



# Village of Cuyahoga Heights

March 2022

*Continuing to move our legacy  
community forward...*

## Upcoming Dates and Reminders

**March 23 - Council Workshop**  
*Cancelled*

**March 31 - Easter Bunny**  
Drive-Thru Registration  
Deadline

**April 2 - Kennedy House Open**  
Visitors Welcome  
10:00 am-12:00 pm

**April 6 - Charity Pick Up**

**April 15 - Good Friday**  
Village Hall/Service Dept.  
Closed

**April 17 - Happy Easter**

**April 18 - Village Hall/Service  
Dept. Closed**

**April 19 - Rubbish Collection**

**April 20 - Special Pick Up**

Agenda/Minutes of our council  
meetings are posted every  
month under the government  
tab



### At the Village Hall

#### Council Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
Caucus 5:00 p.m.  
Meeting 6:00 p.m.

#### Economic Development Committee Public Works Meeting

#### Finance Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month,  
if needed

#### Zoning Board Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
at 5:00 p.m.

#### Work Sessions of Council

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
at 5:00 p.m.

\*Only in January, February,  
March, April, May, October

**Village Hall office hours are  
Monday through Friday from  
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. &  
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

[www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com)

## *From the Mayor's Desk*

Hello all and happy (almost) Spring! I wanted to take a moment and recognize our “Miss” Wendy Heinzman who retired from the village hall last month.

Miss Wendy (as Lily likes to call her)—yes, we will “miss” Wendy. A lady of many talents and mysteries.

Before we knew our Miss Wendy Heinzman, she had a career of varied employment at not only the U.S. Defense Department, the Justice Department-Marshals Service, but also the U.S. Court of Appeals with the Honorable Judge Celebrezze.

But in 1996 the call of motherhood was strong. Wendy took a hiatus, she and her husband David were blessed with two sons, Peter and Andy. The boys kept her busy right up to high school. And in 2012, she brightened (literally) our door at the village hall. By the way—those two young men served in the U. S. Navy, and we thank them for their service.

Let's take a look at Wendy's Cuyahoga Heights history...

She came to us recommended by her friend's husband who was a Beachwood police officer to fill a gaping mayor's court hole in staffing. Wendy started as a part-time employee handling mayor's court, assisting with the building department and greeting all that entered the village hall with a welcoming smile. Eventually she became full-time, adding the newsletter to her bag of proverbial tricks. During the arduous process of reading/editing and re-reading the many pages of the “Cuyahoga Heights Celebrating 100 Years” anniversary book, Wendy proved to be quite a terrific grammarian—correcting numerous segments of the voluminous tome.

However, her work did not stop at the village hall door—she gladly helped out at the annual corn roast creating the position of Madame Babushka, dressing as a gypsy psychic: working her magic, telling tales, fortunes and predicting the future. Wendy made our work environment fun—decorating for all seasons and holidays and yes, dressing up as a wonderful, witty witch for Halloween!



## *From the Mayor's Desk (continued)*

And now, some ten years later, that family/grandchildren call has welled up again. Not only does David want to see more of his lovely bride, but two young grandsons, Maddie (age 4) and Liam (age 2), are clamoring for more grandma and grandpa time!

After ten years of admirable sunshine-filled service to our village, Wendy closed the door on this chapter of her story—retiring February 22, 2022.

Yes, we will miss “Miss” Wendy because she became an integral part of our village family—but we thank her for brightening our days—being there to rely on for one wonderful decade.

I would like to introduce our “new addition” to the Bacci family. As many of you know, we lost our dear English Lab “Hudson” in 2021. He gave our family almost 14 years of fun and unconditional love. Recently, we heard that one of Hudson’s relatives (high on a mountain top in West Virginia) had a litter of all boys on Christmas Eve. So, last week Tricia and I took a little road trip to visit...and we came home with our new baby black lab “Erie.” He’s quite a handful, but all the kids, especially Lily have been pitching in and loving every minute they have with him.

