

IN & ABOUT *Moreland Hills*

Message from Mayor Susan Renda **Dear Resident,**

I hope you find the spring edition of In and About Moreland Hills interesting and enlightening. There is a great deal of useful information throughout the newsletter, so please take a few minutes to read and enjoy it.



Because of changes in funding for local governments by the State of Ohio, the Village's revenue has declined over the past few years. As a result, our budget has shifted from a surplus to a deficit.

The Village has compensated for this deficit by cutting costs and drawing from our reserves. We are now at a point, however, where we can neither further cut costs without sacrificing services nor continue to prudently draw down our reserves. Therefore, at its April 11 meeting, the Village Council voted to ask residents to increase the Village Police & Fire Levy.

The Police & Fire Levy is a separate funding source dedicated solely to ensuring that our residents receive high-quality safety services. It funds Police, Fire, EMS and Dispatch operations exclusively. Village policy has always been to supplement these funds with monies from the general fund. Over time, however, we have become increasingly reliant on the general fund to fill the gap between revenues and expenses. The current Police & Fire Levy Fund generates just 35% of the safety services budget. The remaining 65% of the budget is covered through transfers from the general fund. This level of subsidy is unsustainable in light of reduced funding from the state combined with the continuing need to fund the maintenance of our infrastructure including roads,

sewers and equipment. Resetting the safety services funding to more appropriate levels will ensure continued excellent safety services regardless of challenges caused by further changes in state funding.

Our annual safety budget of \$2.2 million gives the Police Department essential funds to continue providing the first-rate services relied on by our residents. It also pays for the EMS and Fire services provided to the Village by the Chagrin Falls Volunteer Fire Department. The current Police & Fire Levy, of three mills, garners only \$774,000 in revenue annually, as compared with the \$2.2 million in annual expenses.

Over the last several years, the State of Ohio has continuously cut funds to local communities, including Moreland Hills. For example, between 2003 and 2016 Local Government Fund revenues paid to the Village were reduced from \$89,193 to \$22,137, a reduction of 75%. Furthermore, the state completely eliminated estate taxes in 2013, which reduced Village revenues by an average of \$262,863 per year. As a result, Village expenditures exceeded revenues by an average of roughly \$392,000 in three of the four years between 2014 and 2017.

Fortunately, the Village consistently used conservative fiscal management practices in the past, so we had built up healthy reserves that we have relied on. However, those reserves are projected to be below 25% of our annual expenditures by the end of the

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Community Kids Fishing Day June 16



Although it may not feel like it just yet, warmer weather is fast approaching. Soon it will be time to break out the fishing poles!

Please mark your calendar for this year's Community Kids Fishing Day event to be held on Saturday, June 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The police, Service Department and Village staff look forward to another great day of fishing at Potts Pier with young members of our community. Turn off the TV, video games and cell phones and enjoy an outdoor activity with your kids.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at 440.248.7585.

– Chief Kevin Wyant

Message from Mayor Renda continued

year. This is lower than the amount we should have for emergencies; furthermore, this pattern is not sustainable over the long run. In light of these realities, we believe we have no choice but to ask for an increase in the Police & Fire Levy to bring revenue more in line with expenditures and maintain the fiscal health of the Village.

One example of an emergency situation which will require major expenditures on the part of the Village is a landslide which is evolving along Route 87 near Chagrin River Road. This landslide is beginning to undermine the road and, thus, requires prompt attention. Current estimates to stabilize the slope are about \$1.3 million although our engineer is looking for ways to decrease that cost and is looking for outside funding sources.

The levy was last raised in 1998 from two mills to three. The Village Council has proposed asking the residents to increase the Safety Levy by three mills, which would generate an additional \$750,000 for an approximate total of \$1.5 million

in revenue dedicated to safety services. Each one mill would cost a home-owner \$35 per \$100,000 property valuation. The proposed increase of three mills will be put before the residents for consideration at the upcoming November election.

The proposed increase of three mills will be used for the purchase and upkeep of law enforcement vehicles and equipment, payment for Fire and EMS, services by Chagrin Falls Suburban Fire Department, and general operations of the Police Department. This proposed increase, if approved, will provide the Police Department with much needed funds to continue providing the same excellent services going forward that they have always provided in the past.

