

Message From Mayor Susan Renda

Dear Resident,

The Moreland Hills' Police Department hosted a "Town Hall" meeting on February 26, 2019 to discuss telephone scams and internet security. Sheryl Harris of the Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs and Moreland Hills Police Lieutenant Todd Dietzel spoke and provided useful tips on how to avoid being scammed. Lt. Dietzel worked with nationally recognized internet security expert, Alex Hamerston, to compile a list of things to avoid while using the internet. Ms. Harris spoke about her experience as Director of Cuyahoga County's Department of Consumer Affairs and described common telephone scams being perpetrated in our area. I have tried to capture the most interesting points from that meeting.

According to Ms. Harris victims may get a phone call while surfing the web from someone posing as a representative from Microsoft, Apple, or another well-known tech company. The person on the phone says that they noticed that your computer is running slow and asks you to allow them to have remote access. The bogus company then offers to put antivirus software on your computer for a charge. The truth is you can find this software on the internet for free plus you should never allow a stranger to have unfettered access to your computer. Microsoft and Apple do not initiate calls like this. Another common phone scam occurs when someone contacts you from overseas and offers to split the profits if you help them move highly valuable goods to the U.S. They often pretend to be royalty, a missionary or a member of the U.S. military abroad. They ask for a payment and then disappear.

Another popular scam involves sweepstakes and/or lotteries. Victims are told that they have won a prize but they have to pay "taxes," "customs charges," or "handling fees" before they can collect their winnings. They may even receive a "partial winnings" check to cover the fees. However, when the victim deposits the check they eventually find that it is counterfeit and they owe the bank all funds that they forwarded to the scammer. Finally, someone pretending to be a family member (usually a grandchild) calls claiming to need money to pay a fine to avoid going to jail. The perpetrator is generally crying hysterically so the victim is unsure whether it is or is not a relative.

Scammers often ask for payment in gift cards whereas legitimate organizations never ask for that payment method. If someone asks you to pay with a gift card, you are most likely being

scammed. In general don't be rushed or scared into sending money to a scammer. When in doubt, call the police for help. If you have been scammed or even if someone attempts to scam you, you should report it to the police. According to Lt. Dietzel reporting incidents like these allow the police to help other victims. Even if they cannot get your money back, they can warn others. And remember, if someone tells you not to call the police, your first call should be to the police.

Keep your computer software updated. Both Apple and Microsoft computers can be set to update operating systems automatically. A computer with the latest updates is less vulnerable to being hacked. Rely on your instincts; if it feels wrong, it probably is. Keep yourself informed. Use the search engine on your computer to research scams. Check the website at the Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs at consumeraffairs.cuyahogacounty.us or call 216.443.7035.

Finally, use long passwords that are hard to guess. Consider using song lyrics or children's rhymes such as jackspratkouldeatnofat. Choose something that is easy for you to remember but hard for a scammer to figure out.

I found this meeting extremely informative and worth my time. I hope to see you at the next one.

Best,
- Mayor Susan Renda

Tax Reminders

RITA — Municipal income tax returns are due Monday, April 15, even if no income tax is due. For filing requirements, contact RITA [800.860.7482](tel:800.860.7482) or visit RITAOhio.com. File early and file electronically to avoid the "last minute" stress.

Residents may order tax forms and publications directly from the IRS at IRS.gov/orderforms or by calling 800.829.3676.

Additional resources can be found at: cuyahogalibrary.org/Research/Tax-Information.aspx

Closings and Events

Chipping Week April 15-18

Please make sure your materials are placed curbside the weekend prior to the scheduled pick up date and are bundled and tied with the branches cut no longer than 4 feet in length. No logs or tree stumps, please. The Service Department will work their way through the Village throughout the week. Please note, chipping will not be done on Friday, April 19.

Holiday Closing

Good Friday - Village Offices will be closed on Friday, April 19.

Free Family Event

The Friends of the Orange branch of the Cuyahoga County Library are hosting a free family event on **Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.** to honor President James A. Garfield's memory with a tree dedication, snacks and crafts for kids. Please consider stopping by and learning about the 20th President of the United States.

Community Kids Fishing Day, June 15

Moreland Hills will host its' Fourth Annual Community Kids Fishing Day at Potts Pier (3800 Chagrin River Road). Look for more information in future newsletters and at morelandhills.com.