### **Resident Spotlight**

As you noticed in last month’s newsletter, we spotlighted several employees. We plan to continue to do so moving forward to familiarize our residents with the employees who work for the village. With that in mind, we thought it would be nice to have a resident “spotlight” another resident. For example: a person who finished a 5K, volunteering their time for an organization, a student who excelled in school or sports, etc. The person being recognized can be a student or adult. Please email [c.caporuscio@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:c.caporuscio@cuyahogaheights.com) the information as well as a picture of the resident.

### **Easter Bunny Drive-Thru**

Final notice! We will be holding our Easter Bunny Drive-Thru at Bacci Park on Saturday, April 16 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The event is for our resident children and grandchildren between the ages of 0-12. Upon entering the park, your first stop will be at the concession stand where the children will receive an Easter goody bag from our elected officials and village hall staff. There will be additional stops with treats from our departments along the way before exiting the park. If you would like to participate in this event, you must sign up. Please contact the Village Hall during regular business hours at 216-641-7020 or email [holiday@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:holiday@cuyahogaheights.com). We will need to know the name(s) and age(s) of your children/grandchildren. Deadline to register is Thursday, March 31, 2022.



## ***From the Mayor's Desk (continued)***

### **Easter Holiday Reminders**

Please note that the village hall and service department will be closed on Friday, April 15 and Monday, April 18 in observance of the holiday. Garbage collection will resume on Tuesday, April 19 and special pick up on Wednesday, April 20.

### **Volunteers**

Village resident Cheryl Harris and her volunteers continue to make sleeping mats for the homeless. They meet twice a month at the village hall. The first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-noon and the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If residents are interested in volunteering, or students that need community service hours, please contact Cheryl at 216-849-7075. If you have plastic bags that you no longer need, please drop them off in the yellow container at the village hall near the back entranceway. In addition, if anyone has any blankets or afghans they no longer need, please contact Cheryl as she is collecting these items for The City Mission.

### **Birthdays**

March birthday wishes to employees: (8) Police Chief Brian Sturgill, (11) Joe Wallace, (15) Angel Meriwether & Jeremy Grabowski, (18) Jeff Baciak, (25) Barb Cash & Tracy Deal, and (26) Jimmy Berdysz.

### **Condolences**

John Kruszynski's mother, Marie Kruszynski and former resident, passed away on February 12; she was 85 years old.

Some of our older residents may remember former resident and Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department Captain John Pallini who moved to South Carolina after retiring. We recently learned that he passed away on February 10; he was 93 years old.

Please keep the families in your thoughts and prayers.

**Make A Difference**



*“Strong minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, weak minds discuss people.”*

*~ Socrates*

# From the Chief Financial Officer

## Finance Employee Spotlight

Administrative Accounting Assistant  
Amanda Domzalski

Amanda is a 1999 graduate of Cuyahoga Heights Schools and resident in Valley View with her husband, of 20 years, Andy, son Andrew (18) a senior, and daughter Kaitlin (14) a freshman at Cuyahoga Heights High School. Amanda joined the village hall staff on February 1, 2017. Her main function at the village hall is payroll, some payables, employee benefits, information technology, and assists the CFO and the finance department with daily functions. Before working for the village, Amanda was an active volunteer at our annual community corn roast. In her children's early years at Cuyahoga Heights schools, Amanda held office as PTO president for four years and served on the Cuyahoga Heights School levy committee.

*"I love working for the village and being a part of a great community of residents and co-workers, alike" -Amanda*



In-person taxpayer assistance is available at the following locations:

**Brecksville**  
Walk-in Hours: 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday  
10107 Brecksville Road  
Brecksville, OH 44141

