

# FROM YOUR BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Commissioner, Norm Casini ● Assistant Building Commissioner, Ken LaBella

We hope everyone had a safe and healthy Holiday Season!

Moving forward with 2024, the building department looks forward to working with all our residents and businesses with construction permitting, grants and property maintenance.

We are in the second year of the new five-year grant program, so if you have not taken advantage or are not familiar with the George M. Suhy grant program, give the building department a call and we can assist you, 216-641-7020, Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.



## TIPS FOR HIRING A CONTRACTOR

Everyone wants to get the best work done for their dollar. Unfortunately, not all the professionals will deliver a high quality of work or be honest about the total cost to complete a project. Here are some things to consider and red flags to watch for before you hire a contractor:

- Make sure the contractor is registered- with the Village of Cuyahoga Heights building department. This protects you and the village.
- References- any professional company will have references for you to check and confirm their ability to perform the work.
- Get it in writing- a written contract can save you a lot of headaches, a real professional will not have a problem with providing you one.
- The contractor is on time- if your contractor does not show up on time, especially for the first meeting, they are showing you they have no respect for your time and it will not change when you hire them.
- Get 2-3 quotes- be suspicious of too-low of a price offered. Ask yourself what corners they are cutting to get a price that is much lower than anybody else.
- Deposit or money down- if the deposit required is more than 50% of the job, this should raise a red flag, a reputable contractor will not take a large sum of money down.
- Permitting- make sure this is negotiated in your contract price and agreed on that the contractor will apply for the construction permit.
- Appearance- look how they present themselves, look at the shape of their vehicle, when they pull out of your driveway, did they deposit fluids on your driveway. They are there to respect your property.

If you notice any of these signs, it may be indicating how much of a true professional they are. If you have any questions, please contact the building department @ 216-641-7020.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### STAIRWAYS

Width - Stairways shall have a minimum 36-inch width above handrails.

Tread and Risers - Maximum riser height shall be 7  $\frac{3}{4}$ " inches and minimum tread shall be 10" inches. The maximum variation shall not exceed  $\frac{3}{8}$ " inch