

August 2019

Message From Mayor Susan Renda

Dear Resident,

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District recently released its Residential Recycling Report. Moreland Hills' residents recycled 25% of their total residential waste stream, which is the second highest rate in the county. Congratulations and thank you for your dedication to this program. Recycled items included cans, cartons, glass, paper and boxes, plastic bottles and jugs, scrap metal, appliances, computers, household hazardous wastes and scrap tires collected curbside and at our *Greening the Hills* events. When they added in our composting percentage, which is based on the amount of yard waste, leaves and wood, and brush that we compost, our total recycling rate was 43%. This amount far exceeds Ohio's stated goal of 25%. Congratulations, well done and keep up the good work.

This is an especially impressive feat given that recycling has recently become more complicated and confusing because of market factors. Many plastic items that could be recycled previously can no longer be put in your recycle bin. To help with this, our Council Clerk, Sherri Arrietta, updates the Moreland Hills recycling guide annually. Furthermore, Service Department members are currently putting stickers on recycle bins that will help you determine what goes into the bin and what should stay out. If you are missing either of these items, please call Village Hall at 440.248.1188 or email vil-lagehall@morelandhills.com to ask for one.

A few years ago, the Solid Waste District issued an alert about fires in garbage trucks. I asked Moreland Hills Fire Marshal Jim Finley for his input at that time. He gave the following advice, which is still relevant so I am including it again in this newsletter:

"Mind what you discard. We produce an average of 4.4 pounds of waste every day individually in the United States. Responsible people do their best to recycle as much as possible, but there are limits to what you can recycle and what you can place in trash. We've had a handful of fires in our area from poorly discarded smoking materials, ashes from grills, spontaneous combustion from oily rags, and even batteries that still had a charge in them. Many items such as lithium batteries, paints, solvents, and oils, require special disposal. Your Service Department and Fire Department can guide you in the right direction to properly handle those items. For all others, use common sense. Wait

for hot items to be completely cool and make sure your bins are sealed to prevent oxygen from supporting potential combustion. Douse anything in question with water."

And please remember that the Village offers safe and convenient disposal of hazardous wastes at our *Greening the Hills* event on Saturday, October 5, 9 a.m. to noon. If you have questions, call Village Hall at 440.248.1188.

A few Village residents, several Council Members and I met with Dave Conley and Wendy Ziele of First Energy before the July Council meeting. They demonstrated how to use the FirstEnergy mobile website to report and view the status of electrical outages. They demonstrated how to use the Outage Map feature along with the outage information, which is available at firstenergycorp.com/outages.

We have the **Communication Tools for Utility Customers** available at the front desk at Village Hall if you would like to stop by and pick one up. We mailed one to each resident in the newsletter several months ago.

Enjoy the summer. It goes by too fast!

- Mayor Susan Renda

Social Security Scam Alert

The Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs is warning residents to hang up on Social Security scam calls.

In these scams, callers try to scare people into paying to keep their Social Security accounts from being frozen or seized. Consumer Affairs wants you to know that legitimate government agencies do not call people with threats to seize their accounts or ask them to move their money to new accounts.

To protect yourself from scams, let unknown calls go to voicemail – and don't call hang-up numbers back out of curiosity. Delete all messages that threaten you with arrest or seizure of your accounts or property. If you accidentally pick up a threatening call, hang up immediately.

To report a scam, contact Consumer Affairs at 216.443.SCAM; consumeraffairs.cuyahogacounty.us; or call the Moreland Hills Police Department, 440.248.7585.

Coming Events

Book Discussion—Saturday, Aug. 17, 4-6 p.m.
125 Murwood Drive. Join MHHS President Maureen Geck for an engaging discussion based on the book, *Destiny of the Republic*, by Candice Millard. \$10 per person. Reservations required. No tickets at the door. Special Appearance by the Widow Lucretia R. Garfield, portrayed by Debbie Weinkamer, who will share some interesting funeral memorabilia. Proceeds will benefit the James A. Garfield replica cabin. Make checks payable to Moreland Hills Historical Society and mail to: Randy Nielsen, Treasurer, 4350 SOM Center Rd., Moreland Hills, OH 44022.

Village of Moreland Hills 90th Birthday Celebration—Sept. 7, 2-5 p.m.

