

IN & ABOUT *Moreland Hills*

Message from Mayor Susan Renda Dear Resident,

I hope you find the spring edition of In and About Moreland Hills interesting and enlightening. There is a great deal of useful information throughout the newsletter, so please take a few minutes to read and enjoy it.



Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. to consider nine zoning code amendments. Our ordinances require that we hold a public hearing and give residents a

30-day notice of this hearing for any zoning code change. The notice was put in the *Chagrin Valley Times* on March 30, 2017, but I also wanted to update you here on the proposed changes. They are as follows:

- **Ordinance 2017-11** – to require fences to be at least 50 percent open in rear yards, as is already required for fences in front yards.
- **Ordinance 2017-12** – to remove the prohibition on illuminated Subdivision Development signs. This has no effect on signage on commercial properties.
- **Ordinance 2017-13** – to prohibit front facing, attached garages and providing an exception for attached garages located on Wiltshire Road, Ellendale Road, and Berkeley Avenue.
- **Ordinance 2017-14** – to permit construction of small structures in the Riparian setback.
- **Ordinance 2017-15** – to amend “Footnote (c)” of Setback Requirements to maintain its original intent but to clarify its application in the case of irregularly shaped lot or dwelling designed with today’s architectural features.
- **Ordinance 2017-16** – amends the Codified Ordinances to establish a

10 percent maximum gradient for the construction of driveways, so as not to create ingress and egress risks for Village safety vehicles and personnel.

- **Ordinance 2017-17** – amends the Codified Ordinances to establish setbacks and other regulations for air conditioning, air handling equipment, and pool equipment to minimize negative impacts on abutting property owners.
- **Ordinance 2017-18** – amends the “Establishment of Districts,” in the Codified Ordinances to add the new planned development district (U-5 Chagrin Northwest & Planned Development Conservation District).
- **Ordinance 2017-19** – amends the “Regulations for the Cutting of Trees,” to require that any person cutting trees be required to cut the tree within 12 inches of grade.

Each of these Ordinances has been placed on “second reading.” Thus, each ordinance title was read once at a regular Council meeting and referred to Planning Commission for a public hearing and comment. Planning Commission recommended changes to Ordinance 2017-19 and referred all the zoning ordinances back to Council for more discussion, possible amendments and passage. As noted above, Council will do that work at its regular May meeting on May 10. I urge you to attend.

Not every ordinance that Council passes gets so much time and attention. You can imagine how bogged down Village operations

SPRING 2017

2 FirstEnergy Information

Chagrin Falls School Levy on Ballot May 2

Building Codes

Order Your Mulch Now

3 Ordinances and Resolutions

4 Resident in the Spotlight

Cleveland Water Open House

5 Mark Your Calendars for these Coming Events!

6 Katie Martin Receives Proclamation

Orange Community Education Update

Blue Tip: Importance of a Properly Maintained Septic System

7 Village Finances

Household Hazardous Waste

8 Memorial Day Service



Mayor

Susan C. Renda, srenda@morelandhills.com

Council

Ted Buczek, tbuczek@morelandhills.com
Daniel Fritz, dfritz@morelandhills.com
Stephen Richman, srichman@morelandhills.com
Gary Sherck, gsherck@morelandhills.com
Paul Stanard, pstanard@morelandhills.com
Monica Sturgis, msturgis@morelandhills.com

Clerk of Council

Sherri Arrietta, villagehall@morelandhills.com

Continued on Page 6

FirstEnergy Information

During severe weather, customers who are without power should call 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) to report their outage or click the “Report Outage” link on firstenergycorp.com.

Customers should immediately report downed wires to The Illuminating Company. Customers should never go near a downed power line, even if they think it is no longer conducting electricity. Extra caution should be exercised in areas where downed wires may be entangled with downed tree branches or other debris.

For updated information on the company’s current outages, FirstEnergy’s storm restoration process and tips for staying safe, visit the 24/7 Power Center at firstenergycorp.com/outages.

FirstEnergy customers also can subscribe to email and text message alert notifications to receive weather alerts in advance of major storms, and updates on scheduled or extended power outages.

