

Message From Mayor Susan Renda

Dear Resident,

I have written to you about the Village’s need for increased revenue over the past six months. As you know, the residents of Moreland Hills will vote on a Police and Fire Levy in the general election this November. In this newsletter I will summarize each of the preceding six months’ messages. Next month I will be excited to move on to another topic!

In May I outlined the changes in the level of state of Ohio support for local governments. The elimination of estate taxes costs the Village approximately \$264,000 per year, and the reduction of the Local Government Fund decreases state support by another \$67,000 annually. Since the current Police and Fire Levy Fund covers only 35% of our safety services, we have been reliant on the general fund to fill the gap between revenues and expenses. However, due to the aforementioned cuts, this practice is unsustainable. In fact, Village expenditures exceeded revenues by an average of \$392,000 in three of the four years between 2014 and 2017 and, thus, we were forced to dip into and spend down our reserves.

In June I summarized our many efforts to save costs and reduce spending. We have participated in collaboration studies, conducted internal efficiency studies and streamlined service delivery options. We share equipment and personnel with other communities where feasible. Our efforts have saved the Village thousands of dollars while continuing to provide excellent services. In July I wrote about our superb Police Department and how our officers go above and beyond the call of duty to provide excellent service for our residents. They have started programs like “Fight Like a Girl,” “Shop with a Cop,” and “No Shave November.” Under former Chief Canter, they began the tradition of hosting Memorial Day and Veterans Day services at our Veterans Park. Finally, they win multiple awards every year for their excellent police work.

In August, I developed a “Police and Fire Levy Fact Sheet” for the public meeting we held before our August Council meeting and used that for the August newsletter. It is on the Moreland Hills website and is a good resource about our need for this levy. In September, Ohio State Senator Matt Dolan graciously agreed to write a letter to you about the reduction of revenues to local governments across Ohio. He stated, “...it cannot

be debated that 100% of the inventory and personal property tax revenue and 80% of the estate tax revenue was lost to local governments. In addition, the state budget has cut payments to the local government fund by over 50%.” In October I wrote about delayed purchases and deferred maintenance. We recently received bids for repairing all identified maintenance issues on our campus (Police Department, Village Hall and Service Department). The lowest bid was \$974,000. We are currently working out details and hammering out contracts. I hope to take the enabling legislation to Council in November.

At our public meeting on October 6 Chief Wyant and I discussed the need for this levy. Someone asked about the impact the sexennial reappraisal will have on Village revenues. The County reported to the Village that residential property taxes will increase in MH by an average of 3.5% and business property taxes will increase by 5%. Village property tax revenues for 2017 (the last full year for which we have data) were \$1,641,791.55. An increase of 3.5% brings in an additional \$57,463 per year. While any revenue increase is helpful, this is not enough to cover our costs.

If you want copies of any or all of these newsletters, please contact Sherri at villagehall@morelandhills.com.

- Mayor Susan Renda

Village Reminders

Thanksgiving Holiday

Village Offices will be closed November 22 and November 23 for Thanksgiving. Residents with a Thursday rubbish/recycling pick-up day, your rubbish/recycling **WILL be picked up on Friday, November 23.**

Chipping Program

The chipping program is finished for the year and will resume the third full week of April 2019.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time ends November 4. It is also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Veteran’s Day Service

Sunday, November 11 at 11 a.m. at Veteran’s Memorial Park (corner of SOM & Miles). Rain or shine.

Blue Tip: Use S.A.L.T.

STUFF

Road salt (sodium chloride) only works above 15 degrees F. For colder temperatures, use a small amount of sand for added traction, or switch to an ice melting product designed to work at colder temperatures.

AMOUNT

Spreading more salt does not improve deicing. One 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover about 10 sidewalk squares. There should be about 3 inches between salt granules. Be sure to sweep up any excess salt.

LOCATION

Salt only belongs on your sidewalk and driveway and never on your lawn, flower beds, the base of a tree and definitely not in a stream! One teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes 5 gallons of water.

TIME

Salt works best when it is applied before the snow falls or right after snow is removed from your driveway or sidewalk. Never apply salt when rain is in the forecast, as it will wash away in the storm drain and out to our waterways.

