

February 2016

Message From Mayor Susan Renda

Dear Resident,

Council members chose their leadership at the organizational meeting held on Jan. 6. Steve Richman will again serve as Council President, and Paul Stanard will continue to serve as Planning Commission Chair. I reappointed Robin Cooper as a resident member to Planning Commission. Robin has served the Village for over a decade on Planning Commission, and her insights and attention to detail serve us well. Ted Buczek was named Chair of the Facilities Committee and Monica Sturgis was named Chair of the Roads and Safety Committee.

The committees will meet the fourth or fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 and 8 a.m., respectively. Check the calendar on the Village website for the exact dates. Planning Commission will meet at 6 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. Finally, Council meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. I encourage you to attend any and all meetings.

I also appointed my staff at the organizational meeting. You may remember that Council approved my appointment of Jeffrey Filarski of Chagrin Valley Engineering at the December meeting. Aimee Lane, who served as Assistant Law Director for over three years, will serve as Law Director. Santo Incorvaia will continue to serve as Prosecutor. He has ably served the Village in the Law Department for over 16 years. Finally, I reappointed Sherri Arrietta as Council Clerk. We have an excellent staff, and I look forward to serving with them.

Newly elected Judge Michelle Paris swore in Council members Steve Richman, Ted Buczek and Dan Fritz at the beginning of the organizational meeting. Retiring Law Director Margaret Cannon administered the oath of office to me on Jan. 3 at my home. It was one of her last official acts as Law Director and was a special moment for me.

Council members, the staff and I are officially elected, appointed and sworn in and ready to work together again. We had our first regular Council meeting on Jan. 13 and are in the beginning phases of our budgeting process. We will continue to budget conservatively and limit spending while attempting to maintain a high level of services. The Village retains a healthy fund balance and continues to plan for the future. We will update our five-year capital budget plan and continue to put monies into our "rainy day fund." We gave our employees a 2 percent raise for 2016.

At the regular January Council meeting, we appointed a new part-time patrol officer, Aaron Taricska, to the Moreland Hills Police Department. He comes to us from the Notre Dame College Police Department. Using part-time officers helps us avoid the use of overtime to fill scheduling holes caused by vacations and sick-time use.

Assistant Safety Director Dale Canter has finished the Village's emergency operations plan, which will be certified by the county. The Village will receive a plaque commemorating this impressive achievement at the February Council meeting. We would love for you to attend. I am impressed with Dale's work and his dedication to the village.

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan will finish its work soon and present its findings to Planning Commission, probably in February. Thank you to all who participated in the survey and the community outreach meeting. It was an interesting process and I think we will have a very good product.

Regards,

- Mayor Susan Renda

Green Tip: Community Recycling Awareness Grant

Every year the Village applies for, and usually receives, the Community Recycling Awareness Grant through the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. Communities can receive up to \$5,000 for their projects, which will help increase recycling awareness and increase community recycling opportunities. This year we will be applying for the grant to help pay for:

- An updated Recycling Guide for our residents
- Shredding services provided at our two Greening the Hills events
- Recycling signage

We will keep you updated on whether we are successful in our request for the grant.

Village Hall Closed Presidents Day

Village Hall will be closed on Monday, Feb. 15, in observance of Presidents Day. There will not be any Special Pick-Ups that week. Senior rubbish/recycle pick-up will be on Tuesday, and the rest of the rubbish and recycling schedule will remain the same.

Mayor

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Council

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Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, villagehall@morelandhills.com

Ordinances and Resolutions

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in January:

Ordinance 2016-01 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Walter|Haverfield LLP for legal service and to engage Aimee Lane as Law Director, from January 2016 through the January 2018 Organizational Meeting.

Ordinance 2016-02 – confirms the appointment by the Mayor of Sherri Arrietta as Clerk of Council for a term beginning at the adjournment of the January 2016 Organizational Meeting and ending at the adjournment of the January 2018 Organizational Meeting.

Ordinance 2016-03 – provides for the continued employment of Santo T. Incorvaia as Prosecutor for the Village for a term beginning at the adjournment of the January 2016 Organizational Meeting and ending at the adjournment of the January 2018 Organizational Meeting.

Ordinance 2016-04 – fixes the compensation of various officers and employees of the Village.

Ordinance 2016-05 – confirms the appointment by the Mayor of Aaron Taricska as a part time patrol officer.

Ordinance 2016-06 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an amended contract with Guardian Life Insurance Company of America for the provision of Life Insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance to the Village employees. Council made a

motion at the Organizational Meeting to increase the coverage from \$15,000 to \$25,000. This ordinance provides for that increase at a cost of \$8.25 per employee per month.

Ordinance 2016-07 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into the first amendment to the Building Department Services agreement with the City of Pepper Pike. Both communities have agreed to adjust the percentage split of the building department costs to more accurately reflect the actual services being provided to each community.

Ordinance 2016-08 – designates Sherri Arrietta, Council Clerk, to attend Sunshine Law Training sessions on behalf of elected officials.

Deer Program

Brian Zimmerman, Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland Metroparks, has informed the Village that the Metroparks will continue their deer management program this winter. They plan a deer herd reduction for the South Chagrin Reservation. The main body of the park will be closed to the public from noon to midnight on several days during the period of mid-January through mid-March.

They will use every safety precaution, but please be aware of any posted signs. In addition to posted closure signs, all residents who own property adjacent to Cleveland Metroparks property will be sent a letter informing them of the culling program. The resulting venison will be donated to a local food bank.

Safety Corner

Aggressive Driving

Aggressive driving accounts for more than half of all traffic fatalities. Most people think of “road rage” incidents when they think of aggressive driving, but many common behaviors such as tailgating, failing to observe signs and regulations, and seeking confrontations with other drivers, all qualify as potentially aggressive behaviors.

Speeding is one of the most prevalent aggressive behaviors and contributes to one-third of all fatal crashes. AAA conducted a traffic safety culture index survey and found that half of the drivers surveyed admitted to exceeding both neighborhood and highway speed limits by more than 15 percent, and a quarter of the drivers said they consider speeding acceptable.

Throughout outreach and education programs, AAA works to offer the public tools to assess their own behavior and recognize the signs of aggressive driving. As more people understand the many behaviors that can become aggressive and see their own behavior in a new light, they can begin to adopt safer driving practices and manage risk more effectively. Take AAA’s quiz to find out if you are a calm or an aggressive driver: <https://www.aaafoundation.org/are-you-aggressive-driver>

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