Village of Moreland Hills

phone: Village Hall 440.248.1188
web: www.morelandhills.com
e-mail: villagehall@morelandhills.com

Mayor

Susan C. Renda, srenda@morelandhills.com

Council

Ted Buczek, tbuczek@morelandhills.com
David Emerman, [demerman@morelandhills.com](mailto:demergen@morelandhills.com)
Daniel Fritz, dfritz@morelandhills.com
Stephen Richman, srichman@morelandhills.com
Paul Stanard, pstanard@morelandhills.com
Monica Sturgis, msturgis@morelandhills.com

Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, villagehall@morelandhills.com

Ordinances and Resolutions

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in March:

Ordinance 2019-04 – enacts new Section 1151.10, “Dwellings Permitted On A Lot,” of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Moreland Hills, to clarify that there shall not be more than one (1) single-family dwelling located on a lot. **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2019-05 – amends Section 1171.03, “Swimming Pools,” and Section 1313.13, “Building Permit Application; Issuance Restrictions; Conflict With Zoning,” of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Moreland Hills, to make the two Sections consistent with each other so that the Building Department shall approve plans and specifications for swimming pools administratively and that the Planning Commission shall approve plans and specifications for tennis courts and other play areas. **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2019-12 – establishes the permanent appropriations for the fiscal year 2019 for the Village. This ordinance establishes our yearly budget.

Ordinance 2019-13 – an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

Ordinance 2019-14 – places a moratorium on the operation of any short-term residential real-estate rentals in the Village for six months (until September 13, 2019). These rentals are a semi-commercial use and Council needs time to review legislation and to enact reasonable regulations regarding these type of rentals.

Green Tip

This spring, when you clear the closets of the stuff you no longer like or doesn't fit, remember that many items can be donated or recycled.

There are textile companies that will take anything that is made out of fabric and reuse or recycle it. In Moreland Hills, Simple Recycling will pick up clothing, blankets, drapes, pillows and sleeping bags and other textiles at the curb. Use the Simple Recycling bags and put them out on the same day as your regular recycle pick up.

The Lander Circle Kiwanis accepts donations of lightly used clothing, shoes and furniture, as does Goodwill, which has trucks in the parking lot of Landerwood Plaza. You can Google clothing donations and find dozens of options, some of which pick up at your door.

Message From the Moreland Hills Historical Society

The James A. Garfield Birth Site has been selected to be part of the Ohio Presidential Trail!

Presidential historic sites are part of a new 13-stop trail that crisscrosses the state. Our museum requires the same resources as the other 12 National Sites highlighted on the trail, however, we do not qualify for government funding. We rely on volunteers and private donations to continue to offer this National Historic landmark free to all visitors.

How can you help?

- Buy a Commemorative brick to be placed on the path to the Birth Site (\$50 for members and \$60 for non-members). Visit MHHSohio.org.
- Offer to open the cabin to visitors just one Saturday (10 am.-1 p.m.) this summer. No experience needed. Email MHHSohio@gmail.com.

Recycle Cart Stickers

The Village was awarded the Recycle Awareness Grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District again this year. Part of that grant included Recycle Cart Stickers that the Village will provide to all the residents. This sticker will go right on your recycle cart in order to further help you understand what can and cannot be put in the curbside recycling program.

The Service Department will place the stickers on your carts on your recycle day at the end of May/beginning of June.

No Spring *Greening the Hills*

The Village always tries to operate in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible. Therefore, we will hold only one *Greening the Hills* event this year (October 5, 9 a.m. to noon). After tracking the participation level at the past two *Greening the Hills* events, it was determined that two events each year were no longer warranted. We will re-evaluate the situation again after the fall.

Power Outages

You will find an insert in this newsletter from First Energy explaining the many ways they try to keep in touch with their customers during a power outage. Please read it and contact them with any questions.

During a power outage, you can contact First Energy directly by texting 544487 (LIGHTS), calling 888.544.4877, using the First Energy mobile app, or visiting firstenergycorp.com.

Please do not call Village Hall, the Police Department or 911. Our dispatch center employees dispatch for police, fire and EMS only.

If you have any questions, Dave Conley from the Illuminating Company will be available prior to the Council Meeting on June 12, from 6:30 to 7 p.m., in the Village Hall Council Chambers.