 regionals, 2 semi-states and went to Final Four in 1966 and 1994. He is a member of the Franklin College Hall of Fame and was inducted in to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2004.

4. CHET WRIGHT

served in the Indiana Army National Guard starting in 1940 and retiring as Brigadier General in 1978. He received three Sagamore of the Wabash awards for his service to his State and Country. The Avon World War II Memorial Soldier status is made in his likeness.

Chet was born in 1918 in Indianapolis. In 1940, he enlisted in the 139th Field Artillery, 38th Infantry Division of the Indiana Army National Guard. In 1944, he served in combat in the Pacific Theater. Serving as the Adjutant of the first battalion size unit to return to the U.S. from World War II, he set up procedures that were adopted by higher headquarters for future shipments.

Chet was promoted to Brigadier General in 1972 and he was permanently appointed to that grade by the President and received federal recognition in 1973. Brigadier General Wright's other awards include Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Indiana Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Hoosier Award And Legion of Hoosier Heroes.

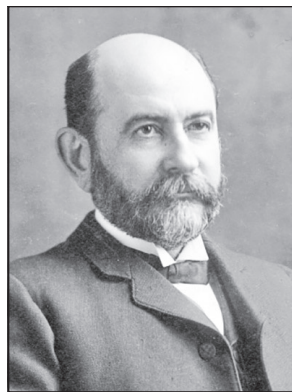


5. WILLIAM TEM-

PLE HORNADAY was born on his family's farm in Avon, west of present day Washington Township Community Park. He was an advocate of wildlife conservation. He was chief taxidermist at the Smithsonian's National Museum in Washington, D.C. where, in 1888, he created a display of bison to educate the public

about their possible extinction. This led to establishment of federally protected ranges for the bison. His idea of a zoological park in Washington D.C. led to the creation of the National Zoo. He also developed the Bronx Zoo which would be regarded for generations as the finest zoo in the world.

In 1915, he created the Boy Scouts of America's Wildlife Protection Medal which was renamed the William T. Hornaday Award after his death. In 1937, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt honored Hornaday by naming a mountain peak in Yellowstone National Park for him. Today, Mount Hornaday stands at the northeast corner of the Park overlooking the abode of one of those crucial earlier remnant populations of bison.



6. JOYCE HURON TRENT is a descendant of one of the pioneer families of Avon, the Hurons. Her family gave generously to the community, donating land for the 4-room Avon School that was built along US 36 at approximately the location of Fire Station Number 1.

The family gave their time and money to the Avon United Methodist Church (then Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church) and other organizations in Avon.

Joyce has been instrumental in her support of the Local History Room at the Avon-Washington Township Public Library. Not only through financial help but also through the donation of family treasures including land deeds, photographs, diaries and columns written by her grandfather, Seth Thomas Huron, for The Republican newspaper. The collection has become the cornerstone of the Huron Heritage Room.

7. DR. RICHARD HELTON was superintendent of Avon Schools from 1990 to 2004. He managed a student population that grew from 2,800 students in 1990 to 6,400 students in 2004 and supervised \$140 million of building construction including Avon High School. During his tenure at Avon Schools, the graduation rate was 90% and 82% of graduates pursued a college education. Also, Avon Schools were in the top 12% of all schools for ISTEP.

Dr. Helton is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Hanover College, Indiana University's Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to Education Award, Alpha Beta Gamma's College President of the Year, and Phi Theta Kappa's Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction.

He is also a recipient of the Indiana School Boards Association's Lorin A. Burt Educator of the Year Award and the Indiana Department of Education's Bell Ringer Award. He was twice named a Sagamore of the Wabash.

8. PAM DEWEESE has served on the Avon School Board for 21 years and is the founder of the Avon Education Foundation. She is the longest serving female and the second longest serving Board member in the history of Avon Schools. She has been recognized as a "Master Board Member" by the Indiana School Boards. She was elected as the first Board President for the Avon Education Foundation. Pam is a co-founder of the Partners in Education Volunteer Program and is past President of the Avon Elementary PTO. She co-chaired the Academic Achievement Committee of the Strategic Plan, served on two re-districting committees and on the finance and stewardship committees at Avon United Methodist Church.

