

January 2020

## Message From Mayor Daniel Fritz

Dear Residents,

First off, I want to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! It is an honor and privilege to begin 2020 by being sworn in to serve as your new mayor. I am grateful to Mayor Susan Renda for her guidance and support over the last couple of months as we worked together to ensure a smooth transition. She was an extraordinary leader of our Village and truly will be missed.

Secondly, I want to welcome Ethan Spencer and Laura Kozminski-VanderHart, who were sworn in January 6 as new members of Moreland Hills Council. I know they will bring valuable insight and experience to the table, and I look forward to working with both of them. I'm also pleased to continue working with Stephen Richman, who was re-elected to his fifth term on Council and will serve as Council President, as well as David Emerman, who was also re-elected. Finally, I would like to thank Ted Buczek for his more than two decades of service to the Village as a Council member. I am proud to have served alongside Ted for many years and always valued his expertise.

With the departure of former Law Director Aimee Lane, one of my first priorities has been to appoint a new Law Director as well as legal representation for the Moreland Hills Planning Commission. After careful consideration, I felt that a continued partnership with Walter Haverfield LLP was in the best interest of the Village. At the January 6th annual organizational meeting, Council approved the appointments of William R. Hanna from Walter Haverfield for the position of Law Director, as well as R. Todd Hunt, who will assume oversight of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and Planning Commission.

Having served on Moreland Hills Council for 12 years, I have had the opportunity to get to know many residents and look forward to meeting many more. For those of you who don't know me, I want to share a little bit of my background: I'm a proud graduate of the Orange High School class of 1986 and an Ohio University alumnus (Go Bobcats!). My wife, Colleen, and I have lived in Moreland Hills for more than 20 years. We have three children, all of whom attend or attended Chagrin Falls Schools.

I am a second generation firefighter/paramedic and serve on two local fire departments as a Captain and Assistant Fire Chief. I'm also an avid backpacker, runner and outdoor enthusiast with a deep appreciation for our Village's beautiful parks and trails.

During my tenure on Village Council, I spent four years as Council President and chaired the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. I also was a member of the Roads and Safety Committee and Facilities Committee. Additionally, I was selected by Mayor Renda to chair the Master Plan Review Committee, which was charged with reviewing and updating the blueprint for zoning in Moreland Hills. Assisted by residents who also participated, we worked very hard to ensure our strategic plan will stand strong in defense of the Village's serene atmosphere.

In my new role as Mayor, there are a few initial areas in which I want to pay particular attention – with continuity being key. Thanks to the exceptional leadership of Mayor Renda, along with the dedication and hard work of Moreland Hills employees and Council, our Village remains strong in terms of fiscal responsibility, public safety, protecting green space and serving residents. I will do my utmost to ensure the Village continues on this path of excellence, building upon our successes and enhancing experiences for everyone who calls Moreland Hills "home." This includes:

- Protecting our zoning by continuing to work on the very intricate and strategic goals we have set forth to preserve the character of Moreland Hills
- Furthering our commitment to being good stewards of our environment as a community

### Shop With a Cop Thank You

Our 2019 *Shop With a Cop* day was a huge success! Thanks to the generosity of our residents, community members and friends, over \$3800 was raised.

The Moreland Hills Police Department was able to provide gifts for three families (a total of seven kids) for the holiday season, with the assistance of Ptl. Scott Bennett, Ptl. Preston LaFrance, Ptl. Laura Park and Ptl. Paul Hobart. After shopping, we enjoyed a pizza lunch at the Moreland Hills Community Building where the children had a surprise visit from Santa. It was a fun and exciting day for everyone.

A huge THANK YOU to all who contributed and assisted that day!

