

Message From Mayor Susan Renda

Dear Resident,

As you know, the Village is proposing a Police & Fire levy on the November 2018 ballot that will increase the levy by 3 mills and is expected to generate an additional \$750,000 for an approximate total of \$1.5M in revenue dedicated to safety services each year. Council and I hosted an informational session on July 11 to discuss the proposed levy. The Treasurer, Prashant Shah, and I generated the following fact sheet and distributed it at the meeting.

Background and Details

- Village public safety services are high performing and highly valued by our residents, who have stated consistently their appreciation for our police officers and firefighters
- The Police & Fire Levy increase will maintain the high level of safety services that is a top priority for residents; this levy is a separate funding mechanism for Police, Fire, EMS and Dispatch operations only
- The annual Safety Services budget is \$2.2 million; the current 3-mill levy generates \$774,000 annually
- The current Police & Fire Levy generates just 35% of safety services budget
- Village expenses exceeded revenue by an average of about \$392,000 in three of the four years between 2014 and 2017
- The State of Ohio has drastically reduced its spending on local safety in our communities.
 - The state eliminated estate taxes, which reduced Village revenues by an average of about \$263,000 per year
 - The state reduced Local Government Fund revenues paid to the Village by 75% over a 13-year period
- The Village can no longer afford to make up the difference between Safety revenues and expenses with monies from the general fund because of drastic reductions from the state
- The Village has relied on its reserves to make up the difference; these reserves are now at or below fiscally prudent levels
- This is a revenue problem not a spending problem; the Village has engaged in many cost-saving programs and staff and equipment sharing opportunities over the past decade; we can no longer cut expenses without cutting services
- The Village is fiscally responsible and has a Bond rating of Aa1, the only Village in the state with a population under 5000 to have this high rating
- Village government had policy discussions and decided to raise the safety levy, which is funded

through real estate taxes, as opposed to income taxes for the following reasons:

- Everyone uses safety services and everyone pays real estate taxes
- The current Police and Fire Levy covers only 35% of safety expenses; revenue should be more in line with expenses
- About 60% of the real estate taxes you currently pay goes to the schools; a little over 30% goes to the County, Library and Metroparks; slightly less than 10% comes back to the Village to cover the costs of our Police, Fire and Dispatch services

• Elected officials, with input from the Treasurer, will continue to evaluate Village finances and will update residents on a regular basis

Proposed Increase Household Cost

- Each one mill would cost a homeowner \$35 per \$100,000 of property valuation, thus the proposed three-mill levy would cost homeowners an additional \$105 per \$100,000 of property valuation
- The average home valuation in Moreland Hills is about \$500,000; thus the average increase would be approximately \$525 per year

If you have any questions please call me at 440.248.1188 or email me at srenda@morelandhills.com. You can also call my assistant, Sherri, for an appointment or stop in on my open door day, which is the first Tuesday of each month. Enjoy the summer!

- Mayor Susan Renda

Historical Society Events

August 9, 10 a.m. – Field Trip to research the history of our homes at the **Cuyahoga County Archives**. If you are interested, please contact mhshohio@gmail.com before August 7.

August 11 – James A. Garfield Cabin is hosting 40 people from the Mahoning Historical Society. If you are able to help with this group 10 a.m.-12 p.m., please contact mhshohio@gmail.com.

September 2, 5 p.m. – Crafts at Orange Village Hall. We will be making James Garfield crafts with the kids at the annual **Salute to Orange** event.

September 5, 1929 Happy Birthday Moreland Hills! You're 89 years old!

September 6, 7 p.m. – Meeting at Orange Library, **Healthy Living for Your Brain**. Register at cuyahogalibrary.org/events. This lecture will be a Pep Rally for the **October 13 Walk to end Alzheimer's**. We hope you will join our team!

September 27, 6:30 p.m. – Orange Library discussion about **This Old Home in Moreland Hills**. We have a new **Heritage Home and Century Plaque project** designed to recognize homes in our community that are over 50 years old and reward those that have hit that *Century* mark.

Parks Commission Looking for New Members

Qualifications: An interest in parks and green space. Must be committed and energetic.

Time Commitment: Each member is expected to attend quarterly Parks Commission Meetings, which last about an hour and a half on average. There is some preparation time for each meeting. Members will be expected to do some fundraising for the parks and attend additional committee meetings as needed.

Salary: Unpaid volunteer position.

To Apply: Please submit a resume with cover letter to villagehall@morelandhills.com or drop them off to Sherri at Village Hall by 4:30 p.m. on August 31. Please include your email address.

Applicant Interviews: Weekday evenings the week of September 17.

