

Moreland Hills

News and Updates for the Residents of Moreland Hills

MAY 2020

At a Glance

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DANIEL FRITZ

Dear Residents,

I hope this recent edition of our newsletter finds you all doing well. Needless to say, the past 6 weeks have been quite a challenge for us all. For Moreland Hills these challenges have included closing our campus, the discontinuation of some services, adherence to revised open meeting requirements and procuring the required supply of disinfectant and PPE. These challenges all arise in a time when we are seeing unprecedented reductions in income tax collection and other revenue streams. The good news is that we have acted quickly and have a plan in place.

Nearly 70% of our General Fund revenue comes from our income tax collections. As you know these are the funds received by the Village after being collected by the Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A.). These taxes are generated from the income received by all Village residents. While some of our residents continue to work from home and thus continue to pay local income tax, many are not as fortunate. The true impact will not be known until we see the results of future tax collections. Our best estimate was recently generated by R.I.T.A. and details a minimum of \$350,000.00 in lost revenue and, perhaps more importantly, a \$1,300,000.00 delay in tax collections due to the new July deadline for tax filing. These two numbers will result in a loss to our revenue stream which must be addressed. Last month I laid out \$650,000.00 of proposed cuts to our 2020 budget. These cuts are significant and will be felt by all residents. The impact will most notably be recognized by our reduced Road Program and other capital improvement projects such as the cosmetic repair of retaining walls and enhancements to Forest Ridge. Additionally, we have delayed the purchase of new vehicles and cancelled various training opportunities we had approved for employees. Collectively we have reduced our 2020 budget significantly. If our financial outlook improves later in the year we may bring some of these projects back for consideration. The good news is that

with some hard work and careful planning we may not have to access our reserves or what are typically referred to as our “Rainy Day” funds.

As the Governor rolls out plans to re-open various sectors of the economy, our campus will go through some changes as well. Employees who have been working from home will return. Some will have a new and temporary work area so that we can ensure social distancing. We will also be following a strict Moreland Hills COVID-19 Protocol that will be distributed to all employees. Our campus will remain closed to all visitors for the near future. Sadly, that includes the amazing volunteers with our Historical Society. In the meantime, please consider joining the Historical Society so we can keep their momentum going. You can access information for this group on the Village website under the “Community” tab.

Our Facebook page continues to gain momentum. If you haven’t already, please “like” this page. We use this platform to provide updates on a daily basis. Our website is also being updated much more frequently. We realize that not all of our residents access these resources so this newly enlarged format for the newsletter has been adopted after hearing about some concerns related to font size. We also continue to call a select group of individuals on a weekly basis who were identified and initially contacted by members of our CERT Team.

We are moving forward. Our challenges remain, but our work is starting to pay off. We have all played a valuable role in navigating this crisis. These efforts include members of Village Council, Service Department employees, members of our Police Department and Village Administrative employees. Of course, we must include all of you who have had to remain at home with cancellations that have been unfortunate and, in some cases, hurtful. I remain so very proud to serve as your Mayor. Good times are ahead. We will all work together to ensure that are community remains strong in all of the areas that define our amazing Village.

ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE:

Cuyahoga County will be completely closing Chagrin River Road (bridge over Willey Creek) from Miles Road to Jackson Road, from June through October.

The total road closure is to ensure that the work can be performed more quickly.



REMINDER FROM THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT:

The Village Service Department would like to remind residents to continue to adhere to the regulations that are in place during this time, for the safety of both the residents and the employees:

- All rubbish in carts **MUST** be bagged and tied – **NO LOOSE MATERIALS**
- All recyclable materials **MUST** be in carts (Loose – not bagged).
- Any cardboard not in recycle carts **MUST** be broken down and flattened, stacked and tied. Cardboard is the **ONLY** item that will be picked up if placed outside the cart. All other rubbish must be bagged & tied and placed inside the cart.
- Lids on both rubbish and recycling carts **MUST** be closed.
- Absolutely **NO DROP OFF AT THE SERVICE FACILITY** of residential solid waste, recyclable materials, or scrap metal, until further notice.
- There will be no Special Pick-Up or Yard Waste Pick-Up Collections through May. The Service Department will begin this service again on June 1.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this unprecedented time.

SR 87 SLOPE REPAIR PROJECT

This project is slated to be finished at the end of June. While this project is still ongoing, we need all pedestrian traffic including cyclists, runners and walkers to adhere to the total road closure located at the SR 87 construction zone. This dangerous construction area is not safe for passage due to heavy equipment, debris and other hazards. We are nearing completion of this project and ask for your patience. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Mayor

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Council

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COMING EVENTS

Memorial Day – Village Offices will be closed on Monday, May 25th. There will be no yard waste or special pick-ups that week.

Chipping Week – May 18 –May 22
– The Service Department will chip branches and sticks on your street. The branches should be cut into 4-foot lengths and stacked facing the same direction; they DO NOT need to be tied. Piles with crisscrossed branches and anything over 5 inches in diameter WILL NOT be chipped. Please have the bundles stacked by the side of the road by 7:00am on May 18; the Service Department will chip them over the entire week.

Memorial Day Service – Monday, May 25 @ 11:30am at Veterans’ Gateway Park. It is tradition to lower the flag to half-staff early in the morning and raise it at noon. The Service will consist of some brief remarks and will conclude with the flag raising at noon. This event is subject to change; residents will be notified if it is canceled or rescheduled.