- Lt. Todd Dietzel

- Maintaining high-quality services for our residents
- Keeping residents safe through support of our outstanding Police, Fire and EMS services
- Ensuring fiscal responsibility and sound decision-making to retain the Village's solid financial position
- Safeguarding transparency, accessibility and respect in all aspects of Village governance

I could not be more honored or humbled to serve as your Mayor and do not take this responsibility lightly. I am looking forward to these next four years with a great sense of optimism and excitement for all the possibilities we can accomplish in this remarkable place we live. I will be scheduling open door meeting dates in the near future, as I'd like to get to know as many residents as I can. I'm also happy to take your phone calls, meet for coffee or attend neighborhood groups. I will update residents on Village issues each month in the newsletter and will be looking at other means of communication as well. Until then, I hope you've had a great start to 2020 – and please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Warm Regards,  
- Mayor Daniel Fritz

### Village of Moreland Hills

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#### Mayor

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#### Council

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#### Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, [villagehall@morelandhills.com](mailto:villagehall@morelandhills.com)

## Ordinances and Resolutions

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in December:

**Resolution 2019-62** – accepts a donation of a concrete bench to be installed at Hogsback Cemetery from the Moreland Hills Historical Society to commemorate the volunteer efforts of Robin and Cathy Schwind.

**Ordinance 2019-63** – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a First Amendment to the agreement with Walter|Haverfield LLP for professional legal services.

**Ordinance 2019-64** – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Guardian Life Insurance Company of America for life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance for Village Employees.

**Ordinance 2019-65** – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Medical Mutual for health care insurance for Village Employees, at the total estimated monthly cost of \$45,688.50.

**Ordinance 2019-66** – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Metlife for dental insurance for Village Employees.

**Ordinance 2019-67** – an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial house-keeping item.

**Ordinance 2019-68** – establishes the temporary appropriations for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2020, in order to provide for current and other expenditures for the Village.

**Ordinance 2019-69** – fixing the compensation of various officers and employees of the Village of Moreland Hills.

## Village Hall Holiday Closing

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Monday, January 20 – Village Hall Closed**  
Monday rubbish/recycling pick-ups will be on Tuesday, January 21. There will be no special pick-ups or yard waste pick-ups that week.

## Safety Corner: Tips for Driving in the Snow

With winter upon us in Northeast Ohio, here are a few safety reminders for driving in inclement weather. Although it's always best to stay home and avoid taking unnecessary risks when it's snowing, if you must go out:

- **Drive slowly** to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.
- **Accelerate/decelerate slowly** to avoid skids.
- **Increase following distance** to 5-6 seconds.
- **Know your brakes.**
- **Do not power up hills.** Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin.

**If you get stuck in the snow, stay with your vehicle.** Your vehicle provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. **For more information, visit [ex-change.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/winter-driving-tips/#.Xe4\\_5LpFx9A](https://www.change.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/winter-driving-tips/#.Xe4_5LpFx9A)**

## Congratulations to MHPD

The Moreland Hills Police Department received the *AAA Community Traffic Safety Platinum Award* for Outstanding Service for the third year in a row.

## Service Department Reminders

### Drainage

Please keep leaves, branches and snow piles clear from your drainage swale and driveway pipe to ensure proper drainage of water away from your property and roadways.

### Snow Plowing

To prevent accidents, please be reminded that snow plow contractors are not permitted to plow snow into or across the roadway.

### Special Pick-Ups

Since it is a new calendar year, each resident is again entitled to one free special pick-up and one additional special pick-up for a fee of \$25. Special pick-ups are done on Mondays (except holidays). Please call the Service Department no later than the Friday prior to schedule a pick-up.

### Christmas Trees

Put your Christmas trees out at the curb any day through February 7 and the Service Department will pick them up.

## Community Garden

The Western Reserve Land Conservancy staff were glad to have the use of the Village of Moreland Hills Community Garden this past growing season.

About a half dozen staff members participated and benefitted from peaceful mornings and sunny afternoons collecting all sorts of garden produce (and squashing bugs trying to eat said produce). From the initial "garden prep session" of hauling wheelbarrows of compost up until the final week's "put the garden to bed," staff of the Land Conservancy enjoyed purple & green beans, peppers, squash and zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, kale, eggplant, basil, and the occasional head of broccoli.

Thank you to the Village of Moreland Hills for providing this great garden space!