

June 2018

Message From Mayor Susan Renda

Dear Resident,

Last month I wrote about the need for an increase in the Police & Fire Levy because of drastic decreases in funding available to support local safety forces from the State of Ohio over the last decade. This month I want to highlight the proactive things the Village has done to reduce and limit spending to make up for the loss in revenue as good stewards of public money.

Streamlined Services

We are constantly evaluating our department operations to determine ways to be more efficient while continuing to provide superior services to our residents.

The Village purchased automated trucks for both rubbish and recycling collection, which has resulted in a safer and more efficient operation. Before automation, each truck was staffed with three employees – a driver and two handlers – and pickup took three full days. Now each truck is operated by one employee and the pickup has been reduced to two days. In addition, we consolidated our special collection services to one day a week. This new schedule allows the Service Department staff two full days to work on other projects such as patching the roads or mowing. Approximately half of our Village is connected to sanitary sewer systems, while the other half uses septic systems. In 2010, the Village began the process of partnering with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to gain efficiencies and save money. At that time, we told residents serviced by public sewers that we hoped to reduce their costs over time. In 2012, the Village reduced its rates by \$200 per year (20%), and in 2016 we further reduced the rates by another \$200 per year.

Shared Services

Several years ago, Moreland Hills participated in a **Shared Services and Collaboration Study** with Pepper Pike, Orange and Woodmere. The study looked for situations where sharing services made sense with the goal of saving tax-payer dollars while maintaining service levels.

As a result, we have pursued staff sharing to save money. Our Treasurer works part-time for Moreland Hills while working for another community, and we share a Building Commissioner with Pepper Pike. We share fire, EMS, HAZMAT, SWAT team and dispatch services with other municipalities. All these collaborative efforts save the Village thousands of dollars and allow us to continue to provide excellent services.

As your Mayor, I assure you we have done all we can to save costs and reduce spending in order to accommodate the loss in revenue from the State of Ohio.

The Shared Services study also assessed public opinion regarding sharing services. Moreland Hills residents were very clear that while they were open to sharing many services, they wanted their own Police Department. I have continued to hear this sentiment and know that safety is a top priority and something we are proud of in this community. Community surveys conducted by the Village in 2011 and again in 2014 also confirm that our safety services are highly valued by residents, with over 90% rating our police and fire as good or excellent during both surveys. The increase of the Police & Fire Levy will ensure that we maintain the same level of safety services while maintaining the Village's fiscal health.

Council Members and I will hold an informational meeting in late summer to discuss the Levy increase as a community. In the meantime, I will continue to share additional information on this matter in my monthly newsletters. If you have any questions, please contact me at 440.248.1188 or srenda@morelandhills.com.

- Mayor Susan Renda

Blue Tip: A Day at the Beach

Fishing

- Collect all used fishing line and recycle it or at least dispose of it properly.
- Use lead-free sinkers.
- Do not release live bait into the water.
- Follow catch & release/bag limit regulations.

Boating

- Keep your engine clean and in proper working condition.
- Clean with sponge and plain water or use nontoxic, biodegradable, phosphate-free soap.
- Practice the Clean, Drain, Dry method on all equipment.
- Take the Ohio Sea Grant Boater Pledge: watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/cleanboating.

Beach Going

- Pack your trash or throw it in a trashcan.
- Do not dispose of cigarette butts or cigar tips on the ground as they are toxic to wildlife.

Historical Society Events

Free Family Fun!

The Garfield Cabin, 4350 SOM Center Rd., will be open Saturdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for the summer. Docents are needed ages 12 (with adult) and up.

June 2, 11 a.m. - Garfield Cabin

Who's Your Hero? We're inspiring young and old to *log it or lose it*. Participants ages 5-15 will receive a Bare book to log their favorite family story about their favorite family hero.

June 9, 11 a.m. - Garfield Cabin

Guest docent Debbie Weinkamer, well known for her portrayal of Lucretia Garfield (wife of President James Garfield), will be packing her tallest tales in a short program that will test your Garfield knowledge and leave you guessing, "Is it fake news or the real deal?"

June 22 at the Polo Fields

The Civil War is coming to Moreland Hills! We will have a table at this Civil War Re-enactment and could use your help.