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

Message from the Service Department Regarding Tire Disposal



When purchasing new tires for your vehicle, it is important that you have your tire dealer dispose of the old tires for you.

In fact, you should notice an EPA fee included on the invoice, which covers the disposal cost of the old tires. The tire dealer has arrangements with approved companies that will dispose of the tires in accordance to EPA guidelines.

Ordinances and Resolutions

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in April:

Ordinance 2018-03 – amends Sections 1151.07, “Setback Requirements 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.

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 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. **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2018-14 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a first amendment to the Creekside Pump Station and Force Main Joint Municipal Improvement Agreement with the City of Pepper Pike to include the foregoing tap-in fee (\$2,851.58) and annual percentage increase (5%).

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 First Reading**

Ordinance 2018-16 – an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

Ordinance 2018-17 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Cuyahoga County for jail services for Village prisoners at County jail facilities, in the amount of \$99 per prisoner, per day.

Ordinance 2018-18 – authorizes the Mayor to purchase a 2018 Ford Explorer vehicle for the Police Department through the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program, at a cost not to exceed \$27, 373.

Cleveland Water Tour

Join the Cleveland Water Department **Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**, as they celebrate *Drinking Water Week* at the Garrett A. Morgan Water Treatment Plant (1245 W. 45th Street, Cleveland). Event includes:

- Water Treatment Plant Tours
- Water Related Demonstrations
- Hands-On Exhibits
- Family Fun & Activities
- Food Trucks
- New Garrett A. Morgan scenic overlook

Residents in the Spotlight

Bill and Sue Truax

Though heading for warmer weather, Bill and Sue Truax will always call Moreland Hills “home.”

Residents of Moreland Hills for 45 years, Bill and Sue Truax have seen a lot of changes and growth in the Chagrin Valley, but the things that initially drew them to the area are still what they like the most – the Village’s overall character; large, wooded properties; and natural environment.

“We also have a great Village Hall and probably the best Service Department on earth,” Bill said.

This spring, however, the Truaxes have decided it’s time to move to a warmer climate. But they, their children and grandchildren will always consider Moreland Hills “home.”

“We’ve raised our kids here,” Bill said. “Our older son is in the Marine Corps, and he and his family have had the opportunity to live all over the world. But our house has always been that familiar place our grandkids could always come back to and play on the swing in the yard or have a fire on the patio.”

Although he’s now retired, Bill still has his hand in consulting and speaking engagements. Founder of Trufield Enterprises, Inc., Bill is renowned for his expertise in goal achievement and field sales prospecting. He has trained thousands of people at businesses and organizations throughout the world, and has written several books and dozens of articles on sales prospecting. Bill is also active in the International Churchill Society and speaks often on the life and times of Winston Churchill.

One of Bill’s other pursuits is a little more unique. Both he and Sue are handlers for K-9 Search and Rescue, which evolved from their passion for dogs, Bill’s training in the Army and tragic events in our country.

After graduating from Indiana University, Bill served as an officer in the U.S. Army, where he was in charge of demolition and booby trap training at Fort Lewis, Washington, for soldiers preparing to go to Vietnam.

“After I left the Army,” Bill said, “I thought to myself, I’ll never use this again. Then 911 happened, and everything changed.”

As a result, he became a member of the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR), and an Auxiliary Sheriff with the Geauga County Sheriff’s Office K-9 unit, where he did a lot of work with bomb dogs. He earned the SAR TECH II designation, an advanced Search and Rescue Certification with NASAR. Over the years he has helped train numerous first responders, including those in Moreland Hills. Bill and his dog also worked on many



search and rescue assignments at local parks, as well as performing bomb searches at the Cleveland Browns stadium prior to football games.

Amazingly, Bill has managed to find time to continue his high school and college track career despite his busy schedule. After taking off about 40 years, Bill decided to start throwing discus again and is a member of USA Track and Field as a Masters Discus Thrower, competing in both National and World competitions.

Although packing up 45 years of memories has been an emotional ride for Bill and Sue for the last few months, they are looking forward to the next chapter in their lives where they won’t need as many coats and sweaters. Bill’s advice: “Clean out your attic on a regular basis! If you don’t use something within a year or two, get rid of it.”

