



*Continuing to move our legacy community forward
for over 100 years...*

March 2024 Newsletter

Upcoming Dates and Reminders

- March 6 – Charity Pick Up
- March 10 – Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 15 – Youth Baseball & Softball Registration Deadline
- March 17 – Happy St. Patrick’s Day!
- March 19 – Spring Begins
- March 19 – Presidential Primary Election
- March 23 – Easter Egg Hunt
- March 29 – Good Friday
Village Hall/Service Department Closed
- March 31 – Happy Easter!

At the Village Hall

Council Meetings

- 2nd Wednesday of the Month
- Caucus 5:00 p.m.
- Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Economic Development Committee /Public Works/ Finance Meeting

- 2nd Wednesday of the Month, if needed

Zoning Board Meetings

- 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

Work Sessions of Council

- 4th 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

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From Mayor Bacci's Desk



I hope everyone has been well and healthy as we close out the month of February and move a step closer to spring. An important issue for March is the Primary Election which will be held on Tuesday, March 19. One of the crucial items on the ballot is a proposed tax levy from the Cuyahoga Heights Local School District. For those that don't know, CHS Superintendent Tom Evans will be leading tours of the school buildings and grounds on Saturday, February 24 at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday, March 3 at 12:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary and everyone is welcome to join; please meet at the school pillars. During the tour, Mr. Evans will highlight some of the maintenance areas that have been discussed with the permanent improvement monies on the upcoming ballot. Earlier this month at our February 14 council meeting, village council passed a resolution in support of the levy. We hope that our residents will do their part and vote on March 19.



Around Town

Our Easter egg hunt will take place on Saturday, March 23 at Klima Gardens at 11:30 a.m.; rain-or-shine. The egg hunt is open to all Cuyahoga Heights' children and grandchildren 0-12 years of age. Anyone wishing to donate Easter baskets for the egg hunt can do so by dropping off your basket at the village hall during regular business hours prior to Thursday, March 21. Please make sure your children bring an Easter basket or plastic bag with them, so they have something to put their eggs in during the egg hunt. The Easter bunny will also make an appearance to take pictures with all.



As noted last month, please be advised that there was an error in our 2024 village calendar. On Friday, April 26, 2024, there will not be an Arbor Day celebration at Bacci Park. The event is held every two years, and in the odd years. This went into effect in 2015 due to the low number of participants. With that being said, our next Arbor Day celebration will be held on Friday, April 25, 2025.

Now is the time to start cleaning out your basement, closets, and attic—and put those items you no longer want aside and save them for the village-wide garage sale. Due to the low number of customers last year, it was decided to move our event back to the last Saturday of June like in the past. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, June 29 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Village residents that are interested in participating in the garage sale at their homes need to register by calling the village hall at (216) 641-7020 during normal business hours. By registering your residence for this event, you will receive one (1) 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. In addition, we will be placing ads in the Neighborhood News and online to promote our garage sale. The deadline to register is Wednesday, June 12.



From Mayor Bacci's Desk (continued)

Senior Citizens

Residents over 55 years of age are eligible to join our village's senior citizens organization. The group keeps busy with monthly meetings, parties, trips, and luncheons. Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12. For additional information, please contact Board President Noel Centa at 216-509-5278.

A group of our senior citizens meet in the basement of the village hall every Thursday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. to make mats out of plastic bags for our elementary students. If you are interested in helping, please join them. It's a good way to get out of the house for a couple hours and converse with your neighbors.

Just a friendly reminder that our transportation program continues to be one of the most utilized services our village provides. This service is available for our senior citizens (60+ years of age) who are otherwise unable to get to their doctor's appointment. If any senior citizen has a doctor's visit and in need of transportation, please contact Vera Heinzman at the service department one week prior to the scheduled doctor's visit at 216-641-2702.

Board of Elections

Voting polls will be open for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at the village hall from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. If you have moved or changed your name since you last voted, you must complete a new registration form to reflect your new address and/or new name. The registration form, as well as "Vote by Mail" applications are available for our residents at the village hall during normal business hours. You can also go online to boe.cuyahogacounty.gov and fill out the forms. If you need additional information, the board of elections' phone number is (216) 443-8683.

Congratulations

Law Director Ben Chojnacki and his wife recently had another baby—a baby girl on February 5. This brings a total of five kids to the Chojnacki family. Mom and baby are doing great!

