

NEWSLETTER

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IT'S GONE!



At approximately 6:45 a.m. early Wednesday April 1st, 2026, officers of the Cleveland Division of Police responded to a report of a missing architectural feature from the roofline of 13801 Shaker Boulevard in the historic Moreland Courts complex. The complainant, Facility Manager Larry McHugh, stated that a decorative stone Gargoyle positioned on the southwest corner of the roofline was present at

9:00 p.m. the previous evening. It was discovered missing during a routine exterior walk-around inspection undertaken by Moreland Courts Security staff early the next morning. The Gargoyle, described as a five-foot tall, winged, stone figure with an aggressive expression, has adorned the structure since its original



Before the mysterious disappearance

construction in 1924. Observations at the scene indicated fresh scrape marks at the mounting base but no structural damage to the roof.

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Residents of the building were canvassed. One neighbor reported hearing a grinding sound and a guffaw at approximately 5:00 a.m. Although no one witnessed its departure from Moreland Courts, a dog walker in Pepper Pike witnessed an object with wings streaking across the morning sky, followed by the crack of a sonic boom at 5:30 a.m. “I did not know meteors had wings,” he mused. Over the next hour, there were similar scattered reports from upstate New York, Montréal, and Newfoundland. A group of middle school students in Montréal observed the flyover with radar equipment they had built as a science fair project. Based on the locations of the reports they computed the great circle route of the five-foot object and noted that it was on a path toward Paris, France moving at 2,000 mph. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) failed to observe any unusual activity.



Friends of the Gargoyle, the two decorative grotesques carved above the entrance of the building, were questioned. They indicated that the Gargoyle has long expressed a desire to be reunited with ancestors who adorn the flying buttresses of Notre-Dame de Paris and that recently the Gargoyle has been practicing its French.

Shortly after noon local time in Paris, pedestrians were startled to witness an airborne statue gently settling on a ledge of the Cathédrale Notre-Dame. This is a developing April Fools' story.



Interview with a Meteorite

Shortly before 9:00 a.m. on Saint Patrick's Day, a seven-ton meteor entered earth's atmosphere over Lake Erie at high speed. Its temperature reached several thousand degrees. Its bright glow was visible as far away as Washington, DC. The sonic boom it created was heard all over northeast Ohio. Fragments of the meteor landed in Medina County.



The Moreland Courts Newsletter staff was able to get an exclusive interview with a meteorite fragment. What follows are the questions and answers from that interview:

Q: Welcome to Ohio! You have been traveling for a long time and from far away. Where did you come from?

A: Frankly, I do not know for certain. Most of us meteors were once small asteroids orbiting the sun between Mars and Jupiter. Sometimes we get lost, though.

Q: How old are you?

A: After the first few billion years, it was difficult to keep track. I believe I came into being 4½ billion years ago when the solar system formed.

Q: That's really old! How far have you traveled?

A: Well, I have been moving at 40,000 mph for 4.5 billion years. You do the math. I'm a rock. I don't do math.

Q: Wow! That would be nearly 200 trillion miles! Did you encounter any obstacles along the way?

A: What kind of question is that?? I had been cruising along for over four billion years, and in a matter of seconds, I was pulverized by your planet! That kind of hospitality I could have done without. I was probably good for another four billion years if you had not gotten in the way.

Q: We meant no harm. Your weight as a meteor has been estimated at seven tons. Now you are the size of a marble. What was the transition like?

A: Shattering. My insides were frigid and my outside was at least 4,000 degrees. They say my disintegration released the energy of about 250 tons of TNT. That means I shed about 250,000,000,000,000 calories in a matter of seconds! That was a weight loss program I could have done without.

MCN: That is understandable. Well, thank you for taking the time for this interview after what must have been a painful transition.

Meteorite: As Paul Simon said, "A rock feels no pain." The pleasure is all yours.

The Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory & Educational Foundation

Frank Hickman, President

By Patricia Murphy

Frank Hickman is a resident of Moreland Courts. He serves as President of the Board of Directors of The Morgan Conservatory.

The Morgan Conservatory is a nonprofit art center in the Midtown and Hough neighborhoods of Cleveland, dedicated to preserving and advancing excellence in every facet of hand paper making, letterpress printing, and book arts for all, since 2008.

