

Moreland Hills

News and Updates for the Residents of Moreland Hills

JANUARY 2021

At a Glance

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DANIEL FRITZ

Dear Residents,

I think we can all agree to a sense of relief that 2020 is now behind us. Indications are that we have some room for optimism at the start of this new year. As we have all heard, new vaccines by both Pfizer and Moderna show great promise in combatting the effects of the pandemic. As a career firefighter/paramedic I am classified as an “1a safety worker” and thus able to receive this vaccine early. By the time this newsletter is printed I should have received my first of two injections. I relate this news as I want to strongly encourage all of our residents to take this vaccine once available. I understand that there is some concern related to the speed at which this vaccine was developed. However, all of the healthcare professionals I consulted with have stressed that the vaccine is safe and that they will be receiving the vaccine as soon as they are able. This includes my personal physician and many others who have dedicated their lives to fighting disease. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has some very detailed information regarding the vaccines on their website. If you are conflicted with this decision I encourage you to consult with your physician and to seek guidance from known experts like those at the CDC, Ohio Department of Health and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

In early January, Village Council held its Organizational Meeting. During that time, a Council President was elected, Committee members were appointed and a Planning Commission Chair was named. In next month’s newsletter I will relate the results of this meeting. It has been a very busy year for members of your Village Council and you have been well served. We continue to work in strong partnership for the betterment of this wonderful Village. A special thanks to Council President Steve Richman for his hard work this past year.

I am pleased to announce that we have renewed contracts with some of our professional staff. William Hanna will

continue to represent the Village as Law Director. R. Todd Hunt will once again serve as legal counsel for our Planning Commission. Additionally, I am pleased to announce that Jeff Filarski will be returning as our Village Engineer. Jeff continues to understand the needs of this village, its infrastructure and challenges which lie ahead. Other staff members are mid contract and will continue to serve in their respective capacities.

Our Service Department worked very hard in December to clear the roads and address all of the storm damage that occurred. This work was not easy. Many of you emailed and called to thank them. In another section of this newsletter, Service Director Ted DeWater explains how our storm plowing routes are determined and what takes place during a severe storm. A reminder to register for CodeRed as we use it for messaging our residents. For example, we issued a CodeRed to advise residents that we were having a special pick-up for winter storm damage. See our website for registration information.

You may have read that the Village has been working with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the Village of Hunting Valley to preserve 27 acres at the northwest corner of South Woodland and Chagrin River Road. Additionally, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy was instrumental as the Village worked with land owners in another area of the Village in an effort to provide options, other than development, for nearly 50 acres. Former Mayor Susan Renda worked very hard to preserve land in our Village and we continue down that path in partnership with this amazing organization.

Lastly, in 2021 we will break ground on our beautiful new pavilion located in Forest Ridge. Our Engineer and Service Director are finalizing plans and the project will be presented to our Facilities Committee this spring. Stay tuned for drawings and other information related to this amazing project.



MORELAND HILLS RECEIVES CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING

On December 18th, 2020 the Ohio Senate passed SB 310 which included 2.1 billion dollars worth of state capital improvement projects. We are proud to announce that Moreland Hills was awarded \$75,000.00 to aid in the construction of our future pavilion located within Forest Ridge Preserve. To apply for these funds, a community must work in partnership with local elected officials and undertake a very detailed application process. Our monetary award is based on the very hard work of former Moreland Hills Mayor Susan Renda, State Senator Matt Dolan and State Representative Phil Robinson. On behalf of Moreland Hills’ residents, I have personally thanked all three of these individuals. The legacy of former Mayor Susan Renda continues to drive our environmental and preservation efforts. As Mayor, I’m proud to continue down this path and look forward to the construction of our beautiful new pavilion!

– Mayor Fritz

HOLIDAY CLOSURES AT VILLAGE HALL:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday, January 18 – Closed

Monday Rubbish/Recycling Pick-ups will be done on **Tuesday, January 19**

There will be no Special Pick-ups or Yard Waste Pick-ups that week.

REMINDERS:

The Service Department will start picking up Christmas Trees January 4 and will continue through February 5.

Mayor

Daniel Fritz, dfritz@morelandhills.com

Council

David Emerman, demerman@morelandhills.com

Laura Kozminski-VanderHart,
lkvanderhart@morelandhills.com

Stephen Richman, srichman@morelandhills.com

Ethan Spencer, espencer@morelandhills.com

Paul Stanard, pstanard@morelandhills.com

Monica Sturgis, msturgis@morelandhills.com

Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, villagehall@morelandhills.com



Village of Moreland Hills
4350 S.O.M. Center Road
Moreland Hills, Ohio 44022

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At a Glance

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in December:

Ordinance 2020-68 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with United Survey, Inc. for the 2020 Sewer Inspection and Cleaning Program in the amount of \$122,801.25.