Birthdays

Special birthday wishes to residents Donna Barrett who will be celebrating her 60th birthday on March 13 and to Tracy Deal who is also celebrating her 60th on March 25. Wishing you both a birthday filled with sweet moments and wonderful memories to cherish always!

March birthday wishes to employees: (8) Police Chief Sturgill, (11) Joe Wallace, (12) Angel Meriwether, (15) Jeremy Grabowski, (18) Jeff Baciak, (19) Frank Marcelli, (25) Barb Cash, and (26) Jimmy Berdysz.



REMEMBER

YOUR VOTE
MATTERS



From Mayor Bacci's Desk (continued)

Condolences

Mrs. Pat Smosarski, a long-time resident, passed away on February 7 at the age of 91. Mrs. Smosarski lived on Grant Avenue for over 65 years before moving to Light of Hearts Villa in late 2018. Mrs. Smosarski always had a smile and was the kindest lady I knew. Many of us fondly remember when she volunteered her time on Fridays at Sacred Heart every Lent during their fish fries, or when she worked as a cleaning lady at the elementary school. What a beautiful lady who truly will be missed by those who knew her. Please keep her family—residents Ray & Karen Smosarski and Christopher Smosarski in your thoughts and prayers. Pictured with Mrs. Smosarski is Mrs. Barb Nieszczur at our 2018 Memorial Day parade.



Get Well Wishes

Please keep resident Jim Nobili in your thoughts and prayers.

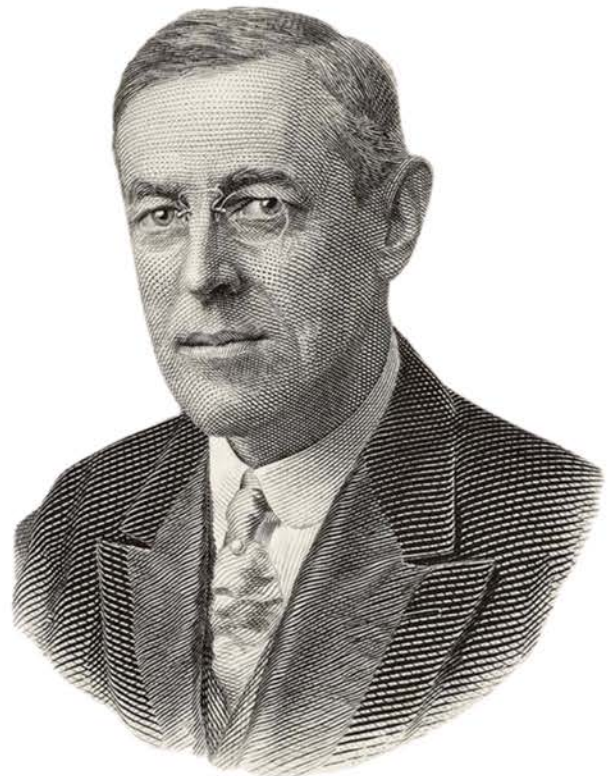
Get well soon

Easter Holiday

In observance of the Easter holiday, our village hall and service department will be closed on Good Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1. Please note that rubbish collection will take place on Tuesday, April 2; special pick up on Wednesday, April 3; and charity pick up on Thursday, April 4.

*“The ear of the leader must ring with
the voices of the people.”*

~ Woodrow Wilson





A Message From CFO, Angel Meriwether



As projected after the pandemic, our R.I.T.A. revenue in 2023 has seen a full recovery. We have had five years of ups and downs in our Income Tax Revenue and substantial fluctuations in our Net Profit Revenue. We continue to monitor our revenues and current economic climate, and believe we are on track for modest annual increases in RITA Income Tax Revenues over the next several years.

It is also understood that the cost of doing business is continuing to rise at a not so modest rate. Over the last six years, we have worked diligently to maintain a general fund balance that can sustain dips in the economy resulting in revenue loss, and the increased costs of goods and services.

Distribution	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference from 2022	% change from 2022
QUARTER 1	3,179,664	3,028,036	2,659,860	5,217,255	3,703,961	(1,513,294)	-29.01%
QUARTER 2	3,167,593	2,783,820	3,040,401	3,718,106	3,932,027	213,921	5.75%
QUARTER 3	2,587,689	2,240,551	2,698,971	3,683,969	3,039,121	(644,848)	-17.50%
QUARTER 4	3,085,472	2,231,918	3,226,300	3,554,030	2,938,930	(615,100)	-17.31%
TOTAL	12,020,418	10,284,325	11,625,531	16,173,360	13,614,039	(2,559,321)	-15.82%

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



REMINDER

Deadline for the 2024 Village Scholarship for our Cuyahoga Heights Resident Seniors is coming up on **May 1, 2024**. Applications are available at the High School Guidance Office.

