

Moreland Hills

News and Updates for the Residents of Moreland Hills

APRIL 2023

At a Glance

MORELAND HILLS REFLECTS ON MAYOR DAN FRITZ

March 16, 2023 marked the sad and surprising passing of our mayor, Dan Fritz. Moreland Hills is a small village, but Dan found a way to have an outsized impact.

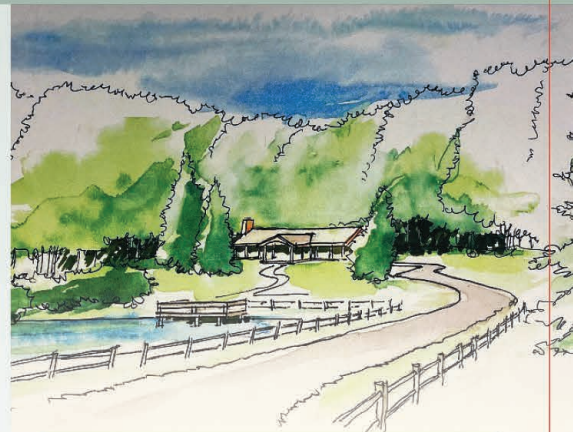
He was our energetic leader. After serving 12 years on Council, Dan was elected mayor in 2019. He approached the position with an unparalleled work ethic and a commitment to making a difference. Look around any corner of Moreland Hills and you will see Dan's imprint. For example, he was instrumental in making Forest Ridge and the Lang Pavilion a reality, preserving our zoning, reducing emergency response times, working with Council to focus on green initiatives and diversity & inclusion. He was also a "rock of leadership strength" during the COVID crisis. In his "spare time," he risked his life as Assistant Fire Chief for Orange Village and Fire Captain for Bedford Heights.

He was our savvy advocate. Dan spearheaded many cross-jurisdictional collaboration efforts. He was known within our region as someone looking out for the best interests of all. He developed relationships with the

mayors of neighboring communities. He used his astute political skills to advance the interests of small villages and towns at the county and state level. Because of Dan, Moreland Hills received many grants to help us navigate COVID and to improve our infrastructure.

He was our charming friend. Not one person on Village Council or within his administration would say otherwise. He was always there to share a smile, crack a joke to diffuse the tension of a spirited debate, or pull a prank on one of his buddies as payback for a prior good-natured ribbing. The reason he had so many friends among the residents was that he cared deeply for them. If he noticed someone was feeling down, he tried to find out why so that he could pick them up.

New Mayor Ethan Spencer, our Council, administration, employees, and residents pledge to do our best to follow the legacy of Mayor Daniel Fritz and to continue Moreland Hills' high level of safety, service, and community excellence. Dan would not want it any other way.





MORELAND HILLS PARKS COMMISSION
INVITES YOU TO OUR

EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 1ST, 2:30-4 PM
LANG PAVILION, FOREST RIDGE PRESERVE
3800 CHAGRIN RIVER RD,
MORELAND HILLS, OH 44022
HOT CHOCOLATE AND DONUTS AT 2:30 PM
HUNT STARTS PROMPTLY AT 3:00 PM!

 
SCAN THIS QR CODE TO RSVP!
BYOB: BRING YOUR OWN BASKETS



RECENT ACTIVITIES

Chief Todd Dietzel Sworn-In

We swore in new Police Chief Todd Dietzel last month. You can watch the ceremony on our Village YouTube page. A link can also be found on our Facebook page and Village website.

Village Improvements

Look for cul-de-sac improvements, ditching enhancements, new pavement on some of our main roads and side streets, improvements to Forest Ridge Preserve, and new additions to our vehicle fleet in the coming months.

Survey

Check out our Facebook page and Village website for a link to our survey for entertainment suggestions for "More in the Hills" events at Lang Pavilion this spring/summer. We are hoping to have some new creative events this year.

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ETHAN SPENCER

Dear Residents,

For those of you who may not be aware, the Village Charter dictates that should the mayor be unable to carry out his/her term, the council president would succeed to the mayor's office. Being in my second year as council president, I was sworn in as your new mayor on the afternoon of March 16, 2023. I know that I have big shoes to fill. My pledge

to all of you is that I will do my very best to ensure that our residents receive the level of service that they have come to expect and that we continue to operate in a cost-effective manner. We have outstanding employees serving you in Moreland Hills, and they have my utmost support. In a future newsletter, I will share with you a little bit more about myself and my priorities for the Village.

A BRIEF NOTE TO SAY THANK YOU!

To the residents of the Village of Moreland Hills, thank you for an amazing 34+ years with the Police Department. Moreland Hills is a great and beautiful community. I am both grateful and proud to have served and experienced an outstanding career starting December 12, 1988 and retiring February 28, 2023. The level of support and appreciation received by the community and its residents for services provided by the Safety Forces, as well as all services provided by the Village, has been nothing short of overwhelming. The Police Department will always be committed to providing professional services to the Village residents. As I now move on to the next chapter in my life, again, I want to say thank you.

