

FROM YOUR BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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

Spring is right around the corner; the winter months have been very mild so far. This is a great time to start planning for any home improvement projects that you are looking to have done in the spring and summer months. We are in the second year of the new five-year grant program, each homeowner has available three grants for a total of \$6,000. The five year period started January 1, 2023 and is good thru December 31, 2027, so if you haven't taken advantage or aren't familiar with the George M. Suhy Grant Program, give the building department a call and we can assist you at (216) 641-7020, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m - 4:30 p.m.



Hiring a contractor? Use these tips to make sure you select the right one for your home project:

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:

- **Registered Contractor**- make sure your 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, and did they deposit fluids on your driveway? They are there to respect your property.

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

PERMITS

Time limitation of application: An application for a permit for any proposed work shall be deemed to have been abandoned 180 days after the date of filing unless such application has been pursued in good faith or a permit has been issued. The building official is authorized to grant one or more extensions of time for additional periods not exceeding 180 days each.