Village Park at Forest Ridge (3800 Chagrin River Road – across from the Polo Fields). Join us in celebrating the 90th Birthday of the founding of our Village, as well as being named the #1 Community in the *Cleveland Magazine Rating the Suburbs* issue. Food, fun and games will be provided – we hope to see you there!

Village Campus Open House—Sept. 25, 6-9 p.m.

Come see the building improvements made to the Village Hall and the Police Department! The Village Hall, Building Department, Service Department and the Police Department will be open, so please stop by!

RX Drug Drop Box Reminder

The Rx Drug Drop Box at the Police Department is available to residents **any time throughout the year**. Bring any unused, unwanted or expired prescription drugs and dispose of them in the secure drop box in the Police Department lobby.

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 July:

Ordinance 2019-41 – authorizes Change Order No. 2 with Sander Contracting, Inc. for the Police Station Roof and Village Hall Entrance Project for the decrease amount of \$1,853.

Ordinance 2019-42 – an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

College Student Fire Safety Tips

It's August, and soon you'll be sending your child off to college. Here are a few safety tips for students living off campus:

- Make sure bedrooms have working smoke detectors, and keep extra batteries on hand.
- Make sure there is a fire extinguisher in the house.
- Check that all the exit doors can be opened from the inside without a key.
- Plan to survive and know two ways out of your room.
- Have food on hand that doesn't require cooking. Cooking when you've had too much to drink increases the chance you'll make a mistake or start a fire.
- Buy flameless candles.
- Make sure you and your roommates have a fire escape plan and determine a safe meeting place.
- Keep all hallways, stairways and exterior doors clear of any objects.
- Clean the dryer lint trap after each use.
- Leave immediately if you hear the fire or smoke alarm. Do not spend time gathering your items.

For more information and tips, visit campusfiresafety.org or nfpa.org.

Environmental Corner

Plastic is everywhere – in our homes, offices, schools and stores. Unfortunately, it is also showing up in the water we drink and the air we breathe in the form of “microplastics,” which are pieces of plastic debris that measure less than five millimeters long, roughly the size of a sesame seed. They come from a variety of sources, including everyday items like plastic bottles or shopping bags that break down into smaller pieces over time. These microplastic fragments can absorb harmful pollutants like pesticides, dyes and flame retardants.

Whole plastic items also get washed into the ocean either due to mismanaged waste disposal or intentional littering. Polluted rivers carry the world's plastic into the oceans bringing a significant portion of the estimated 9 million tons of plastic that end up in the ocean annually. Among the top 10 types of trash picked up during the 2017 International Coastal Cleanup were food wrappers, bottles, grocery bags, straws and take out containers.

The good news is that compared to Asia, relatively little plastic waste enters the ocean from North America because of our robust waste-management tools. We can do better, however, at reducing our environmental impact. Buy a reusable water bottle and fill it with filtered water. Stop using plastic straws, even in restaurants. Purchase food like cereal, pasta and rice from bulk bins and fill a reusable bag or container. Finally, get a reusable shopping bag. Cuyahoga County Council passed a county-wide plastic bag ban that will go into effect at the beginning of next year.

Start practicing for that and get and use your reusable bags now.

Village of Moreland Hills

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

Closings and Reminders

Block Party Information

If you and your neighbors are planning a Block Party, please notify the Police and Service Departments so they can determine if roadblocks or barricades are needed. If you need extra rubbish cans for the party, contact the Service Department.

First Energy – Tree Trimming

First Energy will be doing routine tree trimming beginning in mid-August. This vegetation management program is necessary to improve service reliability and decrease power outages. First Energy employs independent contractors to perform this work and they will attempt to notify property owners before tree removal. Visit firstenergycorp.com/trees.

Chipping Week is August 19-23

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. Logs over 5 inches in diameter cannot be chipped. The Service Department will enforce those rules and will **NOT** chip items that do not adhere to them. Please have the bundles stacked by the side of the road the Sunday night prior (August 18), as the Service Department will start on Monday at one end of the Village and make their way throughout the Village by the end of the week.

Employee Clambake

The Village is still accepting donations for the Employee Clambake, which will be held in September. Donations can be made by check payable to the Village of Moreland Hills and mailed to Village Hall, 4350 SOM Center Rd.

Village Offices Closed for Labor Day

Village Offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, 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.