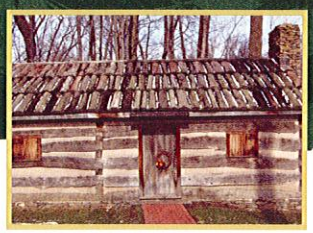
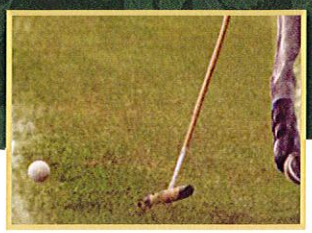
Moreland Hills *at a Glance*

News and Updates for the Residents of Moreland Hills

March 2018

Message From Mayor Susan Renda

Dear Resident,

Council met on three evenings during the week of Jan. 22 to interview the 11 applicants for the empty Council seat. All applicants were motivated, dedicated and would have been valuable additions to Village government. Needless to say, the decision was a difficult one. At the end of the process, Council members Dan Fritz, Steve Richman, Paul Stanard and Monica Sturgis unanimously chose David Emerman to fill the empty Council seat for the next two years. Mr. Emerman works as General Counsel for the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, a state agency that coordinates Lake Erie initiatives among the Ohio Departments of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, Transportation, Health and Tourism. He will bring an interesting and environmentally-friendly perspective to Council.

Many thanks to the other 10 people who applied to fill the empty Council seat, who took the time to be interviewed and made the effort to be prepared. They are: Jessica Gift, James Weingart, Eric Meli, Kristin Ricci, Bill Janke, Rob Rankin, Alan Olsson, Jane Birnkrant, Tim Chang and Ted Prasse. They brought a variety of interesting ideas to the table and Council Members and I listened intently. I hope to get as many of them involved on Committees and Commissions as possible. To that end, Council confirmed my appointment of Bill Janke to the Planning Commission at the Feb. 14 Council meeting. Mr. Janke will replace John Pogatschnik who had to resign because he is moving out of state for his job. We will miss John's quick wit and insightful comments. I will keep you informed regarding other appointments and confirmations as they occur.

More green news: Unfortunately, most disposable plastic cups and utensils cannot be recycled; therefore, please do not put them into your curbside recycling bin. Make sure all plastic cups, plastic utensils and disposable plates go into the trash instead. In line with the "Reduce" theme the Green and Parks Commission introduced last year, you may want to consider using reusable cups and utensils instead of buying single-use disposable plastic ones that can't be recycled curbside. You can then put them in the dishwasher instead of sending them off to the landfill. Avoid using paper plates and foil pans – none of which are recyclable. If you are packaging leftovers, reuse plastic containers or glass jars instead of throw-away alternatives.

Remember to help those who help you: The Chagrin Falls Suburban Volunteer Fire Department (CFSVFA) is a non-profit organization that has provided both Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services to Moreland Hills since 1934. It has been and continues to be a cost-effective regional approach for Chagrin Valley Communities to work together to receive Emergency services. The current fire station was built in 1986 and no longer meets the needs of the department.

Therefore, they started a capital fundraising campaign in October to help finance necessary renovations to the existing fire station. All donations are tax-deductible and can be sent to Chief Zugan, 21 West Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022, or you can contribute online at cffdfundraiser.org. This renovation does not benefit Chagrin Falls Village, rather, it helps our nonprofit fire department, which has outgrown its current space.

The Village's arborist recently presented the Moreland Commons developer the final tree survey for their property. Jeff Filarski, Village Engineer, and Paul Kowalczyk, Village Building Official, will walk the grounds soon with OMNI personnel to observe which trees are marked for removal and to make sure sensitive areas are fenced to keep construction equipment away from those areas. These steps must be taken before construction starts which is anticipated to begin in late spring. I will keep you updated.

- Mayor Susan Renda

Harvest for Hunger

The Village of Moreland Hills has partnered with Chagrin Falls, Bentleyville, Hunting Valley, and South Russell for the Cleveland Food Bank's annual Harvest for Hunger.

This food and fund drive runs through the month of March and provides for 21 Northeastern Ohio counties. Nonperishable food and monetary donations, once collected, will be delivered to the Cleveland Food Bank by the Chagrin Falls Fire Department, coordinators of this event.