Customers can also use two-way text messaging to report outages, request updates on restoration efforts, and make other inquiries about their electric accounts. More information about these communications tools is available online at firstenergycorp.com/connect.

Building Codes Date Back Thousands of Years

Most people assume that the development of the building codes only came about in the 20th century. Long before we were all here, there is historical evidence that people knew it was important to construct safe buildings.

One of the earliest known documents that addressed building dates back to 1760 B.C. Found within the Code of Hammurabi among the 282 laws, it stated: “If a builder builds a house for someone and does not construct it properly and the house which he built falls and kills its owner then the builder shall be put to death.” We even find a passage from the Old Testament in the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 22, Verse 8 that says, “When you build a new house, put a parapet around the roof; otherwise, if someone falls off, you will bring blood-guilt upon your house.”

You have probably heard of Mrs. O’Leary’s cow tipping over the lamp post in 1871 that led to the Great Chicago Fire. This event sparked the need to control widespread fires throughout populated areas. Yet close to 200 years before the Chicago fire, the City of Boston was thinking about ways to decrease the spread of fire throughout their neighborhoods.

During colonial times, fireplaces were the essential source for cooking and heating. The earliest chimneys were constructed of wood frames coated with mud. It was critical that homeowners maintained the mud interior of these chimneys so the wood frames did not ignite and cause the chimney to catch fire, which could spread to the thatched roof. In 1678, because of an increase in fires caused by improperly maintained chimneys, the city of Boston enacted laws that banned thatched roofs and wooden chimneys.

Over the years there have been many fatalities due to building collapses, fires, hurricanes and earthquakes. After the investigation of the events, new codes are developed to ensure that loss of life will be minimized should similar conditions occur in the future. The building inspection process does not just start after a permit is issued. Many building code enforcement individuals play a role in developing the codes that become the standard upon which we inspect all aspects of the built environment. Well over 3,000 years ago, people recognized the need for safe structures. The building codes have continued to change and evolve over the centuries to ensure the buildings we live, work and play in are safe.

– Paul Kowalczyk, CBO, RA
Building Official

Chagrin Falls School Levy on Ballot May 2

A Primary Election will be held on May 2, 2017 for Chagrin Falls School District residents to vote on Issue 9, which is a school levy. Voting will take place at Orange High School. For more information, visit boe.cuyahogacounty.us/.

Order Your Mulch Now

Village Mulch is now available to all residents on a first come, first serve basis. The cost is \$45 per 3-yard load. Please contact the Service Department for more information.

Ordinances and Resolutions

The following Ordinances & Resolutions were passed in April:

Ordinance 2017-11 – amends Section 1151.13(p)(2) “Fences and Walls in Rear Yards,” and Section 1345.05, “Fences and Walls in Rear Yards,” of the Codified Ordinances to require fences to be at least 50 percent open in rear yards, as is already required for fences in front yards. **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2017-12 – amends Section 1183.09 “Signs in Residential Districts,” and Section 1325.08, “Subdivision Development Signs,” of the Codified Ordinances to remove the prohibition on illuminated signs. **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2017-13 – amends Chapter 1151, “U-1 Dwelling House District Regulations” of the Codified Ordinances to prohibit front facing, attached garages and providing an exception for attached garages located on Wiltshire Road, Ellendale Road, and Berkeley Avenue. **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2017-14 – amends Section 1173.07(f)(1), “Uses Prohibited in Riparian Setbacks,” of the Codified Ordinances to permit construction of small structures in the Riparian setback. **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2017-15 – amends Section 1151.07(f), “Schedule 1151.07 Minimum Setback Requirements,” of the Codified Ordinances to amend “Footnote (c)” to maintain its original intent but to clarify its application in the case of irregularly shaped lot or dwelling designed with today’s architectural features. **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2017-16 – amends certain sections of the Codified Ordinances to establish a 10 percent maximum gradient for the construction of driveways, so as not to create ingress and egress risks for Village safety vehicles and personnel. **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2017-17 – amends certain sections of the Codified Ordinances to establish setbacks and other regulations for air conditioning, air handling equipment, and pool equipment to minimize negative impacts on abutting property owners. **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2017-18 – amends Section 1149.01 “Establishment of Districts,” of the Codified Ordinances to amend the table contained within the section to reflect the addition of the new planned development district (U-5 Chagrin Northwest & Planned Development Conservation District). **Placed on Second Reading**