**OR**

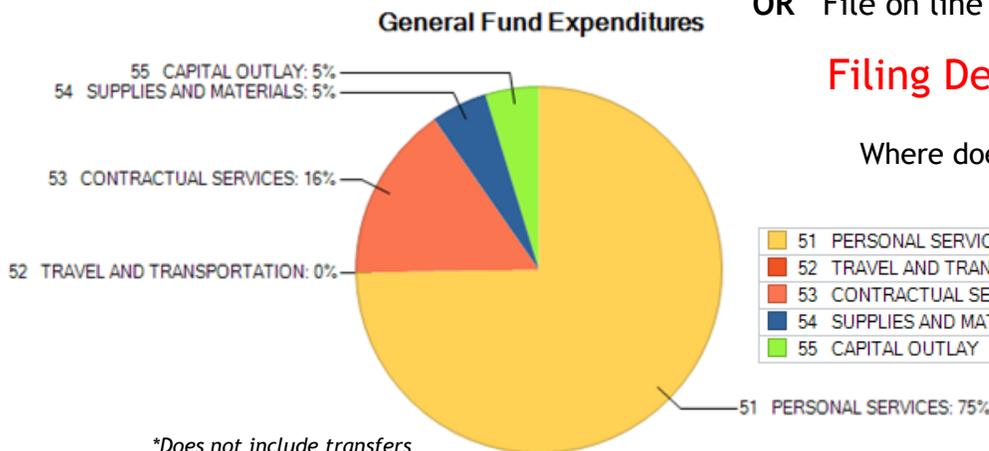
How to Use RITA's Drop Boxes:

1. Drop-off your completed return or, if you prefer, we will complete your tax return for you.
2. Bundle your tax support documents together.
3. Fill out the **Municipal Income Tax Drop-Off Sheet** to provide general information that will help us to complete your return.
4. Place your tax documents in an envelope and head to a **RITA Drop Box** location
5. You will receive a letter from us, confirming receipt of your documents.

**OR** File on line at [RITAohio.com](http://RITAohio.com)

**Filing Deadline is April 18, 2022**

Where does the money go?



	Full Year Actual 2021
51 PERSONAL SERVICES	\$6,635,647
52 TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION	\$1,008
53 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$1,379,095
54 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	\$438,880
55 CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$420,363

Questions about your individual **Income Tax** returns? Contact Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A) 1-800-860-7482  
Questions about your **Property Tax**? Contact Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office 216-443-7010

# *From the Police Department*

*From the desk of Chief Stargill*



Dear Residents and Valued Business Partners:

Chances are someone you know has received an ominous call or message from someone pretending to be from the government, alleging that your information has been compromised or demanding immediate payment. **IGNORE IT!!!** This is just one of the tips that the Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General (SSA OIG) is sharing to warn consumers about these scams.

Criminals are now expanding their efforts to include other government imposter scams. In a government imposter scam, someone claims to be a Social Security Administration (SSA), or another government employee, and may ask for personal information, demand payment, or make threats.

These scams primarily use the telephone, but scammers may also use email, text messages, social media, or U.S. mail. SSA Inspector General urges everyone to be cautious of any contact supposedly from a government agency telling you about a problem you don't recognize and provides the following suggestions.

Real government officials will NEVER:

- threaten arrest or legal action against you unless you immediately send money
- promise to increase your benefits or resolve a problem if you pay a fee or move your money into a protected account
- require payment with gift cards, prepaid debit cards, wire transfer, Internet currency, or by mailing cash
- try to gain your trust by providing "fake documentation," "false evidence," or the name of a real government official

The public is encouraged to report Social Security-related scams and fraud online @ <https://oig.ssa.gov>.

For other scams related to government agencies (non-Social Security) should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission @ <https://www.ftc.gov/scams>.

If you have any further concerns, please contact CHPD Detective Lukas by calling (216) 640-2045 during business hours (M-F 8a-4p). If Detective Lukas is not available, you may leave a message or if immediate assistance is needed, please call (216) 883-6800 and an officer will return your call or be dispatched to your location.

STAY SAFE!

Respectfully,

*Chief Stargill*

Chief of Police

# From the Building Department

## Building Department Spotlight:

Assistant Building Commissioner, Ken LaBella

- Cleveland State University
- Certified member of ICC
- Member of BOCONEO (Building Official Conference N.E. Ohio)
- Worked in the steel industry for 15 years as a sales rep.
- Owned /operated a residential construction business for 20 years

Current responsibilities are as follows:

1. Making sure all residential and commercial properties are being maintained to the village's codified ordinances
2. Handling all contractors with the registration process for the village
3. Issuing permits for contractors and homeowners
4. Working with our legal department on all noncompliant cases
5. Working with our service department on the maintenance of all properties and structures throughout the village
6. Working with our police and fire departments on keeping all residential and commercial properties safe and code compliant

*"I've been the Assistant Building Commissioner alongside Norm Casini for the past seven years; it has been a great opportunity to assist with such a knowledgeable and great man in the field. My wife Michele and I reside in Northfield Center Township and have three children: Marisa who resides in Chicago, Nick who is attending Kent State and Jack who is a freshman at Nardonina."*

### INTERESTS:

- Working with student athletes
- Home Improvements / Landscaping
- My Dog (Coco)
- Golf

The building department will be performing exterior maintenance inspections on all properties throughout the village starting April 1. All inspections will be done from the curb only. Keep in mind that the George M. Suhy grant program will expire this year—December 31, so if you are looking to improve your property, you may have grant money available. Please contact the building department and we can assist you with any questions you may have.