9. LLOYDACTON graduated from Avon High School in 1959 with eight varsity letters. He is a member of the Avon High School Wall of Fame. He served on the Avon School Board from 1980 to 2008. He served on the Indiana School Board Executive Board from 2000 to 2009 where

he was President from 2006 to 2007. His awards include the Avon Rotary Club Citizen of the Year, Avon Alumnus of the Year, Indiana Outstanding Boardsmanship, Indiana Governor's Distinguished Hoosier Award and the Indiana Department of Education Bell Ringer Award. He has been on 5 mission trips and is a member of the Avon Optimist Club. The V. Lloyd Acton Leadership in Education Scholarship was established in 2000 in his honor to provide scholarships for students majoring in education.

10. CHET FRANCIS graduated from Avon High School in 1936. He was a member of the 1940 Indiana University NCAA National Championship basketball team. He was a 3-year letterman in basketball and baseball at Indiana University. After returning from WW II, he played professionally for the Indianapolis Kautskys Basketball team (now the Indiana Pacers) and was drafted by the Boston Red Sox. He coached Vincennes Lincoln High School to 7 sectional championships and 2 regionals during a 1947-57 coaching career. He was inducted in to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1986 and received two Sagamore of the Wabash awards.

11. BILL BAILEY led the effort to incorporate the Town of Avon and served as its first Council President. He is a graduate of Avon High School and Indiana University School of Business. Bill is the third generation owner of the family business in Avon called Acme Masking. He is a recipient of the Avon Rotary Club Citizen of the Year award.



12. DR. JOHN CALDWELL started his ministry work at Kingsway Christian Church in 1974 and continued for 37 years; retiring as Senior Minister. He led the church's growth from meeting in a bank building to its current facility where attendance has reached over 2,000. He led the Church's many efforts to assist those in need in Avon and throughout the world. In his retirement, he has continued preaching and teaching to people all around the world.

13. JOHN & LYDIA GIBBS graduated from Avon High School. They raised and milked dairy cattle and raised grain crops in Washington Township on the same farm John's parents, Howard and Gail Gibbs, farmed. Both were 10-year 4-Hers as were all

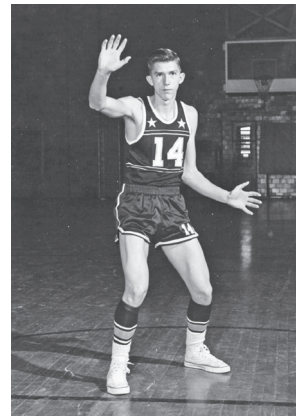


their children. Lydia was on the Avon School Board for 8 years; on the Hendricks County Council for 12 years; and was the Hendricks County Assessor for 8 years. She also was on the Town of Avon Committee in the 1990s. John was a school bus driver for 21 years and was a board member of Hendricks Power. Hendricks County Parks is developing their farm located in the southwest part of Washington Township as W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park.

14. SHARON HOWELL, former Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Avon, is a recipient of the Financial Management Award from the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. She is a Board member of the Avon Parks Foundation and Avon/ Washington Township Library Guild. She has served on the Board for the Avon Community Heritage Festival, Relay for Life and Leadership Hendricks County. She volunteered as a reading mentor at Avon Schools and was a member of the Avon Sports Booster Club. She is a charter member of the Avon Kiwanis Club.

15. MARIA LARRISON is a founding board member of Susie's Place Child Advocacy Center and currently works there as their child and family advocate. She has worked for the Hendricks County Prosecutor's Office where she assisted crime victims through the criminal justice process and created an advocacy program that is recognized as one of the best in Indiana. She has served as an officer of the Indiana Victim Assistance Network where she coordinated efforts among advocates around the state. She was founding board member of Sheltering Wings Center for Women. She helped lead a \$2.5 expansion of the facility.