Ordinance 2017-19 – amends Section 1173.05, “Regulations for the Cutting of Trees,” and Section 1353.06 “Conditions of Permit; Bond,” of the Codified Ordinances to require that any person cutting trees be required to cut the tree within 12 inches of grade. **Placed on Second Reading as amended**

Ordinance 2017-21 – amends certain provisions of the Planning and Zoning Code and the Building Code regarding the lighting of outdoor sports courts. **Placed on First Reading and referred to the Planning Commission.**

Ordinance 2017-22 – enacts new Section 1151.21, “Special Provisions for Wiltshire, Ellendale, and Berkeley,” and amends Section 1151.07(f), “Minimum Setback Requirement,” of the Codified Ordinances regarding nonconforming lots. **Placed on First Reading and referred to the Planning Commission.**

Resolution 2017-23 – creates and identifies the grounds adjacent to and north of the Village Hall as the “James A. Garfield Birth Site Park.”

Ordinance 2017-24 – authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Specialized Construction, Inc., for the 2017 Asphalt Pavement Program in the amount of \$524,892.70.

Ordinance 2017-25 – authorizes the Mayor to purchase two International Cab and Chassis for the Service Department from Rush Truck Centers of Ohio under the State Department of Transportation Truck Purchasing Contract at a total cost of \$174,230.14. Purchasing them this year instead of next will save the Village \$15,769.86.

Ordinance 2017-26 – amends Section 131.01, “Authority to Purchase,” of the Codified Ordinances, increasing the Mayor’s spending authority from \$15,000 to \$25,000, and to allow the Mayor to make necessary purchases in excess of \$25,000 but less than \$50,000 upon notice and approval of the President of Council.

Ordinance 2017-27 – adopts a rental fee policy for the Village Community Building, to help defray the costs of maintaining Community Building.

Ordinance 2017-28 – authorizes participation by the Village in the Ohio Department of Transportation Winter Contract for road salt for 2018.

Ordinance 2017-29 - an appropriations ordinance, which is a monthly financial housekeeping item.

Resident in the Spotlight

Connie Sancetta: Scientist, Author, Historian

Connie Sancetta has only lived in Moreland Hills for the last decade, but her family has roots in the Cleveland area dating back more than 100 years ago when her grandparents moved here from Sicily.

Born in northern Virginia, Sancetta spent her college years and professional career in cities from coast to coast, but when it came to retirement, she decided to call Moreland Hills her home. Reuniting with some cousins who also live in the Village, Sancetta said she was drawn here for the area's natural beauty, and "because Moreland Hills cares about preserving the environment."

The environment is a subject Sancetta is quite invested in, having worked as a scientist for more than 20 years to help determine what different parts of the ocean were like thousands of years ago in order to better understand climate change in the future. With a bachelor's and master's degree in geological sciences from Brown University and a Ph.D. from Oregon State's School of Oceanography, Sancetta set out on a path few women in the late 1970s ventured down: studying sediment and microfossils from deep in the Pacific Ocean.

"As a research scientist at Columbia University," Sancetta said, "much of my time was spent in the lab with a microscope. But I did go on a couple of research cruises in the Pacific." Spending two months at a time at sea, Sancetta worked on sediments being brought up from the ocean floor.

"I loved being at sea," she recalls, smiling. "It was very peaceful – watching the plankton sparkling on the water."