On another note, all garbage cans should be kept either on the side of your home or inside of your garage, the building department will be sending a letter out to all residents on this matter.



### DID YOU KNOW?

*Habitable space, hallways and portions of basements containing these spaces shall have a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet. Bathrooms, toilet rooms and laundry rooms shall have a ceiling height of not less than 6 feet 8 inches.*



# From the Fire Department

## Fire Employee Spotlight

Full-Time Firefighter Paramedic, Michael Cuthbertson

- Paramedic for 12 years working for a variety of different ambulance services
- Attended Cuyahoga Community College Fire Academy in 2019
- Part-Time Firefighter/Paramedic for Orange Village Fire Department
- Part-Time Firefighter/Paramedic Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department 2019-2021
- Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedic Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department 2022-present

Parents are Dennis and Judy, 2 siblings, Alan and Laura.

What Michael really enjoys about working for the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department is the family atmosphere.

*"I really take pride in serving the residents of Cuyahoga Heights."*



The Village will be participating in a statewide tornado drill on **March 23 at 9:50 am**. We will be sounding our warning sirens throughout the Village. Below are some safety tips to follow shall we ever have a tornado in our area.



## Tornado Safety Tips

Whether practicing in a tornado drill or sheltering during a warning, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to **DUCK!**

**D - Go DOWN to the lowest level**

**U - Get UNDER something**

**C - COVER your head**

**K - KEEP in shelter until the storm has passed**

# From the Fire Department (continued)



## Safety Basics

A tornado's path of destruction can be more than one mile wide and 50 miles long and can devastate a neighborhood in seconds. You may have little warning, so preparation and planning are key to reducing injuries. It's important to know what to do before, during, and after a tornado:

### Before

Know a safe place: Know the safe places at home, work and at school. Locate local shelters and be aware of the tornado risk in your county or parish.

- Practice tornado drills at home and school.
- Have a plan for how family members will contact one another during an emergency. Establish an out-of-area contact (such as a relative or family friend) who can coordinate family members' locations and information should you become separated. Make sure children learn the phone numbers and addresses and know the emergency plans.
- Prepare a family disaster supplies kit. Families with children should have each child create their own personal pack.

### During

During a tornado watch:

- Remain inside, away from windows and doors.
- Listen to the radio or TV. Keep a battery-operated radio or a NOAA Weather Radio.
- Make sure your family disaster supplies kit is complete.
- Be alert during a thunderstorm watch. Severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes. Being prepared will give you more time should the weather turn severe.

During a tornado warning - Listen to the radio or TV for weather updates and instructions from local officials. Quick action and planning ahead can save your life! If you get caught in a tornado, know what to do: take shelter immediately; stay away from windows, corners, doors and outside walls; be aware of flying debris. Crouch on the floor near an interior wall or under a heavy object, such as a table. Bend over and place your arms on the back of your head and neck (which are injured more easily than other parts of your body).

### After

Continue to listen to the news and weather updates. Stay away from power lines and broken glass. Be aware of the possibility of broken gas lines and chemical spills. If you smell gas or chemical fumes, immediately evacuate the area and contact authorities. Stay out of damaged buildings and return home only after authorities have issued an all-clear signal.