Papermaking is literally making paper by hand, from start to finish, beginning with raw materials - plant fibers. The fiber is cooked, beaten to a pulp, dispersed in water, re-formed on a screen, and then dried to form a sheet of handmade paper. Different plants (fibers) produce different qualities in the finished sheet of paper.

Located in a 15,000 square foot renovated warehouse space, the Morgan Conservatory includes these areas:

- Professional studios for paper making, printmaking, bookbinding, and other paper-related disciplines.
- An 85-ft double wall Gallery.
- A Store which sells papers made by hand at the Morgan, as well as consigned artworks and gifts made by local artists.
- A half-acre urban garden where the Morgan grows fiber plants for papermaking.

The Morgan offers advanced workshops for adults throughout the year including community education for K-12 students, university students, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. Paid internship programs are offered for post-secondary students. Five exhibitions are featured in the Gallery each year. The Conservatory also hosts emerging artists and artists-in-residence from around the world to make innovative and ambitious projects in the Morgan studios.

Annual Community Events include an Open House every May, open to the public. The events are great for families, including these:

- Dress to IMPRESS paper fashion fundraiser in October which celebrates print and paper as wearable art. This is a fabulous event, not to be missed.
- Kozo Harvest weekend, every November, which brings together community members to participate in the ancient process.

Frank Hickman was born in Galion, Ohio, and has been married to previous Moreland Courts Board President Kathleen Hickman for many, many years, with whom he shares three children. He is a partner (mostly retired) in the firm Hickman and Lowder, specializing in Mental Disability Law.

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When not practicing law, Frank can be found in the basement of Moreland Courts where he enjoys his other passion, woodworking. He is the sixth generation of woodworkers in his family, making beautiful, hand-crafted furniture, some commissioned, all with no charge, but mostly exquisite personal pieces which he donates to various organizations.

Frank Hickman is one of many fascinating individuals residing at Moreland Courts, who gives of his time to support various non-profit organizations. We are planning to make this the first of a series of profiles of such individuals living at Moreland Courts. Please contact the Editor if you know of someone who would be interesting to feature in an upcoming newsletter.



Sips & Nibbles

Enjoy a fun night in **Shaker Square** with
City Ballet of Cleveland!

Saturday, April 11, 2026

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Cleveland City Dance

13108 Shaker Square, Cleveland, OH 44120

Studio 1 and Studio 4 (upstairs)

An evening of hearty appetizers, scrumptious desserts and a sneak peek of the Spring Repertoire Concert. Tickets are \$50 per person and \$75 per couple. For more information or to purchase tickets, scan the QR code below or contact us at info@cityballetofcleveland.org.



Tied Up

By Bill Lang

I tripped and fell Saturday morning on my walk down Shaker Boulevard to the Harvey Rice Library. Before I write further, I was not seriously hurt. Skinned knee and palm, but my embarrassment was many times more painful. A good thing was I did not wear my Apple watch; so, there was no need to tell The Apple Man, "Yes, I fell," and "I am okay."

"Tie your shoe" ricochets around my head when I see my shoelace untied. It matters not that my mother has been dead for two decades. Her voice still echoes across time and space warning her Billy, "You'll trip and fall," with a cadence and change of tone that told me she was serious.

And my left shoe on this sunny morning was flopping — I could feel it slapping my ankle — and the voice from beyond commanded me to stop and tie my shoe. Cross, over, under, through, loop, swoop, and tug tight.

"There," I heard myself say aloud, as if she could hear me. I took one, two, three steps, tripped over a raised piece of the cracked sidewalk; and after several desperate arm windmills trying to balance as I helter-skeltered a few steps forward, I decided on a head-first slide into second base — safe!

So, an untied shoelace was not the cause. Or was it? I have never tripped on an untied shoelace. I admit I have often ignored the voice from the grave and have not tripped and fallen. I don't recall, until just a few years ago, my shoelaces untying with the regularity I have experienced more recently.

Have I lost the ability to tie my shoelaces properly? Or is it the shoelaces?