Special Pick-Ups and Yard Waste Pick-Ups to Resume – The Service Department will begin their Special Pick-Up and Yard Waste Pick-Up services on Monday, June 1. Residents are reminded to call the week prior to schedule both pick-ups and that yard waste must be in the proper brown lawn and leaf bags. Both Pick-Ups must be placed at the curb by 7:00am on the day of the pick-up (done on every Monday unless it is a Holiday).

Greening the Hills-RESCHEDULED – We have rescheduled the May 2 Greening the Hills to June 13, from 9:00am to Noon at Village Hall. This event is subject to change; residents will be notified if it is canceled or rescheduled.

Community Kids Fishing Day – June 13 from 10:00am to 1:00pm Moreland Hills will host its Sixth Annual Community Kids Fishing Day, at Potts Pier (3800 Chagrin River Road). This event is subject to change; residents will be notified if it is canceled or rescheduled.

James A. Garfield Cabin Open House-RESCHEDULED – The replica cabin open house has been rescheduled from June 6 to August 1, from 10am-1pm. Bring the whole family to hear Eliza Garfield (portrayed by Debbie Weinkamer) speak at noon, sharing her memories of our community as it was in the 1830s. Please note: The cabin is currently closed. We will continue to keep you up to date should this event be rescheduled or canceled.

MORELAND HILLS RESIDENTS GIVING BACK

We have heard about several of our residents who are giving back and putting forth their efforts to help those in need during this difficult time:

Tom Fish, Sr. Creative Director of Little Tikes, is helping to create face shields and specialized masks for doctors and patients. This effort is part of the retooling of the Hudson Little Tikes plant to make these masks/shields to donate to front line workers.

Costume Moms Make Medical Masks, which is comprised of Stagecrafter’s Theatre Costume Moms and other volunteers from the Orange School District, are making masks for healthcare workers, first responders (including the MHPD) and nursing homes to name a few. They have donated 4500 masks to date. We would like to recognize the MH residents who are part of this effort:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| • Jenny Barrett | • Hailey Kochis |
| • Mikaela Bolek | • Laura Kochis |
| • Stacey Fellingner | • Kim Libens |
| • Marnie Fletcher | • Nicole Senor |

They have a GoFundMe page to help pay for supplies and materials: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/costume-moms-make-medical-masks>

Kate Bennet is collecting donations for *PCs for People*, an organization that refurbishes old personal computers and donates them to low-income families. This effort is especially helpful as many children and adults are working remotely from home. In just three weeks’ time, Kate has

made 40 different pick-ups and amassed 17 keyboards, 20 monitors, 26 printers and 46 computers (among other tech items). If you have any items to donate, please visit www.pcsforpeople.org as their need for computers has increased three-fold during this pandemic.

Elizabeth Spencer, a Moreland Hills resident, has made masks and has provided them to the Mayor, Council members, and Village employees.

We would also like to recognize all of our CERT Team members who have stepped up to volunteer to help those residents in need, as well as those who have offered their assistance should the CERT Team need additional help:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| • Frank Borroni | • Ron & Judy Neuger |
| • The Burke Family | • John & Lou Sangdahl |
| • Patty Emser | • Shayna Sharpe |
| • Stacey Gardiner | • Tom Spaulding |
| • Dan & Karen Groth | • Councilman Ethan Spencer |
| • Jan Jones | • Curtis Taylor |
| • Rob & Laura Kochis | • Tony & Noelle Whitehouse |
| • Councilwoman Laura Kozminski-VanderHart | |
| • Jeff Moore | |

If you know of any other residents who are giving back and helping out during this time, please let us know so that they can also be recognized for their efforts. Please email Sherri at villagehall@morelandhills.com.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in March:

Ordinance 2020-20 – establishes the permanent appropriations for the fiscal year 2020 for the Village. This ordinance establishes our yearly budget.

Ordinance 2020-21 – an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

Ordinance 2020-22 – authorizes the Mayor to purchase a Western Star 4700 PRL-20T cab and chassis for the Service Department, for snow and ice removal, from Valley Freightliner & Western Star pursuant to the State Department of Transportation Truck Purchasing Contract. This will replace the current 2008 snow and ice removal truck (MH-15) for an amount not to exceed \$100,028.

Ordinance 2020-23 – authorizes the Mayor to purchase the up-fitting equipment for the new Western Star 4700 PRL-20T cab and chassis (Ordinance 2020-22) from Concord Road Equipment through the State of Ohio Department

of Administrative Service Cooperative Purchasing Program for an amount not to exceed \$106,159.49.

Ordinance 2020-24 – authorizing the Mayor to purchase a Ram 3500 4 x 4 Regular Cab Pick-Up Truck for the Service Department from Junction Auto. This truck will replace the current 2008 Ford pick-up truck (MH-6) for an amount not to exceed \$35,200.00. *This purchase has now been placed on hold due to COVID-19 related issues.

Ordinance 2020-25 – authorizes the Mayor to purchase a Godwin CD100S Pump with Critical Silencing for the Pump Station improvement, from Xylem Pump Rental and Sales, through the U.S. Government’s General Services Agency Purchasing Program, in an amount not to exceed \$49,132.00.

Ordinance 2020-26 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with C&J Contractors, Inc. for the demolition of the house located at 3800 Chagrin River Road, in the amount \$29,295.00. *This purchase has now been placed on hold due to COVID-19 related issues.