Mark Your Calendars for these Coming Events!

GREENING THE HILLS

Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m.-Noon

Recycling, hazardous waste collection, confidential paper shredding, computer and electronics round-up, etc. at Village Hall. Please bring a nonperishable food item for the Service Department's food drive or clothing/household items for Goodwill.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING/BZA MEETING

Monday, May 7, 6 p.m.

PRIMARY ELECTION

Tuesday, May 8

All Moreland Hills residents vote at Orange High School.



COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, May 9, 7 p.m.

CHIPPING WEEK

May 21-25

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. Please have the branches stacked by the side of the road the week prior. The Service Department Employees will chip them over the following week. They cannot chip logs over 5 inches in diameter.

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 28

Village Offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no special pick-ups or yard waste pick-ups done that day.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Monday, May 28, 11:30 a.m.

There will be a Memorial Day Service at Veterans Gateway Park, which will include remarks from Retired Major Albert Catani, Vietnam Veteran. It is tradition to lower the flag to half-staff early in the morning and raise it about noon. We will begin gathering at the park at 11:30 a.m. We will have some brief remarks and conclude with the flag raising.



JAMES A. GARFIELD CABIN OPEN HOUSE & EVENT

Saturday, 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 Birth Site Park Cabin, 4350 SOM Center Rd. For more information, visit www.MHHSOHIO.org.

COMMUNITY KIDS FISHING DAY

Saturday, June 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Moreland Hills will host its Fourth Annual Community Kids Fishing Day at Potts Pier (3800 Chagrin River Road). 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.

Service Department Reminder – Last Chance to Buy Mulch

The Service Department still has mulch available to purchase, on a first come first serve basis. This will be your last opportunity to do so, as the Service Department will no longer be able to offer the sale of mulch to residents. The cost is \$45 per 3-yard load; please call the Service Department at 440.248.1188 for more information.

Safety Corner

Tips for staying safe this summer

As warmer weather finally makes its way to Northeast Ohio, spring and summer activities such as bicycling, motorcycling, boating and swimming are starting to take place.

Please consider the following safety tips as you and your families head out to participate in these spring and summer activities.

Cycling

Be visible

- Get daytime / nighttime running lights.
- Wear reflective clothing.

Be predictable

- Follow the rules of the road.
- Be mindful of intersections.
- Stay out of blind spots.
- Be cautious passing to the right.
- Make eye contact with drivers to be sure they see you.

Door Buffer

- When riding past parked cars, give yourself space to avoid accidents.
- Keep an eye on side view mirrors to help see cars that are occupied, where someone may step out without looking.

Motorcycling

Ride *SMART*

- Sober
- Motorcycle Endorsed
- Alert
- Right Gear
- Trained

Boating

Take a Boating Safety Course

- Required if born after Jan. 1, 1982
- Make safety the priority. Coast Guard, ODNR / Division of Water Craft Officers, Marine Police and some Auxiliary Police offer free boat safety inspections. Be sure all required equipment is on the boat.
- Wear a life jacket.
- Watch the weather; conditions can change abruptly.
- **DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE WHILE OPERATING A BOAT OR VESSEL.**
- Use good judgement and common sense.

Swimming

- Swimming Lessons / Safety Training
- Wear a life jacket (age, size appropriate).
- Actively watch and supervise children.

Home Safety Tips from the Building Department

The month of May is recognized as Building Safety Month. This is a public awareness campaign celebrated by jurisdictions worldwide for the past 38 years to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures. Now that the colder weather is starting to leave and we will begin to find ourselves back outside, here are some safety tips for your home.

Decks, Porches and Balconies – Check/Replace

- Split or rotting wood
- Wobbly handrails or guardrails
- Loose, missing or rusting anchors, nails or screws
- Missing, damaged or loose support beams and planking
- Weak or unstable end support of porch deck, joists or girders
- Excessive movement when walked on

Outdoor Cooking Grills

- Place grill in the open, away from house, deck railing and overhanging branches
- Use starter fluid intended for grills; don't store near heat sources

- Remove grease or fat buildup regularly
- Check gas hoses for leaks before use
- Do not move grill when it's hot
- Dispose of charcoal properly in noncombustible containers
- Keep ash containers away from house or combustible materials
- Keep grill in a well-ventilated area to avoid injury from gas or charcoal fumes
- Never leave food cooking unattended