Election Day November 6

If voters plan to cast a ballot on Election Day, they need to bring identification, and they may confirm their polling location online at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us. The polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Voting Location for All Moreland Hills Residents is Orange High School, 3200 Chagrin Blvd.

Mayor

Susan C. Renda, srenda@morelandhills.com

Council

Ted Buczek, tbuczek@morelandhills.com
David Emerman, demerman@morelandhills.com
Daniel Fritz, dfritz@morelandhills.com
Stephen Richman, srichman@morelandhills.com
Paul Stanard, pstanard@morelandhills.com
Monica Sturgis, msturgis@morelandhills.com

Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, villagehall@morelandhills.com

Ordinances and Resolutions

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in October:

Ordinance 2018-44 – confirms the appointment by the Mayor of Lance Priest as a full-time Patrol Officer.

Ordinance 2018-45 (as amended) – authorizes Change Order Number 1 with LaBella Associates for the Police Department Roof Replacement and Village Hall Entrance Project, due to additional work requested by the Village, in the amount of \$2,790.

Ordinance 2018-46 – authorizes the Mayor to accept permanent drainage easements over certain parcels on Mill Creek Lane and Easton Lane for the installation, maintenance and repair of storm sewer appurtenances as part of the 2018 Culvert and Drainage Repair Program.

Ordinance 2018-47 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a Community Cost-Share Agreement with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to assist with funding for the 2018 Culvert and Drainage Program in the amount of \$36,000.

Ordinance 2018-48 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Auditor of the State of Ohio to compile annual financial statements and issue accountant reports.

Ordinance 2018-49 – an appropriations

Historical Society Celebration

The Moreland Hills Historical Society invites you to their celebration honoring the 187th anniversary of the birth of President James A. Garfield, who was born near the intersection of Jackson and SOM on November 19, 1831 in a small log cabin.

The event will be held Tuesday, November 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Hiram House Camp, 33775 Hiram Trail.

Cake and ice cream will be served. Seating is limited, so please RSVP to MHHSOHIO@gmail.com.

Shop With a Cop

The Moreland Hills Police Department will partner with other local police departments to participate in the annual “Shop with a Cop” holiday program. Officers will be taking underprivileged children shopping for holiday presents and food for the children and their families.

If you wish to make a donation, make checks payable to George Murray FOP Lodge and mail to:

MHPD – Shop With a Cop
4350 SOM Center Road
Moreland Hills, Ohio 44022

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

No-Shave November

Seven Moreland Hills Police Officers will be participating in “No-Shave November,” which is a month-long journey during which participants forgo shaving in order to raise cancer awareness. Each officer had to donate \$30 to participate. If you wish to donate as well, you can bring cash or a check (made out to Village of Moreland Hills) to the Moreland Hills Police Department.

The MHPD will donate all money received to a charitable organization or a family of a fallen officer.

Moreland Hills Police and Employees Foundation

Once a year, the Foundation sends a letter to all residents of Moreland Hills asking you to consider making a tax-deductible contribution for the benefit of the police and employees of our Village. This is an easy way to say thank you for the good service they provide.

Watch for the letter in the coming weeks and please consider being a part of this tradition that dates back to 1966.

Safety Message

Recently the Village Service Department experienced a fire in the trash collection body of the rubbish truck that required the assistance of the Chagrin Falls Suburban Fire Department. Residents should be aware that the following items should not be placed in their cart for collection:

- Pool or Spa chemicals
- Bottles that still contain household cleaners
- BBQ grill or fireplace ashes
- Oil Based paints
- Mineral Spirits
- Automotive oils

Message From the Building Department

Following are a few safety tips to keep in mind for gas-fired appliances this winter:

- Schedule an annual inspection, cleaning and tune-up by a qualified specialist.
- Make sure that vents and chimneys are inspected at least once a year. During an annual inspection, have the technician verify that there is plenty of combustion air for your appliance.
- Always make sure that combustibles and flammables are located away from the gas appliance.
- Make sure your filters are properly changed.

If you ever smell gas, immediately notify your gas supplier and make sure you have a carbon monoxide alarm located outside of all sleeping areas.

Village of Moreland Hills

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