Chief Kevin Wyant, Retired

Mayor

Ethan Spencer, espencer@morelandhills.com

Council

David Emerman, demerman@morelandhills.com

Thomas Fish, tfish@morelandhills.com

Jennette Irish-Glass, jirishglass@morelandhills.com

William Janke, wjanke@morelandhills.com

Stephen Richman, srichman@morelandhills.com

Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, villagehall@morelandhills.com



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Moreland Hills

At a Glance

STUDENT CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Village of Moreland Hills is seeking one Moreland Hills resident who is a current high school student graduating in the class of 2025 to join its Parks, Green, and Diversity and Inclusion Commissions. These commissions are tasked with important work, such as preservation, recycling, and representation. The student selected will serve for two years as a full voting member of these commissions, with their input equal in weight to all other members. In year one, the student will be a member of the Green Commission and Diversity and Inclusion Commission. In year two, the student will be a member of the Parks Commission. Commission members attend commission meetings, discuss their opinions, help plan events, and cast their votes. Additionally, the selected student will have the opportunity to meet with the Village Mayor, Council President, and department heads.

Eligibility: You must be in the graduating class of 2025 and you must be a Moreland Hills resident. The selected student may choose to begin their term in either Summer of 2023 or at the start of the 2023-24 school year.

To apply: Email a maximum two-page essay to villagehall@morelandhills.com answering the following question: “Over the next 10 years, how will you improve the communities in which you live?” The following information should be in the body of your submission email only: Name, address, email, phone number, school, and graduating class. Essays will be scored without knowledge of the identity of the applicant, so please do not put any identifying information in your actual essay, as that information will not be made available to those scoring them.

The deadline for submittal is May 15, 2023. Selections will be made in June 2023. We look forward to your input!

VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

The Village has a vacant Council seat effective March 16. Our Charter requires that they fill that seat within 45 days. If you are interested in applying for the seat, the following information will be helpful to you:

Qualifications: According to the Moreland Hills’ Village Charter, to apply for the open Council seat you must have been a resident and an elector of the Municipality for at least two continuous years before the day of your appointment (April 2023).

To Apply: Please submit a resume with cover letter to villagehall@morelandhills.com or drop them off to Sherri at Village Hall by 4:30pm on April 7. Please include your email address.

Applicant Interviews: Will take place weekday evenings during the second and third week of April. You will be contacted to set up an interview time.

COMING EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt – April 1

The Parks Commission is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at Lang Pavilion in Forest Ridge Preserve (3800 Chagrin River Road) on Saturday, April 1st from 2:30-4:00pm. See more information elsewhere in this newsletter.

Good Friday – April 7

Village Offices will be closed on Friday, April 7.

Income Taxes Due – April 18

Municipal income tax returns are due Tuesday, April 18, even if no income tax is due. For filing requirements, contact RITA 1-800-860-7482 or visit their website at www.RITAOhio.com/faq.

Chipping Week – April 17-April 21

The Service Department will chip branches and sticks on your street. The branches should be cut into 4-foot lengths and stacked, in small bundles, facing the same direction; they DO NOT need to be tied. Piles with crisscrossed branches and anything over 5 inches in diameter WILL NOT be chipped. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. Please have the bundles stacked by the side of the road by 7:00am on April 17; the Service Department will chip them over the entire week. Please note: per Village Ordinances, the first 15 minutes will be provided without a charge. Any additional time needed for chipping will be charged at a rate of \$30 for each 15 minutes over the allotted time.

May Primary Election

The May 2, 2023 Primary Election will decide municipal and judicial candidates who will advance to the November 7, 2023 General Election. Voters will also decide ballot issues. For more information visit www.443vote.us.

Greening the Hills – May 20

Greening the Hills will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 9:00am to Noon at Village Hall. Bring your hazardous waste, paper for shredding, electronics, scrap metal, tires, and oil-based paint to be properly disposed. Employees and volunteers will be on hand to take the items out of your vehicle as you drive through our campus.

Community Kids Fishing Day-SAVE THE DATE – June 10

The Ninth Annual Community Kids Fishing Day event will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at Potts Pier. There will be two different sessions that day: 9:00am-Noon and 1:00pm-4:00pm. To register for this event go to the Village Facebook page or website for the link to the registration form.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

The following Ordinances and Resolutions were passed in March:

ORDINANCE 2023-04 – authorizes the Mayor to purchase a Labrie Automated Side Loader with Heavy Duty Helping Hand Arm (Rubbish Truck) for the Service Department for an amount not to exceed \$375,804.60.

ORDINANCE 2023-10 – establishes the permanent appropriations for the fiscal year 2023 for the Village. This ordinance establishes our yearly budget.

ORDINANCE 2023-11 – authorizes the Mayor to purchase one (1) 2022 International CV515 SFA dump truck for an amount of \$139,900.48.

ORDINANCE 2023-12 – amending Ordinance 2022-46 authorizing the Mayor to purchase one (1) 2023 Chevrolet Traverse LS, AWD vehicle for the Police Department, which stated that the amount of the vehicle was \$33,498.50. The actual amount of the vehicle is \$33,900.00, which is an additional \$401.50.

ORDINANCE 2023-13 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a project award agreement with Cuyahoga County for County American Rescue Plan Act Funding through Cuyahoga County Council District Six for an amount of \$250,000.00.

RESOLUTION 2023-14 – strongly urging the Ohio Governor and members of the Ohio General Assembly to restore the Local Government Fund to pre-recession levels. This fund was reduced in 2011 by 50%, from 3.68% of General Revenue Funds to its current level of 1.66%.