# From the Village Hall

## Village Wide Garage Sales

Our annual village wide garage sales will be held on Saturday, June 25 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Village residents that are interested in participating must register by calling the village hall at 216-641-7020 during normal business hours. By registering your residence for the garage sale, you will receive one table which will be dropped off at your home earlier that week by our service department. Please be advised that there are not enough tables for more than one table per residence. We will be placing ads in the Neighborhood News and on-line to promote this event. **The deadline to register is Thursday, June 9.**

## Parks and Playgrounds

The village owns, operates, and maintains Bacci Park with a pond for fishing in the summer and ice-skating in the winter. Bacci Park also has its own playground, two ball fields, three pavilions, and a soccer field. *\*Please note that fishing in the pond at Bacci Park is for residents only, and by permit which can be obtained from the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department.*



## 2022 Village Scholarship Program

The scholarship program assists village resident graduates. Recipients will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship in the form of a tuition reimbursement. In order to be eligible for the award the recipients must meet several requirements: (1) *be* a resident of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights, (2) *be* a graduating high school senior in the spring or summer of 2022, (3) *be* enrolled either full-time or part-time at an accredited college, university, community college, vocational or technical school for the fall of 2022, (4) *complete* the fall 2022 school term with a grade point average sufficient to be in good standing with the academic institution, (5) *must* submit proof of grades to the CFO's office by March 1, 2023. Applications are available at the High School Guidance Office or at the village hall and must be submitted to the CFO at the village hall by May 1, 2022. Any questions please email [cfo@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:cfo@cuyahogaheights.com).



# From the Village Hall (continued)

## Notary Service

Several of our employees at the village hall are Notaries for the State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County and would be happy to notarize items for village residents, free of charge during regular business hours.



## Seven Hills Recreation Center

The village has continued their agreement with the Seven Hills Recreation Center for our residents to use their facility. Our village will pay 100% of the rate for bona-fide village residents that are 62-years of age and older, U.S. Veterans, and disabled residents. We will also pay 50% of the rate for all other bona-fide village residents desiring to secure a membership as outlined in our price sheet. In order to purchase a membership, please contact the village hall during normal business hours. Each resident/family must show proof that he/she is a bona-fide resident of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights. At that time, you will also need to pay your 50% of the membership (**cash or check only**) for those not covered under the 100% rate. A copy of the approved application, along with rules and regulations will then be given to the resident. It is then up to the resident to take the approved application to the Seven Hills Recreation Center so that you can receive your official pass. We hope our residents will take advantage of this special offer, as well as keeping fit.



## Medical Transports

Our transportation program continues to be one of the most utilized services our village provides. This service is available for our senior citizens (60+) who are otherwise unable to get to their doctor appointments. If any senior citizen has a doctor's visit and in need of transportation, please contact **Mindy Armbrust** at 216-641-2702 during normal business hours—**one week prior** to the scheduled doctor's visit.



# *From the Service Department*

## *Service Employee Spotlight*

Assistant Service Director, Jeff Baciak

“My name is Jeff Baciak, and I am the Assistant Service Director for the Village of Cuyahoga Heights. I was born and raised in Cuyahoga Heights with my parents, brother, and sister. I have lived in the village for 32 of my 45 years of life.

In 1995, I graduated from Cuyahoga Heights, and now my two daughters, Lexi and Ella, attend Cuyahoga Heights as well. Lexi will be graduating this year and Ella is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

After high school, I worked for Waid Sewer for 20 years. Then I came to work for the Cuyahoga Heights Service Department.

In my spare time, I enjoy being at the lake.”



### **Garbage Pick Up - Recycling - Yard Waste**

Our service department collects garbage every Monday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. at no charge to its residents. They will come into your yard and take your garbage tote and recycling container to the curb; afterwards they will carry it back into your yard. Please note that if a holiday falls on a Monday; the service will commence on Tuesday.



### **Special Pick Up**

If you need a special pick up for trash that is oversized, large amounts, or hazardous waste, don't forget to contact the service department to be put on the special pick up list. Special pick up day is on Tuesday mornings, unless there is a holiday on Monday, at which time the special pick up will be taken care on Wednesday. You must call the service department at **216-641-3505** by 4:00 on Monday to get on the list for Tuesday's pick up.

### **Charity Pick Up**

Our service department will pick up any small usable item at your residence that you would like to donate to charity on the first Wednesday of each month. Small household items, clothes, etc., are collected and donated. No tax receipts are given for this service, and you must call the service department at **216-641-3505** prior to the first Wednesday of the month for this service.

