

Moreland Hills

News and Updates for the Residents of Moreland Hills

AUGUST 2020

At a Glance

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DANIEL FRITZ

Hello Residents,

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and doing well. We continue to navigate the COVID protocols as set forth by the State of Ohio and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Please monitor our Village website and Facebook page for updates regarding any changes that affect your services. As you are aware, the State of Ohio now requires facial coverings while inside of any commercial occupancy and when outside and unable to maintain social distancing. As you can imagine, the enforcement issues surrounding this requirement are significant. Our friends at Chagrin Valley Dispatch have created an electronic form that can be filled out if you wish to file a complaint related to a violation of this order. A link to this form can be found on our Village website and on the Village's Facebook page. Once filled out, this form will be sent to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Please do not call 911 for any witnessed violation. An exception would be for a witnessed altercation or stepped up argument that could lead to violence. For these instances 911 would be an appropriate option. In the end, my hope is that all residents take this requirement very seriously and adhere to the mandate. As one who works in emergency services I can attest that your police officers and firefighters are taking this issue very seriously. Our county is experiencing a significant increase in positive cases. This increase is NOT directly related to more testing. In a few short weeks we have gone from a 3.4% positive rate to over 8% (as of 7/21/2020). I personally know two individuals who have tested positive in the past week. Remember that the Ohio Department of Health and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health remain the best options for your day-to-day updates. Social media memes, forwarded viral emails and sound bites from 24/7 news channels sometimes fail to paint an accurate picture. As your Mayor, I remain vigilant on ensuring your safety and staying up to date on all state and county protocols.

Throughout these trying times we have seen signs of hope and a strong sense of community spirit. This past month we completed our honorary tree planting event located at the main entrance to Forest Ridge Preserve. Representatives from many of our neighborhoods took part in this planting effort conceived by resident Tom Shaper. The beautiful trees and flowering bushes will now take root and grow to represent the perseverance and strength of our amazing community. You can see pictures of this wonderful event in another section of this newsletter. Complimenting this effort was a recent construction project led by Eagle Scout candidate Joey Fletcher and his friends in Troop 309 out of the Garfield Memorial Church. Joey led a work crew in the construction of a firewood storage shed to be used at our future pavilion to be located in Forest Ridge Preserve. See our Facebook page for pictures of their wonderful work. Rounding out this community spirit are the long hours our docents at the Garfield Cabin donate each weekend so that residents and non-residents can tour the birth site of our nation's 20th President.

While our year-to-date numbers are down significantly, I'm confident that our immediate action and conservative financial planning have postured us in a position that will allow our numbers to bounce back as we move forward. Our goal remains to avoid using any reserve funds and to realize improved numbers as early as this fall. Be assured we are monitoring the financial situation on a daily basis and are making changes when required.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of this summer. I know it has been difficult. Understand that we are working very hard to ensure the integrity of our Village and its wonderful services. That goal can only take place with the support of outstanding employees and an engaged community that reminds me every day of just how special it is to call myself a resident of Moreland Hills.



A LETTER FROM BUILDING COMMISSIONER PAUL KOWALCZYK...

I do not think I need to say that this has been a year like no other. As the months have moved on and we have been cooped up in our homes, I see that many individuals, like myself, have turned to finding projects or activities to do around the house. Sometimes we come up with a plan for a new project and forget that the community might have restrictions or ordinances that may not allow us to fully implement our ideas.

As the weather got warmer and people started moving outside, the Building Department started seeing accessory structures pop up in front yards like chicken coops, pools and other types of structures. Under our Codified Ordinances, Section 1151.13, the Village only permits low decorative walls and open fencing within the front yard. All other structures are limited to behind the house in order to preserve the openness of the front yards. There are also setback and size limitations on structures that need to be considered when choosing a location within the yard area for your project. Depending on the scale of the project, in addition to the review by the Building Department, there may be additional formal reviews where the projects need to be presented to the Board of Zoning Appeals or Planning Commission.

Before embarking on a project, I recommend that residents contact the Village Building Department to discuss their project. You might get stuck purchasing materials or items that will have to be removed if they are in conflict with our zoning codes. The zoning codes have been put in place to protect the character and value of our residential areas and to ensure orderly and beneficial development within the community.

Mayor

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Council

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At a Glance

HONORARY TREE PLANTING PARTICIPANTS



Top Row (L to R): Gianfranco Borroni; Karen Cunningham and sons; Doug and Jeff Moore; Patty Emser; Beth Furlong; Jan Jones
Bottom Row (L to R): Allan Kleinman; Laura Kozminski-VanderHart and sons; Paul and Kim Pesses and family; Tom Shaper and Lydia Burrell with Cusco and Rooney; Shayna Sharpe; Curtis Taylor

COMING EVENTS

Chipping Week is August 17-21 – 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. Please have the bundles stacked by the side of the road by 7:00am on August 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.

Community Kids Fishing Day – While it is certainly our goal to hold the 6th Annual Community Kids Fishing Day on **September 12**, we must defer to the appropriate and safe protocols issued by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. We continue to plan for this event and hope that residents understand that it may have to be rescheduled if it cannot take place in a safe and organized manner. We will update the status of this event on our Village website, Facebook page and in the September newsletter.

REMINDERS

James A. Garfield Cabin Open – The Cabin Open House scheduled for August 1 has been cancelled; however, the cabin is open and accepting visitors by appointment only. Contact www.mhhsOhio.com to make an appointment or for more information. All visitors must practice social distancing and wear masks. Please note, there will be no access to public restrooms.

Employee Clambake – The Village is still accepting donations for the Employee Clambake, which will be held in September. Donations can be made by check payable to the Village of Moreland Hills and mailed to 4350 SOM Center Road.

Fall Greening the Hills Event Rescheduled – REMINDER: The Fall Greening the Hills event originally scheduled for September 12 has been rescheduled for **Saturday, October 31 from 9:00am to Noon**.

CLOSINGS

Village Closings – Village Offices will be closed Monday, September 7th for the Labor Day holiday. Senior pick-ups will be done on Tuesday that week; regular rubbish/recycling pick-up days will not be affected. Yard waste and special picks will **not** be done that week.

TEMPORARY SIGNAGE

We have seen an increase in the amount of temporary yards signs throughout the community. Although they are allowed, there are some regulations that must be followed:

- No temporary sign shall exceed six square feet and must be located on the owner's property.
- No signs are to be placed within the public right-of-way (the area dedicated for the streets and utilities). The public right-of-way stops at your front property line – If unsure where that is, a good rule of thumb is place signs a few feet back from the utility poles.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact the Building Department 440.248.1188.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in July:

Ordinance 2020-43 – authorizes Change Order Nos. 2 and 3 with ABV Contracting Co. for the 2019 Drainage Program, resulting in the net contract increase of \$3,787.70.

Ordinance 2020-44 – authorizes Change Order Nos. 2 and 3 with Terrace Construction Co., Inc. for the Sewer Lateral Installation in various locations, which resulted in the net contract increase of \$1,706.90.

Ordinance 2020-45 – creates the Local Coronavirus Relief Fund within the financial records of the Village of Moreland Hills for the purposes of receiving and expending funds to pay only those costs that are consistent with the requirements of the CARES Act.

Ordinance 2020-46 – a monthly appropriations ordinance.