

Moreland Hills

News and Updates for the Residents of Moreland Hills

APRIL 2024

At a Glance

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ETHAN SPENCER

Dear Residents,

Happy spring, everyone! While we had a couple bad storms and some brief cold snaps, I think we got off fairly easy this winter. Now that spring is here, the chipping program is back, and the service crews will be out and about the Village, tending to maintenance projects. I can't wait to spend more time outside myself.

In Village news, after a lot of work by our department heads and Finance Department, input from Village Council, and discussion at a Committee of the Whole meeting, the Council passed the Annual Budget at the March Council Meeting. In keeping with last year, we have conservatively budgeted our revenues and then sized our spending accordingly. Infrastructure continues to be a priority, and the road program makes up most of that spending, or \$1.2M of about \$2.1M. The remainder (\$0.9M) is expected to be spent on sanitary sewer systems and drainage/erosion control projects. We plan to replace one police and one service vehicle this year (\$50K ea.), and we expect to replace our 22-year-old backhoe (\$135K). We continue to experience inflation in our insurance costs – healthcare, property, and casualty. Our rates are locked in for 2024, and I have asked our insurance broker to go to market with a full request for proposal for 2025 to mitigate these increases. Although the budget is passed, I will ask Council for oversight on all purchases above \$25K as we go throughout the year. That way we can closely monitor spending in relation to incoming tax revenues and maintain strict fiscal responsibility.

In last year's resident survey, there were a few questions about emergency service response times, particularly Fire and EMS. Being a small village, we do not have our own Fire and EMS service. We contract with Chagrin Valley Fire along with five other communities. In our contract, Chagrin commits to a maximum response time of 10 minutes for emergency calls, and their goal is to average 8 minutes. I reached out to them last month for some updated data. Year to date they are averaging 7 minutes, 30 seconds. Response times can be impacted by road conditions, distance, and the number of calls happening at the same time. Given the road closures that are expected to happen in Chagrin Falls over the next two years, Chagrin Valley Fire began planning for the impact on emergency services last year. They have coordinated with Orange, Pepper Pike, and Russell Township in anticipation of possibly needing their assistance. Chagrin Valley Fire Chief Zupan proactively reached out to reassure me that they expect to see no degradation of service during this time. For those of you in the western part of Moreland Hills, Chagrin Fire already has an arrangement where the paramedic in charge may request that Orange Fire be dispatched to the call as well, given the longer distance from Chagrin Falls. The decision is based largely on the information provided by the caller as to the urgency of the situation. So far this year, that has happened twice. I am aware that Fire/EMS was rated as the single most important service in the Village, so I take this very seriously. If any resident has additional concerns or wishes to speak with me about it, please reach out at 440-248-1188 or espencer@morelandhills.com.



REMINDERS

Income Taxes Due – April 15

Municipal income tax returns are due Monday, April 15, even if no income tax is due. For filing requirements, contact RITA 1-800-860-7482 or visit their website at www.RITAOhio.com/faq.

Chipping Week – April 15-April 19

The Service Department will chip branches and sticks on your street. The branches should be cut into 4-foot lengths and stacked, in small bundles, 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. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. Please have the bundles stacked by the side of the road by 7:00am on April 15; the Service Department will chip them over the entire week. Please note: per Village Ordinances, the first 15 minutes will be provided without a charge. Any additional time needed for chipping will be charged at a rate of \$30 for each 15 minutes over the allotted time.

THE MORELAND HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Moreland Hills Historical Society is preparing for another season at the James Garfield cabin located on the grounds of the Village Hall. We are looking for volunteers to open the cabin to visitors on Saturdays from 10am-1pm, June through September. This is a great opportunity for community service hours. If you are interested, please contact MHSohio@gmail.com.

STUDENT CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Village of Moreland Hills is seeking one Moreland Hills resident who is a current high school student graduating in the class of 2026 to join its Parks, Green, and Diversity and Inclusion Commissions. These commissions are tasked with important work, such as preservation, recycling, and representation. The student selected will serve for two years as a full voting member of these commissions, with their input equal in weight to all other members. In year one, the student will be a member of the Green Commission and Diversity and Inclusion Commission. In year two, the student will be a member of the Parks Commission. Commission members attend commission meetings, discuss their opinions, help plan events, and cast their votes.

Eligibility: You must be in the graduating class of 2026 and you must be a Moreland Hills resident. The selected student may choose to begin their term in either Summer of 2024 or at the start of the 2024-25 school year.

To apply: Email a maximum two-page essay to villagehall@morelandhills.com answering the following question: "What makes for a strong community and how do you plan to contribute?"

The following information should be in the body of your submission email only: Name, address, email, phone number, school, and graduating class. Essays will be scored without knowledge of the identity of the applicant, so please do not put any identifying information in your actual essay, as that information will not be made available to those scoring them.