16. REX McCLAIN is descended from Michael McClain, one of the original settlers of Washington Township. Rex graduated from Avon High School in 1956. He assisted his father in the duties of Township Trustee and served on the Avon-Washington Township Library Board for 32 years. Rex has coordinated the Avon Alumni Association and coached youth baseball and softball. He assisted the Avon Band Boosters and served as its President. Rex is a 50-year member of the Avon Optimist Club and founded the Care Bears Ministry at Bartlett Chapel United Methodist Church. He is a recipient of the Avon Key to the Town award.



17. BEULA MUSTON was born in Avon and graduated from Avon High School in 1930. She is a descendant of three pioneer families of Washington Township:

Barker, Reed, and Larsh. She obtained a nursing degree and helped establish the first hospital in the county. Beula received a journalism award for her article, "Nighttime in Pediatrics" published in the American Journal of Nursing. She was instrumental in gathering support in the late 1950s and early 1960s for a new high school.

18. PATRICK RODGERS is a graduate of Avon High School and is a two-time State High School Golf Champion. He was ranked as the #1 amateur golfer in the world. He was an American Junior Golf Association All-American and three-time first-team collegiate All-American. He turned professional in 2014 and has earned his PGA Tour card for the 2015-16 season.

19. DEAN & CAROLYN TURNER were lifetime farmers in Avon. Carolyn helped start the first Avon Kindergarten and the Hendricks County Meals on Wheels program. She



was President of the Hendricks County Extension Homemakers, Avon Home Economics Club and the Hendricks County Hospital Guild. She received the Avon Citizen of the Year and Avon Alumnus of the Year awards. Dean was a 10-year member of the Avon School Board and President of the Avon School Building Corporation. He was instrumental in establishing the first Avon volunteer fire department. He was a member of the Hendricks County Fair Board for 36 years and past Director of the Indiana State Fair Board and State Fair Commission. He was elected to the Indiana Association of County and District Fairs Hall of Fame. He was also a member of the Hendricks County Planning Commission and the 4-H Building Corporation. He was President of the Hendricks County Board of Health and the Hendricks County Merit Board.

20. ORVILLE WOODY was a long time resident of the Avon community and is a World War II Veteran. He taught at Avon Schools, was instrumental in the incorporation of the Town of Avon in 1995, and helped create the Greater Avon Chamber of Commerce. He also was a member of the Hendricks Symphonic Choir. He is a recipient of the Key to the Town award from the Town of Avon.

Quick Notes

The Town of Avon is in Washington Township, Hendricks County.

The population is approximately 21,474.

The Town was incorporated in 1995.

Remembering the Greatest Generation



Flags of the various branches of armed services surround the statue. Granite benches were donated to provide a place for visitors to sit.



In 2013, Avon Parks and Recreation added a new park at the northwest corner of Dan Jones Road and CR 100 S.

Located adjacent to Pine Tree Elementary School, the World War II Memorial Park offers a place for learning about and reflecting on the sacrifices of the many men and women who served during the war.

The memorial was made possible through the efforts and contributions of individuals and businesses who hosted a variety of fundraisers.



Ret. Brigadier General Clyde C. "Chet" Wright (center), a resident of Avon, helped to place the wreath at the dedication of the WW II Memorial. The statue was created in the likeness of Wright to represent all soldiers of the era.

Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices. The dawn of justice and freedom throughout the world will slowly cast its gleam across the horizon.
Harry S Truman



The highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of the central statue. Sculptor Bill Wolfe, at right, holding his infant grandson, points to the statue he created for the Memorial.

A New Sign for a New Town



In 2016, the Town of Avon adopted a new logo, designed by Rodney Reid of RLR Associations.

The white lines crossing in the center represents U.S. 36 and Avon Avenue (formerly S.R. 267), the crossroads from which the town grew. The logo has four segments representing key elements of the town: parks, recreation, the Haunted Bridge, and the Avon High School marching band. The elements are incorporated into a traditional shield design.

