

# Moreland Hills

News and Updates for the Residents of Moreland Hills

FEBRUARY 2022

At a Glance

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DANIEL FRITZ

Dear Residents,

As we enter 2022 I wanted to thank a few individuals for their hard work as it relates to your Village government. Councilman Steve Richman assumed his leadership role as Council President with the enthusiasm we have all grown to expect. I want to thank him for the two years he served in this capacity. Congratulations to our new Council President Ethan Spencer. I have no doubt that Council President Spencer will represent his colleagues well as we continue to incorporate the pride and respect that has come to define our local governance in Moreland Hills. I would also like to thank outgoing Council members Paul Stanard and Monica Sturgis. Paul Stanard chaired our Planning and BZA Commission and his work set the standard for scrutiny and fairness as we apply our building and zoning code. Congratulations to Councilwoman Laura Kozminski-VanderHart who will assume her new role as Planning Commission Chair. I would also like to welcome our new Council members William Janke and Tom Fish who were sworn in this past January.

Recently I met with Moreland Hills residents Judy and Ron Neuger. The Neugers had some input to offer in terms of educating our residents on the presence of coyotes within our borders. Together we created a coyote sighting form that residents can use to help us map out the presence of these animals. To be clear, our Village will not be using this information as part of any culling program. We are simply defining areas where a heavy presence is reported so that we can direct message neighborhoods with techniques used to discourage these animals from entering one's property. This data may also be used in the event that we need to seek advice from the local experts at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. We have thoroughly researched the issue and met with local and national experts. We can now share this information with interested residents. The coyote sighting form can be submitted electronically and is found on our Facebook page and Village website. The form also includes some

suggestions related to dealing with our local coyote population.

Speaking of community involvement, a hearty welcome to our new Chair of the Moreland Hills Parks Commission. Angela Wyant is eager to lead this group of community volunteers who advise the Village on areas related to our parks. Additionally, this group works very hard on events like our "Head for The Hills" run/walk. I look forward to working with Angela and other members of this valuable commission.

Work surrounding our new pavilion area continues to unfold even as the snow poses some challenges. Our Service Department has been working to install two new patios adjacent to the pavilion. Other landscaping enhancements are also taking place as we work our way towards the dedication event to be held this Spring.

Looking for a way to become involved in your community? The Moreland Hills Historical Society is always looking for new members. This group works with Village Administration and within the Parks Commission to keep the spirit of James A. Garfield alive. Recently I took the advice from a friend and read *Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard. This amazing book details the youth of James A. Garfield and leads the reader through his presidency and assassination. As we all know, a young James A. Garfield walked the land a few steps away from our Village Hall. Several references to this time period are detailed in this great book.

This year presents our Village with some exciting opportunities that will be taking shape in the next few months. The formation of our Inclusion Commission, the creation of a Student Civic Leadership Program and a new Ad Hoc Committee on environmental issues are all slated for discussion and implementation in 2022. Look for details as these efforts take shape.

My family and I would like to wish you all good health and peace in this new year. It is a tremendous honor to serve as your Mayor and I'll never take that responsibility lightly.



## CLOSURES AT VILLAGE HALL

### PRESIDENTS' DAY

Village Offices will be closed on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 21. There will be no Special Pick-Ups or Yard Waste Pick-ups that week. Senior rubbish/recycle pick-ups and other streets scheduled for Monday rubbish/recycle pick-up will be done on Tuesday.

## SAFETY ALERT:

The Village has received multiple complaints of "near misses" with joggers and dog walkers who are not clearly visible. In fact, many are wearing dark clothes with no reflective gear or lights. As we all know, the winter months get darker much earlier so a walk/run at 5:00pm without reflective gear or lights can be extremely dangerous.

PLEASE help us to help you...MAKE SURE YOU ARE VISIBLE.

Thank you.

## FROM THE CHAGRIN VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT...

Thank you to Moreland Hills and its residents who have helped us in getting closer to our goal of 1.5 million dollars for much needed capital improvements at our current location. We hope to break ground on the new station addition this fall, which will help us to better serve all the communities in the Chagrin Valley.

