

Moreland Hills

News and Updates for the Residents of Moreland Hills

MARCH 2021

At a Glance

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DANIEL FRITZ

Dear Residents,

It is with an increasing sense of optimism that I write to you this month. The COVID-19 vaccination program for 1B has been in place for several weeks now. While it is not functioning at capacity, the news is good. Both Moderna and Pfizer will be increasing production and the supply sent to our County will be increasing. I have heard from many residents within the 1B designation who have received their first dose. I have also heard from some who have been experiencing trouble in getting this appointment scheduled. I continue to participate in updates from the Governor's Office as well as the Ohio Department of Health and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. In Moreland Hills, we will continue to message our residents through this newsletter, social media, the Village website and CodeRed email updates. We continue to strongly encourage our residents to subscribe to our official Facebook page and to sign up for CodeRed (see Village website for instructions). These two platforms allow for frequent and immediate communication related to Moreland Hills events and issues.

Speaking of issues. Many of you have reached out to me with concerns about the frequent coyote sightings within our Village. Most of these concerns seem to be centered within two areas of the Village. The Skyline/Bentleyville/Greentree neighborhood and the Mill Hollow/Jackson Road area continue to report sightings of multiple coyotes. We have been working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and our Police Department has arranged for a community ZOOM event featuring officials from ODNR. This event will be held on March 9 at 6:00pm and will allow residents to ask questions related to the presence of these animals. Look for more information on that meeting elsewhere in the newsletter. I have also reached out to the Head of the Division of Wildlife in Columbus at which time I sought answers to some specific questions related to pet safety, human safety, precautions to be taken and some options if we should realize a "hot spot" as defined by the presence of aggressive animals. This issue is not an easy one to navigate, and seems to reappear every few years with the only changes being the

neighborhood(s) reporting the sightings. In the absence of an aggressive animal, our guidance suggests that we can peacefully coexist with these animals and that through education and messaging we can reduce the likelihood of any negative interactions. After our community ZOOM meeting we will package all of this information and distribute it to all residents. If you are unable to attend this virtual meeting please submit your question(s) to my Administrative Assistant Sherri Arrietta (villagehall@morelandhills.com) and we will be sure to include them in our meeting.

I have received several concerns from residents related to runners and walkers on the streets at dusk. A few residents have contacted us stating they had a "near miss" while driving on our dark streets. It is imperative that all runners and walkers wear bright reflective clothing while out at dusk. I have even noticed that those wearing all black are even difficult to see in the middle of an Ohio grey sky day. Please help us spread this message so that we can avoid a tragedy.

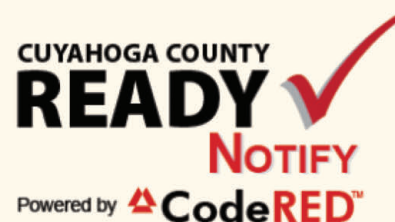
Recently, I met with the Chagrin River Watershed Partners in order to discuss goals for 2021 and to identify areas in the Village where erosion scenarios exist. Moving forward, it is my goal to work with this wonderful agency in an effort to apply for a Section 319 Grant. These grants are administered by the Ohio EPA and are utilized to reduce erosion and sediment issues in areas vulnerable to significant failure. We are working with our Village Engineer to determine areas where this definition could be applied, and to start preliminary groundwork that will allow us to apply for such funding. Additionally, we discussed other areas of concern and proactive stewardship of the Chagrin River.

Lastly, we are in the final stages of finalizing our FY 2021 budget. This will include our Road Program and other capital improvements. Our goals are significant but must be tempered with the economic realities of the current state of the economy, our anticipated revenue streams and other variables that guide our conservative financial planning. I look forward to sharing the results of this budget which must receive legislative approval from your very engaged Council Members.



MORELAND HILLS E-NEWSLETTER

The Village provides the option to receive our monthly newsletter virtually. Check our website and Facebook page for the link to sign up to receive our e-newsletter. Once you sign up, if you no longer wish to receive the paper copy, email Sherri at villagehall@morelandhills.com and let her know.



READY NOTIFY - CODE RED

The Village is once again offering this notification system to our residents. Check our website and Facebook page for the link to sign up for the Code Red emergency notification system.

CLOSINGS:

Good Friday: Village Offices will be closed on Friday, April 2.

Moreland Hills Town Hall Meeting: Living with Coyotes

March 9 @ 6:00PM • Via Zoom

(Check the Moreland Hills Website and Facebook page for the Zoom Meeting Link)

Please submit your questions to Sherri at villagehall@morelandhills.com prior to the meeting.

