

Moreland Hills at a Glance

News and Updates for the Residents of Moreland Hills



April 2016

Message From Mayor Susan Renda

Dear Resident,

Approximately half of our village is connected to sewer systems while the other half continues to use septic systems. You may remember that starting in 2010 the Village converted its wastewater treatment plants to pump stations in all areas except Greentree Road. At the time of the conversion, we told the residents serviced by those public sewers that we hoped to reduce their costs over time.

In 2012, the village reduced its rates by \$200 per year, or 20 percent. At its March 9, 2016 meeting, Council members voted to further reduce the rates by another \$200 per year. Because of the efficiencies we gained by partnering with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the costs of maintaining the sewer systems have decreased, and we are sharing those savings with the residents who use those services.

Also at the March 9 meeting, Council unanimously passed a motion to hire a planner to work with the village to study a possible planned unit development designation on Chagrin Blvd. west of SOM Center Road. This would be a zoning map change, and as such would go to the residents for a vote in November. The Master Plan Committee unanimously recommended

studying this potential change to Planning Commission. Planning Commission, in turn, unanimously recommended to Council to hire the planner and explore potential changes.

We are at the very beginning stages of this process so there will be ample opportunity for us to educate you and for you to provide input to us as we are making decisions. Both Planning Commission and Council will hold public hearings as we move forward. I will keep you updated as the process moves along. It is the desire of the Master Plan Committee, the Planning Commission, Council and myself to control both density and development in that area.

Council passed the village's annual budget at its March 9 meeting. We met the preceding week to thoroughly discuss the budget and the finances of the village. As you may have read in both the Plain Dealer and the Chagrin Valley Times, the financial bottom line of many Ohio communities has decreased dramatically during the Kasich administration.

As Rich Exner pointed out in his well-researched article (http://www.cleveland.com/datacentral/index.ssf/2016/03/ohio_tax_changes_under_gov_joh.html), this is because of the elimination of the estate tax in

Ohio, the dramatic decrease in the state's Local Government Fund and the accelerated elimination of reimbursements from the state. All of this was done rapidly and without input from mayors and managers across the state. Furthermore, there has been no discussion at the state level about how to replace this considerable loss in revenue, estimated at more than \$360 million statewide. These changes were made to balance the state's budget without consideration for local communities.

Unfortunately, Moreland Hills is not exempt from the effects of the loss of revenue. Moreland Hills has lost nearly \$350,000 per year due to the actions of the state. Thankfully the village's reserves are sufficient to carry us over in the short term because of sound fiscal management over the last decade. However, the current situation is unsustainable in the long run. Council members, our treasurer and I are looking at every option and will continue to study the issue over the next year to come up with a plan that will protect the village's interests and have the least deleterious effects on our residents.

Happy spring,

- Mayor Susan Renda

Beware of IRS Imposter Scam

Chief Wyant would like to remind everyone of an IRS scam that the police department has received numerous calls about.

This scam is a phone scam where the caller claims to be an IRS employee informing you that you owe taxes and threaten to arrest or deport you if you don't pay. The scam is very sophisticated in that the scammer may know your Social Security number, rig the caller ID to make it look like the call is from the IRS, or tell you to put the money on a prepaid debit card.

To prevent yourself from falling victim to this scam, know that the IRS does NOT call to demand immediate payment of taxes or ask for credit or debit card numbers.

If you have any doubts, call the IRS directly at 1-800-829-1040.

Service Dept. Reminders

Recycling

Weekly recycling pick-up will continue through the end of June.

Rubbish/Recycling Carts

The Service Department would like to remind all residents to have their rubbish and recycling carts at the curb **no later than 7 a.m. on collection day.**

Per Ordinance 951.03:

- No person shall place solid waste or recycling materials for collection prior to **5 p.m. of the evening preceding** their scheduled pick-up day.
- No person shall allow empty containers or other uncollectible rubbish items to remain at their place of collection **after 9 a.m. of the day following** their scheduled collection day.

Simple Recycling

The village has signed an agreement with Simple Recycling for the collection of "soft materials" beginning the week of **May 2**. Look in your mailbox and on the village website in the coming weeks for more information.

Mayor

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Council

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Moreland Hills *at a Glance*

Ordinances and Resolutions

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in March:

Ordinance 2016-13 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Simple Recycling for the curbside collection of soft recycling materials in Moreland Hills. This service is provided at no cost to the residents.

Ordinance 2016-14 – amends Chapter 931 “Sewers” of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Moreland Hills, to amend sewer rates and connection charges.

Ordinance 2016-15 – approves and adopts current replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances.

Ordinance 2016-16 – amends Chapter 139 “Service Department,” Chapter 141 “Police Department,” and Chapter 153 “Employees Generally,” of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Moreland Hills. These amendments will conform to the updated Moreland Hills Personnel Policy Manual.

Ordinance 2016-17 - establishes appropriations for the current expenditures of the Village for the period ending December 31, 2016. This ordinance establishes our yearly budget.

Village of Moreland Hills

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Coming Events

Chipping Week - April 18-22

Please make sure your materials are placed curbside the weekend prior to the scheduled pick up date and are bundled and tied with the branches cut no longer than 4 feet in length. No logs or tree stumps, please.

The Service Department will work their way through the village throughout the week, weather permitting.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off – April 25-May 6

Drop off any hazardous waste materials at at Village Hall 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Greening the Hills - May 7

9 a.m.- Noon. See attached flier for more information. Hope to see you there.

Long Overdue Welcome Home

The village’s former Assistant Safety Director Dale Canter received a long overdue welcome home from Vietnam. Dale and his daughter, Kim, traveled to Vietnam in February with a group of other Vietnam Vets to revisit their old battlegrounds.

Before he left for the two-week trip, Dale said that he was looking forward to seeing that country at peace. He did get to meet a few Vietnamese vets while there and said that the country was “different.” Dale and Kim also brought along a suitcase full of school supplies to give to the Vietnamese children.

Spring Green Tip

Below are several spring green tips from www.earthshare.org.

- Create an inviting bird sanctuary in your yard.
- Earth Day begins at home. Do your part to improve the planet
- Practice eco-friendly lawn care
- Kick seasonal allergies naturally. A spoonful a day of local honey can decrease your susceptibility to local allergens. Also, neti pots rinse allergens out of nasal passages.
- Use natural bug repellents containing geranium, citronella or lavender oils.
- Keep fleas off pets by adding garlic and brewer’s yeast to pets’ meals.
- Ride your bike for short errands.
- Use green cleaners for spring cleaning.

On Feb. 29, Dale was properly welcomed home at Hopkins Airport by family, friends, fellow police officers, Mayor Renda, and passersby with signs, applause, hugs and kisses. An airport volunteer also played a rendition of “The Army Goes Rolling Along.” His son Jeff Canter, a Moreland Hill Police Officer, and his daughter, Leah, secretly planned with Kim to give their father this surprise homecoming.

Dale was a bit overwhelmed and surprised but very appreciative of this long overdue warm welcome home from Vietnam.