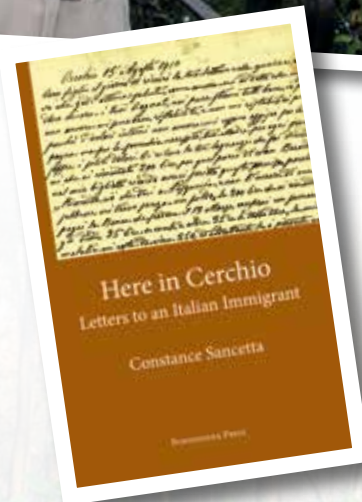
Sancetta describes her research on microfossils as being a "brick" in the vast wall of ocean records and climate modeling, data from which are still being used today.

An author of more than 50 papers in professional peer-reviewed journals, Sancetta also served as the program director of the Ocean Science Division at the National Science Foundation. Other positions she held over the years include: founder of the Association for Women Geoscientists; editorial board, *Marine Micropaleontology*; co-chair, the Geology Section, N.Y. Academy of Sciences; councilor, The Oceanography Society; fellow, American Association for Advancement of Science; and co-editor, *Oceanography*.

In her retirement years, Sancetta has turned her love for research in a different direction: her Italian ancestry. Tracing the first "Sancetta" back to a Spanish notary who came to Sicily in the 1530s was just the beginning of her deep dive into genealogy and Italian history. An active volunteer in the Italian Archives at the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), Sancetta wrote a book based on letters written by an Italian farmer in the early 1900s to his son, an immigrant working in the coal mines of

Pennsylvania, titled, *Here in Cerchio, Letters to an Italian Immigrant*. Sancetta researched and translated more than 40 letters handed down through generations, which are now archived at WRHS.

Sancetta also serves as secretary of the Cleveland Italian Ancestry Organization, president of the Italian American Cultural Foundation, and corresponding secretary of Il Cenacolo Italiano di Cleveland.



Cleveland Water Open House

Please join Cleveland Water in celebrating our most valuable natural resource — *high quality water!*

Cleveland Water will be opening their doors for a free tour to their customers to learn how they deliver reliable, quality water from Lake Erie to the tap.

Saturday, May 13, 2017

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Nottingham Water Treatment Plant
1300 Chardon Road, Euclid 44117**

Mark Your Calendars for these Coming Events!

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING/BZA MEETING

Monday, May 1, 6 p.m.

GREENING THE HILLS

Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m.-Noon

Recycling, hazardous waste collection, confidential paper shredding, computer and electronics round-up, etc. at Village Hall. Please bring a nonperishable food item for the Service Department's food drive or clothing/household items for Goodwill.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, May 9, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Community Building.

Hosted by the Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District. Each workshop participant will construct a 60-gallon rain barrel to take home. Register online at cuyahogawcd.org/events or contact Jacki Zevenbergen at 216.524.6580 ext. 20. Cost for the workshop is \$60.

PUBLIC HEARING COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m.

CHIPPING WEEK

May 15-19

The Service Department will chip branches and sticks on your street. The branches should be cut into 4-foot lengths, and all sticks and branches must be bundled. Please have the branches stacked by the side of the road the week prior. The Service Department will chip them over the following week. They cannot chip logs over 5 inches in diameter.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

Saturday, May 20

Free and open to the public.

Take a walk back in history...

The upstairs of the Moreland Hills Community Center had a prior life as the pro shop at the Moreland Hills Golf Club, which is now the entrance to Pebblebrook Lane. That building was moved to the current site 4350 SOM Center Rd. when the development of Pebblebrook Lane began around 1985. Village employees watched as the pro shop traveled down SOM and up the incline into the Village Hall grounds. The building housed the Village Police Department for years and subsequently the Service and Building Departments. It continues its life as a Community Center available to residents for a small fee.

10-11 a.m. – James A. Garfield Cabin will be open for tours and docent training. (Register with Sandra Vodanoff at 216.752.7581.)

11 a.m. – Meet author Jeff Knowles, who will discuss his book, *Cuyahoga's Child: Growing Up in the Valley of the Crooked River*. Both historical and heartwarming, he will take us on a journey through the forests, canals, classrooms, factories, homes and ball fields of his home in Ohio's Cuyahoga Valley.

12 p.m. – Potluck lunch. Bring a small side or dessert to share. For more information, contact the Moreland Hills Historical Society at mhshohio@gmail.com or visit mhshohio.org.