You can drop off donations at Village Hall in the appropriately marked collection bins throughout the month of March.

RITA Tax Reminder

Municipal income tax returns are due Tuesday, April 17, even if no income tax is due. For filing requirements, contact RITA 800.860.7482 or visit RITAOhio.com. File early and file electronically to avoid the "last minute" stress.

Tax Forms

The IRS has reduced the number of printed tax forms and publications available to public libraries nationwide. As a result, a limited number of printed tax materials will be available in the library branches for customers.

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

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Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, villagehall@morelandhills.com

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Ordinances and Resolutions

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in February:

Ordinance 2018-02 – amends certain Sections of Chapter 184 "Earned Income Tax Effective January 1, 2016," of the Codified Ordinances, to make the Village's tax code conform with requirements and provisions that were amended in Chapter 718 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Ordinance 2018-03 – amends Sections 1151.07, "Setback Requirements," and 1123.03, "Definitions," of the Planning and Zoning Code to eliminate side setback requirement for corner lots and to apply the standard side setback requirements to corner lots. The current side setbacks applied to corner lots often reduce the amount of buildable area, making corner lots more difficult to develop. **Placed on First Reading and Referred to the Planning Commission**

Ordinance 2018-04 – designates Sherri Arrietta, Council Clerk, to attend Sunshine Law Training sessions on behalf of elected officials.

Ordinance 2018-05 – approves and adopts the current replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances.

Resolution 2018-06 – approves the adoption of the Cuyahoga County 2017-2022 All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Ordinance 2018-07 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Wichert Insurance Services, Inc., which includes general liability, police professional, public official, automobile, and property & cyber liability insurance at a total cost of $57,193 per year.

Ordinance 2018-08 – authorizes the Mayor to purchase up-fitting equipment for two International truck cabs and chassis from Concord Road Equipment Mfg., Inc., through the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Agreement.

Ordinance 2018-09 – authorizes all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Energized Community Grant(s).

Ordinance 2018-10 – 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 three trees that can be removed without a permit, from 24 inches in diameter at breast height to eight inches diameter at breast height. **Placed on First Reading and Referred to the Planning Commission**

Ordinance 2018-11 – an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

March Mowing Madness

It's time to get your lawnmower ready for the season ahead, including sharpening blades, checking/replacing filters, cleaning/replacing spark plugs, and setting blades at 3-4 inches.

You should also test your soil every few years in the spring to determine what nutrients need to be added. The Village has a limited number of these kits, which can be picked up at Village Hall Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on a first come, first serve basis. They can also be found at the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, cuyahogaswcd.org.

In addition, lightly rake the lawn to remove compacted grass and snow mold caused by excess moisture. It's also recommended to mow your lawn to a height of 4 inches to prevent crabgrass. Lastly, start a compost pile with the first grass clippings of the season. Subsequent clippings should be left on the lawn as nature's fertilizer.

Village Offices Closed March 30

Village Offices will be closed on Friday, March 30, for Good Friday.

Safety Corner

In light of the recent tragedy in Parkland, FLA, I wanted to talk about school safety issues. Approximately half of the Orange School District Campus is in Moreland Hills; the other half is in Pepper Pike. Both communities put the health and safety of the students and staff on that campus at the highest priority. Moreland Hills and Pepper Pike officers and fire department personnel are highly trained for potential incidents on the campus. And both departments have joined efforts in training the students and staff, primarily on active shooter response. Several times throughout the school day, our officers are on the school campus for arrival, school walkthroughs and dismissal.

Ptl. Todd Bennett (Pepper Pike PD) and Lt. Todd Dietzel (Moreland Hills PD) are A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) Instructors. A.L.I.C.E. training was added to the Orange School District's safety and security protocols several years ago.

Remember: "If you see something, say something." Parents are encouraged to talk to their children about these types of situations and let them know that if they see or hear about any type of dangerous situation, to let someone (a parent, school official or law enforcement) know immediately, without hesitation, so that it can be investigated.

Have a safe day,
Lt. Todd Dietzel

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