### Mayor

Daniel Fritz, dfritz@morelandhills.com

### Council

David Emerman, demerman@morelandhills.com

Thomas Fish, tfish@morelandhills.com

William Janke, wjanke@morelandhills.com

Laura Kozminski-VanderHart,  
lkvanderhart@morelandhills.com

Stephen Richman, srichman@morelandhills.com

Ethan Spencer, espencer@morelandhills.com

### Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, villagehall@morelandhills.com





Village of Moreland Hills  
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Moreland Hills, Ohio 44022

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*At a Glance*

## COYOTES

Residents may have noticed an increased presence of coyotes in their yards lately. Mating and birthing months of the coyote encompass January, February, and March each year. While coyotes tend to be more protective and territorial during this time, please be aware that attacks on humans are incredibly rare. Attacks on pets, however, can occur but you can take steps to prevent coyotes from entering your yard, such as:

- Eliminating outdoor pet food, cleaning the grill area including the grease tray, and avoiding garbage cans being stored outside when an indoor (garage) option exists.
- Consider using a tray under your bird feeder to eliminate seeds from dropping on the ground.
- Take your pet out on a leash; coyotes can scale fences.
- Employ hazing techniques when you see a coyote on your property. The most common technique is to make yourself appear larger by waving your arms above your head and yelling at the animal.

Safe practices with pets should take place year-round, as culling or thinning the presence of coyotes is an exercise in futility. If, however, a coyote appears to be aggressive or dangerous, residents can hire a nuisance trapper. Please be aware that trappers can be expensive and the snare method used can be quite painful and inhumane for the animal. The goal is peaceful cohabitation and NOT removal of the animal.

The Village is providing a Coyote Sighting Report Form (the link is available on our website and Facebook page) in an effort to document the prevalence and concentration of coyotes within our borders. This information can then be used for direct messaging purposes and to mitigate any issues that requires attention, such as the presence of a defined nuisance animal. Please do not call our Police Department to report a sighting, but use the form instead. Our officers are not able to put the animal down, unless of course it is severely injured.

## MORELAND HILLS POLICE AND EMPLOYEES FOUNDATION

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to the Foundation this past year. The Village police and employees genuinely appreciate your support and your personal notes of thanks for a job well done. If you have not had an opportunity to make a donation to the Foundation, it is not too late. Please contact Village Hall if you need a donation envelope. Thank you again for your support. Best wishes for a great 2022!

## ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

The following Ordinances and Resolutions were passed in December:

- Ordinance 2022-01** – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Walter|Haverfield LLP from the January 2022 Organizational Meeting through the January 2023 Organizational Meeting, for general legal services and to engage William Hanna as Law Director and R. Todd Hunt as Legal Counsel for the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission.
- Ordinance 2022-02** – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd. and Jeffrey J. Filarski for Village Engineer Services for 2022.
- Ordinance 2022-03** – provides for the continued employment of Santo T. Incorvaia as prosecutor, fixing compensation.
- Ordinance 2022-04** – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to provide Phase II Stormwater Services in 2022-2025, relating to illicit discharge detection and elimination programming and pollution prevention/good housekeeping assistance.
- Ordinance 2022-05** – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement between Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, Cuyahoga County and the Village of Moreland Hills for participation in the Juvenile Court Community Diversion Program for 2022-2023.

## DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Cleveland Metroparks will be continuing their Deer Management Program this winter in a portion of the South Chagrin Reservation. Portions of the South Chagrin Reservation will be closed to the public on several days from January 18 through March 17, 2022, from Noon to 6:00am the following morning.

Safety remains the number one goal of the Cleveland Metroparks. Signage indicating that the reservation will be closed completely during the management program will be posted. In addition, residents who own property adjacent to the Cleveland Metroparks Property will be sent a letter informing them of the program.

Specific closures will be posted on the Cleveland Metroparks Alerts and Closures page by 6:00pm on the evening prior to an area's closure. <https://clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/visit/alerts-closures>

Cleveland Metroparks has worked hard to ensure that the deer management program is safe, humane, and effective. As in past years, venison will be donated to a local food bank.

## SAVE THE DATE

We will be having our Pavilion Grand Opening on Saturday, May 7, 2022, from Noon to 3:00pm. Additional details will be available in the coming months in our newsletter and on social media.