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 29

Village offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no special pick-ups or yard waste pick-ups that day.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Monday, May 29, 11:30 a.m.

There will be a Memorial Day Service at Veterans' Park, which will include the Moreland Hills Color Guard and remarks from Moreland Hills Patrolman Joe Scolaro. It is tradition to lower the flag to half-staff early in the morning and raise it about noon. We will begin gathering at the park at 11:30 a.m. We will have some brief remarks and conclude with the flag raising at noon.

JAMES A. GARFIELD CABIN OPEN HOUSE

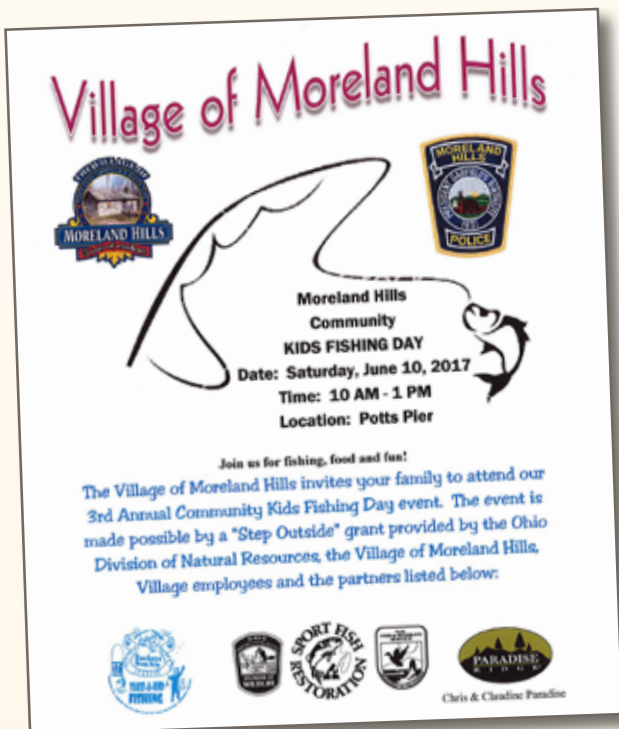
Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Ed Haney and Deborah Weinkamer, who portray James and Lucretia Garfield, as well as Dave Reavil with his Smokey Banjo Quartet, will be in attendance. Learn more at mhshohio.org.

COMMUNITY KIDS FISHING DAY

Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Moreland Hills will host its Annual Community Kids Fishing Day at Potts Pier, 3800 Chagrin River Road.



Katie Martin Receives Proclamation

At the April 12 Council meeting, Mayor Renda presented Katie Martin with a proclamation for her many years of service to the Village.

Martin is immediate past president of the Moreland Hills Historical Society, a position she held from 2008 to 2016. She also served on the Moreland Hills Women's Committee and was a member of the Community Club. She currently serves as the "Historical Memory" for the Historical Society.

Council President Dan Fritz also presented Martin with a Resolution passed by Council identifying the grounds adjacent to and north of Village Hall the "James A. Garfield Birth Site Park."

Congratulations to Katie Martin and to the entire Moreland Hills Historical Society!

Orange Community Education Update

The Orange Community Education and Recreation Commission is currently accepting applications for at-large seats on the commission. If anyone is interested, please contact Erin Fach, Director of Orange Community Education and Recreation, at 216.831.8601.

Blue Tip Importance of a Properly Maintained Septic System

Approximately 30 percent of the developed properties in the Village are connected to a publicly owned and operated sanitary sewer system, meaning that nearly 70 percent of homes in the Village are connected to a septic system. Proper maintenance of these systems is critically important to our environment.

When a septic system is properly designed, installed and maintained, it will last a long time. Just like the roof on your house, the systems typically have a lifespan of 20 to 30 years under good conditions and regular maintenance schedules. Home owners are required to maintain their systems in accordance with the Ohio Department of Health Rules, which are enforced locally by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

Without proper maintenance, your sewage could seep into your neighbor's yard, or their sewage could come into yours. Runoff does not stop at property lines; it travels into ditches and streams that lead to ponds and lakes, polluting the environment along the way. Improperly maintained or failing septic systems can contaminate ground water with disease-causing germs like E.coli, Salmonella, Shigella, and hepatitis. In addition to the diseases themselves, mosquitoes and flies that spread some illnesses can breed in areas where liquid waste reaches the surface.