Service Department Reminder *Special Pick-Ups*

The Service Department would like to remind residents that any large items or items that do not fit in your rubbish cart require a Special Pick-Up. Each residence is entitled to **one special pick-up per year at no charge** and **one additional special pick-up per year for a fee of \$25** plus any additional charge for additional expenses.

Such charges shall be paid prior to the removal. You can drop a check off at Village Hall or mail it to Village Hall, 4350 S.O.M. Center Road, Moreland Hills, Ohio 44022.

Village of Moreland Hills

phone: Village Hall 440.248.1188
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Mayor

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Paul Stanard, pstanard@morelandhills.com
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Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, villagehall@morelandhills.com

Ordinances and Resolutions

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in July:

Ordinance 2018-15 (as amended)– provides for the submission to the electors of the Village of Moreland Hills of a proposed amendment to Article IX, Section 4 of the Charter of the Village of Moreland Hills. This will increase the 3.0 mill levy by 3 mills for a total of 6 mills to pay the current and capital expenses associated with the Village Safety Service now and in the future.

Ordinance 2018-28 – enacts new section 505.011 and amending certain sections of Chapter 505 “Animals and Fowl,” of the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances. This will make the Village Code in line with that of the State code, as the Ohio Revised Code no longer permits breed specific bans or the designation of certain breeds as dangerous or vicious.

Resolution 2018-29 – adopts the alternative tax budget of the Village for the fiscal year 2019.

Ordinance 2018-30 – an appropriations ordinance which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

Resolution 2018-31 – approves the development of State Bicycle Route 80 by the Ohio Department of Transportation. ODOT has designated a series of corridors crossing Ohio to be developed as State Bicycle Routes.

Closings and Reminders

Block Party Information:

If you and your neighbors are planning a Block Party, please notify the Police and Service Departments so that they can determine if road blocks and/or barricades are needed. If you have the need for extra rubbish cans for the party, please let the Service Department know.

Chipping Week is August 20-24:

The Service Department will chip branches and sticks on your street. The branches should be cut into 4-foot lengths, and all sticks and branches must be bundled. They cannot chip logs over 5 inches in diameter. The Service Department will chip them throughout the week, beginning at the south end of the Village. **They will not come back through a second time, as it takes them the whole week to make their way through the entire Village; therefore, it is important that you have the branches stacked by the side of the road on Sunday evening, August 20.**

Employee Clambake

The Village is still accepting donations for the Employee Clambake in September.

Village Closings

Village Offices will be closed Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day. Senior pick-ups will be done on Tuesday that week; regular rubbish/ recycling pick-up days will not be affected. Yard waste and special pick-ups will **not** be done that week.

Safety Corner

I discussed the following points at the Safety Levy Informational meeting on July 11 and wanted to share them with you:

- Law Enforcement is expensive and good law enforcement is even more so.
- Moreland Hills residents deserve a police force that is well-equipped and trained to respond to emergency calls.
- Police Services suffer in an environment where funding has diminished.
- We have general minimum requirements for shift strength. Operating with less than those minimum requirements, creates issues for officer safety and the safety and service we provide to our residents.
- Every year, it costs more to maintain the same levels of police service, simply because of increased costs of doing business.
- I work closely with the Mayor, Finance Director and Council to trim costs and get the most out of what the finances will allow. Inevitably, costs go up and if revenue remains the same, something has to give.
- The safety levy supports Police, Fire, EMS and Dispatch.

We know our community wants and expects first rate service and that's what we provide.

- Chief Kevin Wyant

Environmental Corner: Streams and Erosion

If you live along a local stream such as Wiley Creek or the Chagrin River, you realize that these watercourses are dynamic and like to take away the soil along their banks as they flow to Lake Erie. These watercourses and the land alongside are what are called riparian areas. As you know, erosion can be a major problem in riparian areas.

There are many ways to protect against erosion along the stream banks. These can range from higher cost “hard” methods such as gabion baskets or stabilizing stream banks with rock, to low- cost methods using woody vegetation to hold the soil in place. The links below provide information from the Chagrin River Watershed Partners that offers guidance for property owners with streams. These tips will help you battle erosion on your property.

How Streams Work : http://crwp.org/files/CRWP_Fact_Sheet2.pdf

Plant Cuttings to Stabilize Stream Banks: http://crwp.org/files/CRWP_Fact_Sheet4.pdf

Please be aware that any work such as placing rock or structures or moving earth along streams and in riparian areas requires review and permitting from the Village of Moreland Hills. Please contact the Building Dept. or the Village Engineer if you are planning to perform work in a riparian area so we can guide you with permitting needs for your project.