Ordinance 2020-69 authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with United Survey, Inc. for the 2020 Sewer Rehabilitation Program in the amount of \$114,415.00.

Ordinance 2020-70 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a First Amendment to the agreement with Walter|Haverfield LLP for professional legal services to reflect a reduction of billings equal to the cost for one month’s legal services.

Ordinance 2020-71 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Walter|Haverfield LLP for legal services for the period of January 2021 through January 2022.

Ordinance 2020-72 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd. and Jeffrey J. Filarski for Village Engineer services for the period of January 2021 through December 2021.

Ordinance 2020-73 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Medical Mutual for the provision of health care insurance to Village employees for a twelve (12) month period.

Ordinance 2020-74 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Metlife for the provision of dental coverage to Village employees for a twelve (12) month period.

Ordinance 2020-75 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Guardian Life Insurance Company of America for the provision of life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to Village employees for a twelve (12) month period.

Resolution 2020-76 – amends the Village’s policy regarding the provision of refreshments for employees and others at appropriate occasions.

Resolution 2020-77 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a MOU with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for the provision of technical assistance in implementing soil and water conservation measures from 2012 through 2025, for \$6,000 annually, which is reimbursed to the Village by NEORSRD.

Resolution 2020-78 – determines that all payroll costs for the Police Department for the Village of Moreland Hills for the period of March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 are eligible for the reimbursement from CARES Act Funds consistent with the requirements of Section 5001 of the CARES Act as described in 42 U.S.C. 601(d).

Ordinance 2020-79 - an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

Ordinance 2020-80 – establishes the temporary appropriations for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2021, in order to provide for current and other expenditures for the Village.

Ordinance 2020-81 – an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

SHOP WITH A COP DAY

Our 2020 Shop with a Cop Day was a huge success. Thanks to the generosity of our residents, community members and friends, \$2140 was raised. The Moreland Hills Police Department was able to provide thirteen (13) gift cards to families this holiday season. A huge shout out of thanks to all who contributed.

– Lt. Todd Dietzel

FROM THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT... SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES

The Service Department provides snow and ice removal for all State, County, and Local roadways. Additionally, any private roadways that pay a fee may also receive this service. Crews are dispatched once the Service Director or Service Foreman receives a call from the Police Department. Since our officers are on the roads 24-7, they are best postured to determine when the roads become impassable.

For planning purposed, the Village is divided into two (2) routes; North and South. Snowplow operators are tasked with clearing primary roadways first. Primary roadways include SOM Center Rd., Chagrin Blvd, South Woodland Rd., Miles Rd., Jackson Rd., and Hiram Trail.

After primary roads are considered safe for travel, snowplow operators move onto secondary streets. These secondary streets include roadways with steep hills, dangerous curves, and intersections.

Once the primary and secondary routes are complete, snowplow operators then clear all other roadways and apply salt where needed.

When the Village experiences heavy snow events, the Service Department will gradually increase snowplow operator levels to a maximum of six operators. When at full capacity, the routes are further broken down so that three (3) trucks can efficiently coordinate snow removal.

- Items to remember during a snowfall event:
- 1) Once crews are dispatched, it may take up to one (1) hour before the snowplow operators arrive at Village Hall, perform safety checks, and head out on the road.
 - 2) It is imperative that you park in your driveway, and not the roadway. Cars parked in the street hamper our ability to clear roadways and create safety-related issues.
 - 3) Keep in mind that while it may appear that your road has not been plowed, snow can quickly cover the roadway. Please be patient and understand that during a light snowfall it takes an operator 4.5 hours to complete their route, therefore, during a heavy snowfall, it takes longer than that.
 - 4) During heavy snowfall, snowplow operators are often challenged by ill-advised motorists who can create delays as they get stuck on hills and create congestion on the roadways.
 - 5) During heavy snowstorms, snowplow operators can be tasked with long shifts, sometimes throughout all hours of the day. Service Department members are broken down into teams, so others can go home and rest while awaiting their next call-out.

REMINDERS FROM THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT...

Winter Storm Branch Pick-Up – Crews are working their way throughout the Village. Several neighborhoods are complete. However, winter plowing and other duties will interrupt this special pickup. If you have your branches out at the tree lawn, they **will be picked up**. We will not be giving out a specific timeframe for your pickup. Please be patient. We had a very considerable amount of damage and this special pickup will take some time. We appreciate your patience and are working hard to pick up all of this debris.

Drainage – The Service Department would like to remind residents that during the winter months it is important to keep leaves, branches, and snow piles clear from your drainage swale and driveway pipe to assure for proper drainage of water away from your property and roadways.

Snow Plowing – The Service Department would also like to remind residents and their plow contractors not to plow snow into or across the roadway as this can cause an accident when a passing car runs into the snow that has been left on the roadway.