Your septic system won't last forever, but you can extend its life and delay expensive replacement with maintenance and replacement of broken parts. Follow Board of Health guidelines for pumping tanks of solids, have aeration systems maintained per manufacturers' requirements, and have filter beds and absorption fields checked for proper operation. This also requires keeping proper records that can verify compliance.

Failure to follow these simple guidelines could result in premature system failure that could include the following:

- The septic system backing up into your home
- System pump or motor failures
- Aeration filter system failure
- Plugged or clogged filter beds or absorption fields that result in untreated sewage coming to the surface that could pose environmental and health hazards

When a system does fail, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to repair or replace the system in accordance with the laws and standards established by the State of Ohio. This is nothing new; it has been the law in Ohio since 1977.

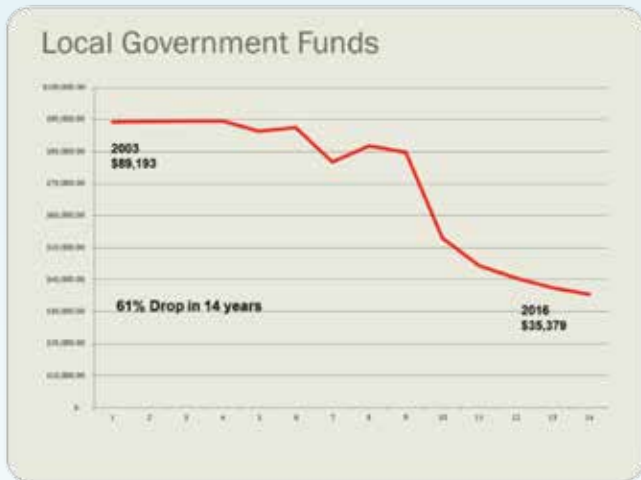
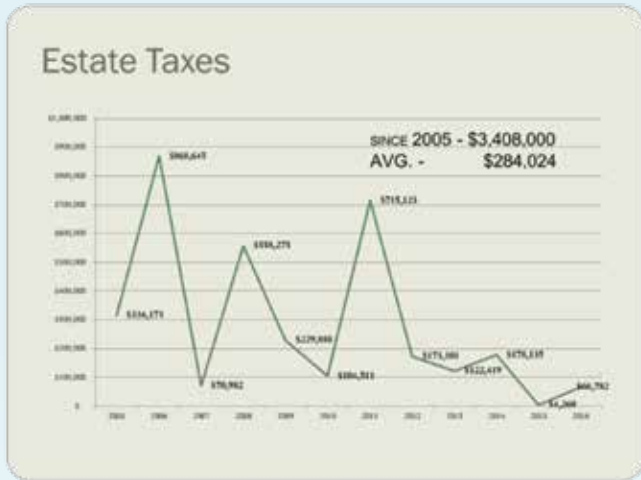
Message from Mayor Renda continued

could become if doing simple things such as paying bills and approving contracts required readings at three different once-a-month meetings. In order to pass any ordinance without three readings, a supermajority of Council members (5 of 6) must agree to "suspend the rules." The "rules" are that the title of each ordinance must be read at three Council meetings. With suspension of those rules comes the ability to pass an ordinance on the first reading. For example, Council passed an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Specialized Construction for the 2017 road program. If they did not agree to suspend the rules, this contract could not have been signed before the June meeting.