Mayor

Daniel Fritz, dfritz@morelandhills.com

Council

David Emerman, demerman@morelandhills.com

Laura Kozminski-VanderHart,
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Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, villagehall@morelandhills.com



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At a Glance

SAFETY TIPS TO HELP PREVENT BURGLARIES

With the recent break-ins in Moreland Hills, the Police Department wanted to share some tips to help prevent burglaries.

First, if you have an alarm system, you should consider having the alarm company contact the police first. This will get them en route to the scene, and then the alarm company can contact the homeowner. Most often, we find that residents have the alarm company contacting the homeowner first, and if they do not get a response, the alarm company attempts to contact a second or even a third person before notifying the police. These calls take precious time, creating a delay in police response in the event of an actual break-in. If the alarm is false, a police officer response can always be canceled prior to their arrival.

The following are some other tips to consider to help prevent you from becoming a victim of home burglaries:

- Lock all doors and windows
- Keep expensive items out of sight; be aware of what can be seen through the windows
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle, when it is in the driveway or the garage
- Lock your vehicle, even if it is parked in the garage
- Keep the entry door from the garage into the house locked
- Consider installing motion sensor lighting for the exterior of your residence
- Do not leave tools and other items lying around

- Do not advertise that you are away by posting on social media
- Do not advertise big purchase items by leaving boxes at the street for pickup ahead of your rubbish collection day
- Utilize timers on lighting, especially when you are away from the home
- If you do not have an alarm, consider getting an alarm system and/or video cameras with motion and audio capabilities
- Remember to keep shrubs trimmed, especially by doors and windows to eliminate hiding places

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Moreland Hills Police Department.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

The following Ordinances and Resolutions were passed in February:

Ordinance 2021-01 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contractual agreement with the City of Bedford for jail services for the Village of Moreland Hills.

Ordinance 2021-02 – authorizes all actions necessary to accept a NOPEC 2021 Energized Community Grant.

Resolution 2021-03 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Julian & Grube, Inc. with the approval of the State of Ohio Office of the Auditor, for audit services for the five fiscal years ending December 31, 2020 through December 31, 2024.

Ordinance 2021-04 – amends Ordinance 2020-53 to correct a typographical error. “Section 1151.07(f)” of the Codified Ordinances will be replaced with “Section 1151.07(e).”

Ordinance 2021-05 – an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

Ordinance 2021-06 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Wichert Insurance Services, Inc., which includes general liability, police professional, public official, automobile, and property & cyber liability insurance.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT...

Please DO NOT FLUSH products that are not meant to be flushed; this includes disinfecting wipes, feminine hygiene products, and paper towels, for example. These products clog the pump station equipment and the sanitary sewer system, posing an ongoing problem which could result in a sewage back-up into resident’s homes.

The Village is currently experiencing issues with the pumps clogging up or shutting down because some of these products are being flushed.

Even if the product is labeled “flushable,” please DO NOT FLUSH IT as it will create an issue at our pump stations, which can cause an overflow into the environment and residents homes.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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. A walk at 5pm without reflective gear or lights can be extremely dangerous.

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

Thank you.

TAX INFORMATION:

REMINDER

Municipal income tax returns are due Thursday, April 15, 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. File early and file electronically to avoid the “last minute” stress.

Residents may order tax forms and publications directly from the IRS online or by phone:

- Visit [IRS.gov/orderforms](https://www.irs.gov/orderforms) to order tax products to be delivered to your home by mail.
- Call the IRS toll-free at **1.800.829.3676** to order tax products to be delivered to your home by mail. This service is available **7:00am to 7:00pm, Monday through Friday**, excluding Federal Holidays.

CHIPPING PROGRAM RESUMES IN APRIL

The 2021 Chipping Program starts next month; the week of April 19-23. The Chipping Program runs from April through October, on the third full week of every month.

HARVEST FOR HUNGER

The Village of Moreland Hills has once again partnered with Chagrin Falls, Bentleyville, Hunting Valley, and South Russell for the Cleveland Food Bank’s annual Harvest for Hunger campaign.

This food and fund drive runs through the month of March and provides for 21 Northeastern Ohio Counties. Nonperishable food and monetary donations, once collected will be delivered to the Cleveland Food Bank by the Chagrin Valley Fire Department, coordinators of this event.

You can drop off donations at Village Hall in the appropriately marked collection bins in the lobby throughout the month of March.

Last year, a total of almost 2000 pounds of food and over \$600.00 was collected for this great cause. Let’s try to do as well, if not better, this year!