The logo was the first step in a wayfinding program that includes signage to guide residents and visitors to local destinations, as well as one gateways to major entry points to the town.

History of Avon's Main Street

Long before the town of Avon came into existence, the road on which it was located was one of the original Indiana state roads. It connected Indianapolis to Rockville, and is still called Rockville Road by many. In the early 1900's it was part of the Pike's Peak Ocean-to-Ocean Highway. In 1923, it became State Road 31. In 1926, when the U.S. Highway system came into effect, it became U.S. 36.



What's Ahead for Avon?

One aspect of Avon that makes it unique is its location on the map of Hendricks County.

"We're in the middle of everything," said Town Manager Ryan Cannon. "People in Brownsburg might not find it convenient to go to Plainfield and vice versa, but everyone is willing to come to Avon. We're accessible to the rest of the county."

Leadership is excited about their growth as a town over the past nearly 30 years and the new plans aimed at creating central areas within the town for the community to gather.

Seeking a Center

"I think one of the most exciting things is Easton Gray," said Cannon. "It'll be located just west of the current Town Hall and a very different development from what the people have seen in the past. It's a walkable community with commercial retail on the first floor, townhomes and apartments with a central gathering area. It's going to take 5 years to 10 years to build, but it will start in the next year or two. A big change for people in Avon, they don't just drive up through a drive-through. Something unique for the community."

Pope agreed.

"This will be a place in the community to eat, shop, enjoy the park. It's very walkable," said Pope. "Danville has the town square and Plainfield is revitalizing their downtown area. Avon is just 28 years old and has never had this type of location."

Groundbreaking is planned for the summer of 2023 for the 500-acre property. While it will take several years to complete, residents will begin to see the development in the next two to three years.

Looking for Balance

"This council has really pushed hard to diversify our tax base," said Cannon. "In the past, we've mainly been residential housing but they've invested a lot into County Road 100 S. and Ronald Reagan Parkway. We're starting to see the fruits of our labor and we want to have a balance of all of these things. We have parks, excellent public safety, a good education system and viability, which in the long term, will be really important," Cannon said.

Of course, a major part of what makes

Avon special is the people.

"We have such genuinely good, hard-working people here. It makes a community of those who appreciate where they come from and what they've done and they want to raise their family here," Cannon said.

Pope said so much of their success has been getting the 'right people on the bus'.

"I believe our staff is 'IT'," Pope said. "We've grown a lot and it's because of the staff that we've gone so far. We're always thinking about how to make things better for the community and when we're done, it's going to be great, but I don't think we'll ever be done."