Many ordinances have "and declaring an emergency" in their titles, although zoning

ordinances do not. The "emergency" does not refer to an actual emergency or a lack of planning on our part. It simply means that the ordinance will become law when the Mayor signs an official version of the ordinance, usually on the day after the Council meeting. Without that phrase, the ordinance does not become law for 30 days after it is passed. Council and the Mayor strictly follow rules set out in the Ohio Revised Code, in our Charter and in our own Codified Ordinances that regulate our actions and the language we use. At times, both the language and those rules seem confusing and a bit archaic, but they serve an important purpose. Furthermore, they require that we take a lot of time and consideration with the most important issues. I hope you will come watch us in session at some point; we meet the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Village Finance Update



On average, Moreland Hills government spends \$1.1 million on infrastructure and capital improvement projects annually. Infrastructure spending includes all expenditures for improvements of roads, sewers, waterlines, pump stations, etc. Capital expenditures include building repairs, computer equipment and office equipment. Between 2000 and 2016, Moreland Hills spent \$18,663,737 on infrastructure projects. During that same time period, the Village acquired \$4,294,287 through outside funding sources such as state grants and no-interest or below market interest loans. The state is currently repaving SOM Center Road through the entire length of the Village at their own

expense. Per the engineer, the county is considering repaving Chagrin Blvd. from South Lane to the Village corporation line in 2019 using a 50/50 split with the Village. Thus, the Village continues to seek outside funding sources for infrastructure projects.

At the end of 2016, Moreland Hills had a surplus of \$2.9 million in the General Fund, the operating fund of the Village. This money is to be used for a proper public purpose that benefits the entire community. It has been designated for infrastructure needs, capital expenditures or emergency expenses. The Village has already budgeted approximately \$1.7 million for capital and infrastructure expenses for 2017. An additional \$360,000 has been requested for projects that may be undertaken depending on how the estimated revenues perform as we go through the fiscal cycle. These projects include roof and door repairs to the Police Department building, a remodel of the Village Hall entrance for enhanced security purposes, a more reliable phone system, etc.

Certainly the Village is susceptible to economic downturns or changes in funding levels at the state. For example, the Village has experienced a 61 percent drop in Local Government Funds over the last 16 years. The elimination of the estate tax has also negatively affected our ability to fund capital expenditures and infrastructure improvements. However, maintenance of the current infrastructure remains a critical need and is our focus at this time.

We will continue to plan conservatively and maximize the use of available resources as we position ourselves to meet the needs and demands of our residents in these challenging times.

Household Hazardous Waste

Local waterways and public health are impacted when household hazardous waste is disposed of incorrectly.

What is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?

Many products in our homes and garages are flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive and are called household hazardous waste. Products such as pesticides, paints, cleaners, oils, automotive fluids, thinners/ strippers, acids/bases and batteries require special care when disposing of them and can catch fire, react or explode under certain circumstances.

Why are these wastes a problem?

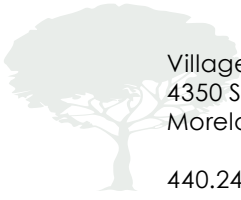
Household hazardous waste poses many dangers ranging from personal exposure to the substances during use, to contamination of water resources from improper disposal of chemicals down a storm drain or into a ditch where they are transported directly to aquatic ecosystems like Lake Erie. In addition, when waste is incorrectly disposed of in the garbage, sanitation workers could get injured or chemical reactions can take place in the garbage truck or landfill.

What should I do with household hazardous waste?

- Handle HHW carefully to avoid injury to yourself or the environment.
- Store wastes in their original container with the labels intact.
- Save HHW to be disposed of properly at Greening the Hills, which is held twice a year in Moreland Hills on the first Saturday in May and in October. Check the website for dates or call the Village at 440.248.1188.

How can I create a toxic free home?

- Use the least hazardous products available.
- Attend a *Green Cleaning* workshop to learn how to replace toxic cleaning and landscaping products with safer, cheaper alternatives from everyday household ingredients. For more information, visit cuyahogaswcd.org.



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

440.248.1188
www.morelandhills.com

Please Join Us at Veterans' Park on Memorial Day!

Monday, May 29, 11:30 a.m.

There will be a Memorial Day Service at Veterans' Park, which will include the Moreland Hills Color Guard and remarks from Moreland Hills Patrolman Joe Scolaro. It is tradition to lower the flag to half-staff early in the morning and raise it around noon.