Shoelaces and shoelace-tying methods have been the subjects of patents galore. Shoelace-tying assistive devices and shoelace-tying instruction devices have been the subjects of many innovative and imaginative inventors who have patents to prove their shoelace engineering skills. Have shoelaces changed? Have I lost my touch?

I have gone as far as testing weird plastic "laces" that loop through adjacent eyelets, four of them for each shoe with eight eyelets. That is one solution for the untying phenomenon because the "laces" are permanently attached. And then a former friend asked, pointing to my feet as we sat in a group of people, "What the heck are those stupid things?" As a result, I investigated one of the shoe-tying devices that has received patents to enhance my shoe-tying technique. Patent Number US11495138B2, is hard to visualize because it is composed of "a female member and a male member wherein the female member is selectively engageable with the male member." There are several engineering drawings by the inventor, Percy Duckworth, Jr. What if someone were to see me walking around with this device? I can't see such a device in my future.

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Looking into the shoe-tying problem, I can understand that the materials from which common shoelaces are made are quite different from those used by Harvey Kennedy when he patented the shoelace in 1790. Many patents regarding shoelace design and technology — wire cores, woven Kevlar elements, and the like — have been granted. So many choices, but at what cost?

I checked in with some shoe people – Nike — and I discovered the part of the website dedicated to instructions for tying shoes. I've been doing it correctly for as long as I can remember.

It's not me. It's the laces.

Don't bring up Velcro. It's so 20th Century.

Editor's Note:

Bill Lang is a seasoned Cleveland, Ohio trial attorney. He currently serves on The Moreland Courts Board of Directors. Bill has spearheaded the Coffee and Conversation group that meets most Mondays in the Gallery, and outside when weather permits. All Moreland Courts residents are invited. The Newsletter Committee asked Bill if he would be willing to write a column for The Newsletter, similar to his musings when announcing by email the weekly Coffee and Conversation meet-up. He agreed.



Flood Protection At Moreland Courts

By Eric Schreiber and Larry McHugh

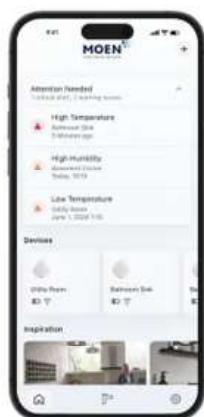
A flood in your unit is no joke. Because of its age, Moreland Courts is particularly vulnerable. The results can be devastating, not only to you, but also to your downstairs neighbor and those below them. Other than fire, flooding causes more damage than anything else in buildings like ours.

The best flood is one that never happened. Preventive maintenance is key. Old valves should be replaced before they make trouble. Accessible plumbing in your unit is your responsibility. Exposed plumbing during remodels should be carefully inspected, repaired or replaced if necessary. On very cold days, Moreland Courts staff will recommend dripping faucets that are near outside walls to prevent frozen pipes that might burst. After the prevention, accidents will of course still happen. Early detection becomes key.

Moisture detectors range from little boxes that make lots of noise when they get wet, to detectors that are wired into an alarm system that alerts the alarm company. The inexpensive moisture detectors are far better than nothing, but someone has to hear them in order for them to be effective. Relatively inexpensive detection systems are available that will send an alert to a smart phone, useful when nobody is home when the alarm goes off.

There are numerous detectors available ranging from less than \$20 each. The Zircon pictured here produces a piercing SOS repeatedly until it is dried or the battery dies. Of course, if nobody is present to hear the sound, it does not do any good.

There are many systems that can connect to your Wi-Fi. They can communicate with your smart phone to alert you of a problem. A typical system made by Moen is pictured here. A single detector costs \$57. A 3 pack costs \$154.



Prevention and detection are key to avoiding a nasty and costly flood. We recommend taking these steps. These detectors are readily available at many stores including Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart, and Amazon.

Update and Reminders from the MCCA Rules Committee

By Jessica Schreiber and Jan Devereaux

At the March Moreland Courts Condominium Association Board meeting, residents asked several questions about our policies regarding smoking and leasing. Here, in a nutshell, are explanations of Moreland Courts current rules regarding these issues:

Smoking

Smoking is permitted inside Moreland Courts only within the bounds of individual units. Smoke must not spread into common areas or neighboring units.