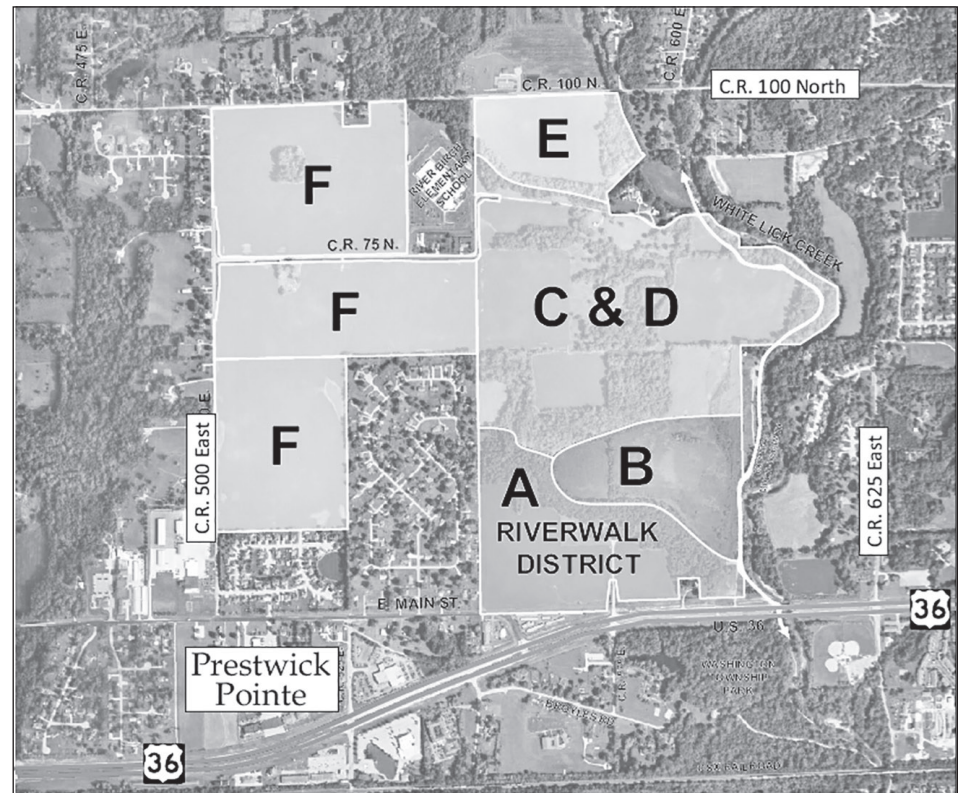
Communication

"To this council's credit, they have said they want to be more transparent and educate the public," Cannon explained. "It was a bit of a change, based on that feedback, we went in this direction to higher a communications person. Jared [Wade] has been great about a citizen perspective, bridged that gap between what citizens appreciate and it's been outside-the-box on how to communicate on a daily basis. If people are interested in things we're doing, there is tons of information out there. You can know exactly what we're doing, who supports it and who doesn't. Making that their priorities. Building trust and transparency. Humanize government. We're people too, we have families, my kids play sports with your kids. We're not sitting here at the town hall. We want [the public] to come participate and see what we're doing."

Robert Pope says Avon is a very young town, incorporated in 1995, and with young age comes some maturity problems.

"I think we're really starting to step out of those and mature, grow into that next stage and starting to do some of those things that will provide better, more efficient and more services.

"Government leadership doesn't just happen. It takes humans behind it. It takes regular people with regular jobs and regular lives sacrificing their time and their family time to help and serve to bring the best we think we're doing for the community."



Proposed Easton Grey community just west of Avon Town Hall and Park. © 2021 Microsoft Corporation © 2021 Maxar © CNES (2021) Distribution Airbus DS)

Easton Grey is a 500-acre mixed-use community planned as a new central gathering place for the Town of Avon.

Residential dwelling options include single-family and multi-family. The core will offer 54,000 sq. ft. retail space, 6,000 sq. ft. for office space and 6,000 sq. ft. restaurant area.

According to Republic Development, the heart of Easton Grey will be its 65-acre Riverwalk District centered around a civic complex that offers opportunities for community gatherings. Here residents and guests will be able to shop, enjoy an ice cream cone, walk to restaurants, participate in special events, and share stories with one another. Easton Grey is planned to be a town center, something Avon currently lacks.

Surrounding the Riverwalk District will be five distinct neighborhoods. Four of the neighborhoods with single family homes for varying lifestyles e.g. empty nester, traditional family, move-up residential and designer homes. Home prices in these neighborhoods will range from \$300,000 to \$1.0 million plus. All neighboring residents will have direct access to the Riverwalk District. Easton Grey residents will also have convenient access to the Town's extensive system of trails and parks. There also is planned a neighborhood of residences exclusively for age 55 and older adults who seek housing accommodating their active lifestyle with minimal maintenance and amenitized offerings.



An architect's rendering of what a part of Easton Grey's civic complex might look like.



At the May 11th, 2023 Council meeting, the Town of Avon approved an MOU to begin the process of working with Avon Junior Athletic Association. This partnership aligns with the core mission of the Town of Avon and AJAA.