# *From the Service Department (continued)*

## **Newspaper/Cardboard Recycling**

Do your part in helping the environment; recycle cardboard and newspaper. Our village has a recycling container which is located in Bacci Park in the rear of the back parking lot. The container is strictly for cardboard and newspaper. Stop on down and do your part in recycling. If you have a large amount and are unable to take it to the container, please call the service department during normal business hours prior to Tuesday mornings; we will put it on our “special pick up” list.



## **Dumpsters**

Residents may rent a village dumpster for personal use at their home by paying \$30.00 to the village for each dumpster load. Dumpsters can be used for yard waste, construction debris or miscellaneous household items NOT including carpet, tires, or hazardous waste. Please do not mix materials. Contact the Service Director at **216-641-3505** for this service. Use of the dumpster is for a maximum of two (2) weeks. After two (2) weeks, the dumpster will be picked up from the resident’s home. If the resident needs to use it again, he/she will go back on the waiting list. Please note that the disposal of debris created from outside the village is prohibited.

## **Pest and Insect Control**

Pest control services are available by contacting our service department at **216-641-3505** with your name, address, phone number, and the nature of your problem. We will then reach out to our pest control vendor. This service is free except for termites, bed bugs, and wildlife. The village also sprays the outside of your home in the spring to hinder any unwanted pests from entering your home.

## **Meals on Wheels by Lori’s Custom Catering**

This service is available to any village resident that is 60 years of age or older. A lunch time meal will be delivered to your home daily, Monday through Friday, by our service department. This is an affordable option, the cost is \$25.00 per week, which is only \$5.00 per day (must sign-up up for a full week.) To receive meals for a given week, payment must be made by the Thursday prior. If you have any questions regarding this service, please contact Mindy Armbrust at the service department at **216 641-3505** or [m.armbrust@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:m.armbrust@cuyahogaheights.com).



# *Sports and Recreation Department*

## **Sports**

If you registered your child(ren) for spring soccer you should be contacted by their coach soon. We hope they enjoy their soccer season!

Registration just ended for the 2022 youth baseball and softball seasons. We will be working with the other teams in the league for team placements and you will be hearing from a coach once this is complete. If you would still like to register, forms can be found on the village website by clicking the Recreation tab in the ribbon at the top of the home page. You will then find the registration forms in the drop-down menu under Sports tab. In addition to the registration form, a Recreation Public Health Waiver must be completed for all participants. Forms can be dropped off at the village hall or emailed to [chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com). Forms received at this point will incur a late registration fee of \$25.00, and while we do our best to place all children on teams, rosters do fill up quickly and late registrations can impact placement on a team.

## **Village Youth Top Golf Trip**

On Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> while the Cuyahoga Heights Schools are closed for Spring Break, we will be taking the village youth on a trip to Top Golf for a morning of golfing and lunch. Please see the insert with trip and registration details.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to send me an email at [chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com) or contact me at **216-641-2702**.

Mindy Armbrust  
Recreation Director

# Seasonal Employment

**Concession Stand Cashiers • Park Monitors • Lifeguards • Pool Attendants • Playground Monitors**

Job Requirements for all the above:

1. All Park Monitors must be 16 years old by **March 1, 2022**.
2. Concession Stand Cashiers, Pool Attendant, Lifeguards and Playground Monitors must be 15 years old by **June 1, 2022**.
3. All Concession Stand Cashiers must possess proficient math skills, have an outgoing personality, and must be available to work weekends.
4. Applications **must** be turned in by 4:00 p.m. on **March 21, 2022** for *Concession Stand and Park Monitors* and by 4:00 p.m. on **April 4, 2022** for *the Pool*.
5. Applications **will not** be accepted after these dates.
6. Lifeguards must be a Certified Lifeguard, CPR Certified and WSI (Water Safety Instructor - *if applicable*).

Applications and job descriptions are available online at [www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com) under “**Employment**” or by email request to [hr@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:hr@cuyahogaheights.com). **(All returning employees you may contact your manager for applications as well)**

Park Monitors and Park Concession Stand Cashiers will start as soon as the weather permits!

The Swimming Pool tentatively opens on **Saturday, June 4, 2022** at 1:00 p.m.