It is the responsibility of the smoker to mitigate, that is, to reduce or eliminate the exfiltration and resulting exposure and effects of smoke outside the smoker's unit. Complaints about smoke are based on a simple test: *Can smoke be smelled?* No special testing equipment is necessary; the smell of smoke will suffice. Complaints must be verified by more than one person. Any unit owner or employee may file a complaint about smoke using the complaint form available in the *Resident's Document Library* under *Resident Forms* on the Moreland Courts web site. Additionally, the General Manager may address the issue without a specific complaint.

In response to a complaint, the General Manager will notify the subject of the complaint in writing of the presence of unwanted smoke and the need to mitigate. Costs are the responsibility of the smoker. Notification includes mention of the potential for enforcement measures and the right to appeal.

The staff is available to assist and advise on methods for mitigation. If the General Manager determines that the smoker has failed to prevent the spread of smoke into common areas or neighboring units, the matter can be referred to the Rules Committee and/or the Board for review and enforcement measures.

Leasing

Moreland Courts is intended for owner-occupied residences. Leasing for up to 24 months is allowed, but is considered a short-term option available only to a unit owner who has lived at Moreland Courts for at least 12 months and is facing an undue hardship or practical difficulty.

In order to lease, the unit owner must comply with all leasing requirements specified in the MCCA Rental Policy and Procedure. These include (1) using the MCCA leasing form; (2) conducting a credit and criminal background check on the proposed tenant; and (3) providing the results of the background checks to Management.

"No extension beyond the total 24 month period is permitted for any reason . . ." except as follows: If after an initial 24-month lease the owner asks to lease again, Board approval is required and the unit owner must support the application with financial documentation. Anyone who wants to rent beyond 24 months must make a strong case demonstrating financial hardship, and that except under extraordinary circumstances, the Board is not likely to approve extensions, particularly if the owner has not made a good faith effort to sell their unit at prevailing market prices. Leases after 24 months are solely at the discretion of the board and are for a 12-month period only.

Should the unit owner default on payment of monthly assessments, the Association is authorized to receive the tenant's rent and apply it towards the deficiency. The Board can set a maximum limit on the number of extensions granted any unit owner, regardless of circumstance or reason. A proposed Tenant whose Unit Owner has failed to comply with MCCA's leasing requirements will not be permitted to move onto the property. For more information, see the MCCA Rental Policy and Procedure and MCCA Amended and Restated Declaration, Article III B (12)(b), found under Policies and Procedures, Residents' Login, on the Moreland Courts web site.

Board Notes

By Gordon Wean, President

Moreland Courts Board of Directors

As residents may know, I opted not to seek reelection to the Moreland Courts Condominium Association board this year. Consequently, this will be my final President's Report in the Newsletter.

It has been an honor for me to serve as Vice-President of the Association board after being appointed to our governing body to complete Archie Green's unfinished term, and then as President after my reelection two years ago.

While the position has been demanding (akin to "living above the store"), acting for the benefit of the place we call home was tremendously rewarding. I was fortunate to work with an exceptional team of board colleagues, as well as to come to know many more residents than I would have otherwise.

Moreland Courts is a special place populated by an extraordinary range of residents possessing many varied skills and experiences. In my waning days as President, I want to urge my many neighbors to consider becoming involved in guiding the future of the Association. There are many entry points to this journey, starting with the variety of committees focused on different aspects of life in our MCCA community. Your participation in a committee may lead you to explore others. This sort of community involvement may ultimately result in a decision to run for election to the Board, which I encourage. Contributing your talents and judgment to your community will benefit your neighbors and enrich your life, so please give serious thought to joining the team.

Another Reminder

and Thank You

Moreland Courts residents were recently asked to clean up their parking spaces and the area around them in the West Garage. Residents were very responsive and have moved items to lockers and gotten rid of unnecessary items.

It is a good time for a reminder to all that for safety and aesthetic reasons **PARKING SPACES AND THE AREAS AROUND THEM ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE USED AS STORAGE AREAS** (See MCCA Rules Book, p.22).

Anything left in the garage may be removed and temporarily stored at the unit owner's expense. Please consult the staff if you have special needs for storage. Thank you for your cooperation.

THE MORELAND COURTS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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