"As our community continues to grow, AJAA has had its eyes set on the future and has been exploring ways to ensure that youth sports remain accessible and successful in our community for decades to come," said John McDavid, Board President of AJAA.

Town of Avon Council President Robert Pope shared, "These are exciting first steps that the Town of Avon and Avon Junior Athletic Association are taking to strengthen and grow youth sports programs in our community."

Justin Thompson, Executive Director for AJAA stated, "As Avon continues to grow, we have sought a partner dedicated to serving youth sports in the same fashion as AJAA and providing resources to develop youth sports opportunities in Avon. We are excited that the Town of Avon will provide the necessary resources, and the time has come to join forces with the Town of Avon."



Read the entire press release online at

avonindiana.gov/ajaa

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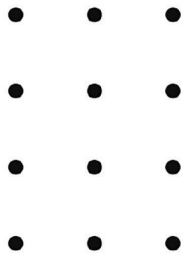


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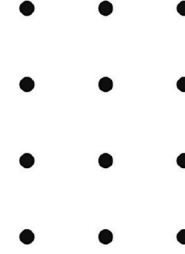
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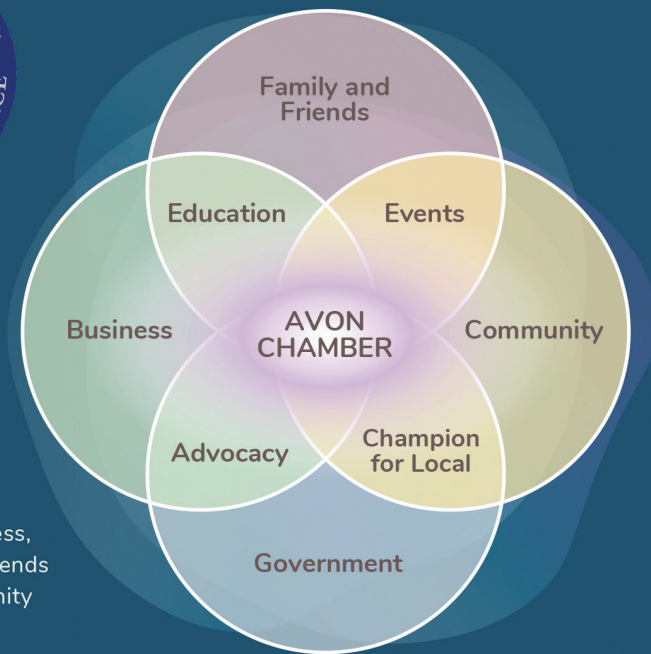
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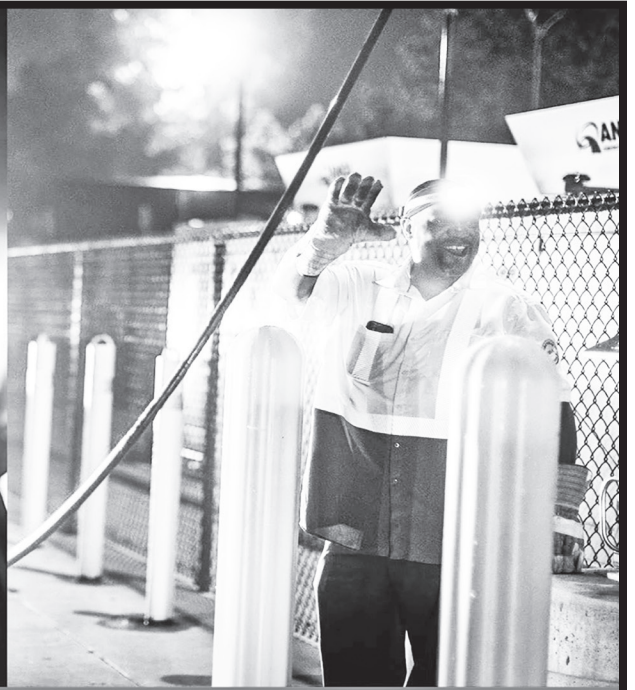
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