The deadline for submittal is May 17, 2024. Selections will be made in June 2024. We look forward to your input!

Mayor

Ethan Spencer

espencer@morelandhills.com

Council

David Emerman

demerman@morelandhills.com

Thomas Fish

tfish@morelandhills.com

Jennette Irish-Glass

jirishglass@morelandhills.com

William Janke

wjanke@morelandhills.com

Stephen Richman

srichman@morelandhills.com

Rick Vincent

rvincent@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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Moreland Hills *At a Glance*

COMING EVENTS

Solar Eclipse Community Event – April 8 @ Lang Pavilion – 2:00pm-4:30pm

Join us to watch the Solar Eclipse at the Lang Pavilion (3800 Chagrin River Road) on April 8 from 2:00pm-4:30pm. Order lunch or a snack from the Cleveland Field Kitchen food truck, listen to the live music of Jim and Beth Miller, and kids can make a craft. We are giving away viewing glasses to those who register, while supplies last. Since Solar Eclipse Glasses cannot be recycled curbside, there will be a collection bin at the event and at Village Hall for the remainder of the month. These glasses will be donated to Astronomers Without Borders. This event is hosted by the Village along with the Diversity & Inclusion Commission, Green Commission, and Parks Commission.



Greening the Hills – May 18

Greening the Hills will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 9:00am to Noon at Village Hall. Bring your hazardous waste, paper for shredding, electronics, scrap metal, tires, and oil-based paint to be properly disposed. Employees and volunteers will be on hand to take the items out of your vehicle as you drive through our campus. In celebration of Arbor Day, the Green Commission will be giving away trees: Red Maple, Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, and Black Gum. Limit 2 per household. First come, first served.

Community Kids Fishing Day – SAVE THE DATE – June 15

The Ninth Annual Community Kids Fishing Day Event will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at Potts Pier. Watch for more information in the coming weeks on our website and Facebook page.

Dig in the Hills Summer Archeology Camp – July 8-12 – 9:00am-Noon

The Moreland Hills Historical Society is sponsoring this camp, featuring Master Teachers Rosemary Nemeth and Andree Hassell. Campers will get their hands dirty on an archeological dig on the historic property where James A. Garfield grew up, cook like a pioneer, scavenger hunts, games, and more. For children entering 2nd-5th grade; Limited spots available so sign up early! Registration Deadline: June 1st. Cost is \$150.00 for Moreland Hills residents and \$175 for non-residents.



THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED IN MARCH:

- **Ordinance 2024-09** – establishes the permanent appropriations for the fiscal year 202 for the Village. This ordinance establishes our yearly budget.
- **Ordinance 2024-10** – authorizes participation in a consortium with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to obtain bids for solid waste transfer and disposal services.
- **Ordinance 2024-11** – authorizes participation in a consortium with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to obtain bids for recycling processing services.
- **Ordinance 2024-12** – an ordinance to approve and adopt replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances.
- **Ordinance 2024-13** – authorizes the Mayor to purchase one (1) 2023 Chevy Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicle from Tim Lally Chevrolet for the Police Department for an amount not to exceed \$43,740.00.
- **Ordinance 2024-14** – authorizes Change Order No. 1 with C.A. Agresta Construction Company for the 2023 Drainage Program, for a net increase amount of \$11,290.75 to reconcile and close out the contract.

MASTERING PARK ETIQUETTE: A GUIDE TO ENJOYING NATURE RESPONSIBLY

Spring is just around the corner, bringing with it an influx of visitors to our parks in Moreland Hills. However, when visiting parks, it is essential to be mindful of the environment and respectful of the rules in place to preserve it for future generations. This requires a certain degree of etiquette to ensure everyone's enjoyment and preservation of the environment.

Here are some general guidelines on what to do and what not to do:

Do:

- **Stay on Designated Trails** to avoid damaging delicate ecosystems and habitats.
- **Practice responsible pet ownership** by following leash laws and always keeping your pet under control. Dispose of waste in designated bins.
- **Respect wildlife and flora** without disturbing their natural habitats; observe only.
- **Leave no trace** by leaving everything as you found it. This includes not picking flowers or disturbing natural formations.

Don't:

- **Litter.** Even biodegradable items can take a long time to decompose and can harm wildlife.
- **Disturb vegetation** by avoiding trampling on plants or picking flowers, as this can disrupt ecosystems and harm native species.
- **Disturb wildlife** by getting too close to animals or making loud noises that could frighten or disrupt them. This includes not chasing or feeding animals.
- **Vandalize and deface** natural features; do not carve into trees or write on rocks. Leave them as you found them for others to enjoy.

By following these guidelines, you can help ensure that parks remain beautiful and enjoyable for all visitors while preserving their ecological integrity for future generations to appreciate.

See you at the park!

Angela Wyatt
Chair, Moreland Hills Parks Commission