Contact: mhshohio@gmail.com

Last Chance to Buy Mulch

The Service Department still has mulch for sale, however it is in **limited supply**. Orders cannot be guaranteed and are on a first come, first serve basis. The cost is \$45 per 3-yard load. Please call the Service Department at 440.248.1188 for more information.

Mayor

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Council

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Ordinances and Resolutions

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in May:

Ordinance 2018-10 (as amended) – enacts new Section 521.15, “Nuisances in Connection with Trees,” of the General Offenses Code and amending Section 1173.05 and Chapter 1353, both titled “Cutting of Trees” of the Codified Ordinances, to provide an enforcement mechanism for the Village to require the removal of dead or diseased trees, and to reduce the trunk diameter of the four (4) trees that can be removed without a permit, from twenty-four (24) inches in diameter at breast height to eight (8) inches diameter at breast height. **Passed as amended**

Ordinance 2018-15 – 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. **Placed on Second Reading**

Resolution 2018-19 – authorizes the Village to execute and file an application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance to repair the “House on the Hill” on Forest Ridge property, under the State of Ohio NatureWorks Grant Program.

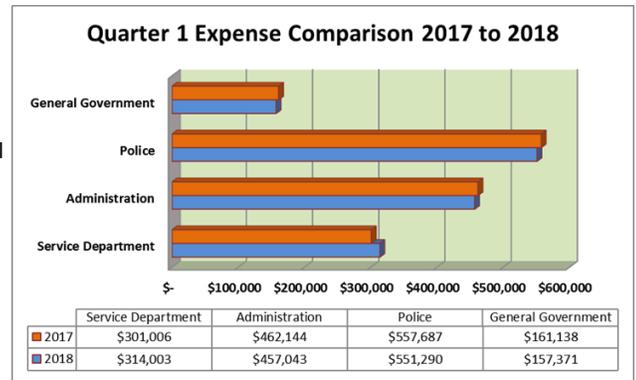
Ordinance 2018-20 – authorizes participation by the Village in the Ohio Dept. of Transportation Winter Contract for road salt for 2019.

Ordinance 2018-21 - an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

Village Finances

Revenues including Income Tax, Property Tax, and other local taxes were trending slightly higher in the first quarter of 2018 as compared to 2017, but the largest single expense item in the General Fund continues to be the annual transfer made to subsidize the safety services including police, fire, EMS and dispatch.

The annual 3 mill levy paid by property owners for these services was never designed to pay for the entire operation of the Police Department. However, in recent years the gap between the cost of operations of the department and the property tax generated by the levy has widened significantly. The Mayor and Council have thus decided to request an additional 3 mills from the residents who will have an opportunity to vote on the increase in the November General Elections. - Prashant Shab, Treasurer



Save the Date for These Coming Events

James A. Garfield Cabin Open House & Event

June 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. - Cabin Open House
 Who is Your Hero? Event 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Each family member has a unique perspective of your family history. Join the Historical Society as we inspire young and old to share their journey with a new generation. Meet at the James A. Garfield Cabin, 4350 SOM Center Rd. Visit www.MHSHOHIO.org.

Used Book Sale

June 8, 1-5 p.m.; June 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; June 10, 1-4:30 p.m. (bag sale). Orange Library, 31975 Chagrin Blvd. Books, DVDs and CDs.

4th Annual Community Kids Fishing Day

June 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Potts Pier, 3800 Chagrin River Rd. The Police, Service Department and Village staff look forward to another great day of fishing with young members of our community. Call Chief Kevin Wyant with any questions at 440.248.7585.

Chipping Week

June 18-22

The Service Department will chip branches and sticks free of charge for the **first 15 minutes**; any additional time will be charged at **\$30 for each 15 minutes over the allotted time**. Branches should be cut into 4-foot lengths, stacked in one direction and tied with a string. Please stack them by the side of the road the Sunday prior to the week of chipping. Logs over 5 inches in diameter cannot be chipped.

Rain Barrel Workshop

August 1, 6:30-8 p.m.

Moreland Hills Community Building. Hosted by the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, participants will construct a 60-gallon rain barrel to take home. The barrel, downspout, diverter and all materials are included. **The cost is \$60, and you must register by June 25 at cuyahogawcd.org/events.**

Village of Moreland Hills

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