Fire Safety

- Place a working smoke alarm on every floor, in each bedroom and outside of each bedroom
- Place a working carbon monoxide alarm outside of each bedroom area
- Test alarms each month
- Check alarm batteries every six months
- Keep alarm covers free of dust, grease and paint
- Develop a fire escape plan and practice it
- Pick a meeting place outside in front of your house

Service Not Charity

The history behind Hiram House Camp

In April, during this time of social discord, The Historical Society reflected on an earlier time in our history when citizens came together to bestow “service not charity” – specifically the contributions of Flora Stone Mather (April 8, 1852 – January 19, 1909) and her husband Samuel, along with their Moreland Hills connection, the Hiram House Camp.

The Mathers were prominent Cleveland philanthropists and activists advocating for religious, social, and educational welfare. Following the Industrial Revolution (19th century), Cleveland found itself thick with social obstacles, such as overcrowding, poverty and disease caused by rapid growth. In response to those adverse effects was the Progressive Movement (1890-1920) that encompassed modern ideas such as improving working conditions, unionization and female suffrage.

Progressives were a group of reformers, usually from middle-class backgrounds, that tackled major issues and problems in American society. The most important and effective expression of the social reform movement in Cleveland was the advent of social settlement houses, which served to place well educated settlement workers within depressed areas of the city.

At the peak of the movement, George Belamy led a group of Hiram College graduates that established Hiram House social settlement in 1896 as an outgrowth of a class project. The first Hiram House settlement was located on the west side of Cleveland. It later moved to the east side, finding its home in a neighborhood whose population consisted primarily of East European Jewish immigrants. Belamy served as its director from 1896-1946 and attracted substantial support from prominent families, such as the Mathers, Prentisses and Hunts.

The Cleveland-based settlement-house used this support to expand its offerings, including a rural camp where the campers could get a glimpse of farm life and fresh air. It was the Mathers who donated 52 acres for the permanent camp in Moreland Hills. The origins of the camp were supported by the help of the local farmers who provided food and resources for the campers, making the first visits to the camp virtually free.

The operations of the Cleveland settlement-house ceased and the building was demolished in the 1940s. Since 1948, Hiram House has operated only as a camping facility. We salute the philanthropic entities that work to continue the work of Hiram House Camp providing fresh air and learning for a new generation of children.

1. Ohio Memory.com 2. D., Van Tassel David, and John J. Grabowski. *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Indiana University Press in Association with Case Western Reserve University and the Western Reserve Historical Society, 1996.

Blue Tip

The Problem with Litter

When trash (plastic bags, bottles, cigarette butts, plastic cigar tips, etc.) is discarded onto the ground, it washes into storm drains and directly into our waterways untreated. Trash negatively impacts wildlife and migratory birds, poses hazards for fishermen and boaters, and is an eyesore along streets, parks and waterways in our community.

Did You Know?

- Plastic pieces, cigar tips and cigarette filters are continually at the top of the list of trash found at beach cleanups locally and worldwide (Ocean Conservancy).
- More plastic cigar tips are found on Cleveland beaches than in any of the other Great Lakes Beach Cleanups (Alliance for the Great Lakes).
- Cigarette filters/butts are NOT biodegradable. The acetate filters take years to decompose, and the toxic chemicals trapped in the filters can leak into aquatic ecosystems, threatening our water resources.
- Plastics break down into tiny pieces called micro-plastics in water, then release toxic chemicals swallowed by fish, birds, snakes and other wildlife.
- It can take 600 years for plastic monofilament fishing line to decompose.

Be a Part of the Solution

- DO NOT LITTER! Lake Erie is our source of drinking water, so we need to do our part to clean up pollution and to educate others not to litter.
- Follow the 3R's – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle wherever possible.
- Use reusable shopping bags instead of single-use plastic bags at the store and recycle bags if the service is available at your grocery store.
- Do not overfill trashcans as litter can blow into the street on windy days.
- If you see illegal dumping, alert the Service Department 440.248.1188.
- Volunteer at a local stream, beach or park cleanup event.



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Join us for the Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 28, 11:30 a.m. at Veterans Gateway Park

