



Sheffield Lake Fire Department

Chief David P. Novak

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Arrive Early

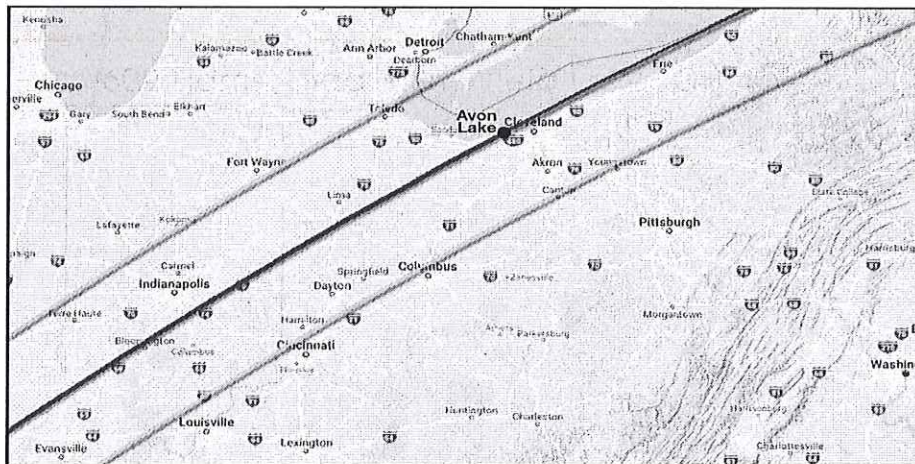
Stay Late

Stay Put

January 10, 2024

As of January 10, 2024 we are 89 days away from the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse. This event will increase the population of Lorain County from 315,000 to nearly one million people. Being in the path of totality, northeast Lorain County will see many of these visitors trying to get the best view of this once in a lifetime event. The city is working on preparing to accommodate the large number of visitors expected to travel to Sheffield Lake. Below are some considerations residents should know before the event.

- 1) The total solar eclipse will cast a 124-mile path of totality through northern Ohio making this area prime for viewing.



- 2) Visitors may begin to arrive in the area as early as Saturday to secure prime viewing areas.
- 3) When the moon totally blocks the sun's rays, visitors will experience 3 minutes and 16 seconds of totality (darkness).
- 4) Residents are encouraged to purchase ISO and CE certified solar eclipse glasses to protect their eyes during viewing. Never look directly into the sun.
- 5) Due to the large number of visitors in the area, cell phone service and internet may be reduced or non-existent. 911 phone systems will be experiencing a higher than normal call volume and may experience outages.
- 6) Residents should have all necessities prior to the event (Food and fuel). Gas stations have run out of fuel during these events.

- 7) Residents are encouraged to block off their driveways or entrances to their property. Furthermore, they are encouraged to block off their yards where feasible.
- 8) All hotels and campgrounds are already booked within a 100-mile radius of Lorain County.

- 9) Traffic congestion and blocked streets will make travel difficult if not impossible. Tow trucks will be staged in the city for removal of vehicles blocking streets. Request for police and fire may be delayed due to the priority of the call. Receiving mutual aid from our surrounding communities may be delayed. Non-emergency calls may go unanswered for hours.
- 10) Residents should know the locations of first aid stations, command centers and staffed city sites in case of emergency.
- 11) The City is working with property owners to identify viewing areas. Parks, churches, parking lots and commercial properties.
- 12) The Sheffield Lake Boat Launch will be closed to accommodate food trucks.
- 13) The Joyce Hank's Community Center will be used as a first aid station to treat minor emergencies.
- 14) April's weather is very unpredictable and may affect turnout.
- 15) The city will have dumpsters available for the large amount of trash the event will produce. The dumpsters will be located throughout the city. In addition, portable toilets will be located throughout the city.
- 16) After the solar eclipse has passed, visitors are encouraged to stay due to the anticipated traffic. Traffic on the highways may be at a standstill for a long period of time. I-90 and the turnpike may be a parking lot due to the large amount of people attempting to leave.
- 17) Residents are asked to monitor the city's website for the most up to date information.