Contact Information for the Finance Department

P: 216-641-7020 F: 216-641-8485

Chief Fiscal Officer: Angel Meriwether • cfo@cuyahogaheights.com

Payroll: Mindy Armbrust • payroll@cuyahogaheights.com

Accounts Payable: Christina Caporuscio • ap@cuyahogaheights.com



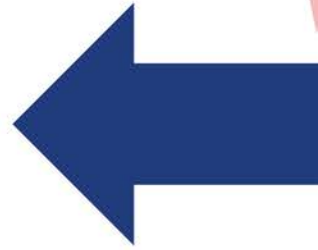
A MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF, BRIAN STURGILL

Window Tint Darkness in Ohio

The percentage of visible light allowed through your car windows is called **VLT: Visible Light Transmission**. This is the percentage of light allowed through your vehicle's glass.

Tint Darkness for Passenger Vehicles

- **Windshield:** Non-reflective tint is **only** allowed on the top 5-inches of the windshield or above the AS-1 Line. (see photo)
- **Front-Seat Side Windows:** Must allow more than **50%** light in.
- **Back-Seat Side Windows:** Any darkness can be used.
- **Rear Window:** Any darkness can be used.



Tint Darkness for SUVs and Vans:

- **Windshield:** Non-reflective tint is **only** allowed on the top 5-inches of the windshield or above the AS-1 Line.
- **Front-Seat Side Windows:** Must allow more than **50%** light in.
- **Rear Passenger/Cargo Area Side Windows:** Any darkness can be used.
- **Rear Window:** Any darkness can be used.



Window Tint Reflection in Ohio:

- Reflective tints or coatings are **not** allowed in Ohio on any vehicle in Ohio.

Other Important Info to Remember

- **Certificates:** Manufacturers of film need to certify the film they sell in Ohio. Ask your dealer if they are using certified films.
- **Identifying Levels:** a sticker or marking is required to identify legal tinting level. This sticker or marking must be present between the film & glass on each tinted window.
- **You are responsible for the vehicle you drive.** "I bought it this way," *is not an excuse!*

Contact the CHPD if you have any questions regarding the current tint level or "VLT" of your vehicle.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE CHIEF, MIKE SUHY



The Village will be participating in a statewide tornado drill on March 22 at 9:50 am.

We will be sounding our warning sirens throughout the village.



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

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.



Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department Employee Spotlight

Firefighter Tom Kekelis

Professional:

- Local 702 Secretary/Treasurer 2005-2009
- Local 702 President 2015-2024
- Acting Officer 2017 to Present
- Associate Degree of Science, Fire Science
- Associate Degree of Applied Science, Nursing
- State Certified Fire Safety Inspector
- ICS 100, 200, 300, 700, 800
- Fire Officer I; Supervisory Level
- Fire Officer II; Supervisory and Managerial Level
- Fire Officer III; Managerial and Administrative Level
- Fire Officer IV; Administrative Level
- Health Safety Officer
- Incident Safety Officer
- Blue Card Incident Commander Certification
- CPR Instructor

Personal:

- Wife Ally for 14 years
- Son Elias, 11 years
- Board Member for Groza Titans Football Organization
- Berea Midpark Middle School Football Coach
- Youth Football and Basketball Coach



"I enjoy working for Cuyahoga Heights because of the wide variety of emergency challenges we can encounter and serving a community I grew up in."

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.

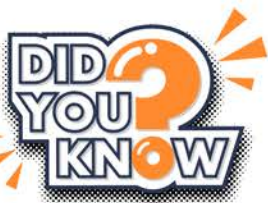
Here are some things to consider and red flags to watch for *before* you hire a contractor:

- **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.



Village Services



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 – **NOW ONLINE!**

If you need a special pick up for trash that is oversized, large amounts, or hazardous waste, you can now go online 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 of on Wednesday. You must submit your information by 4:00 p.m. on Monday to get on the list for Tuesday's pick up. Please visit www.cuyahogaheights.com at the top select 'Online Services' and select the red 'Special Pick Up' tab. Please fill out your name, address, and all information regarding items you would like to be picked up and where they are located. You will then get an email response when the request has been successfully submitted. **If you have any questions, please contact Vera at 216-641-3505**



Charity Pick Up – **NOW ONLINE!**

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. Please visit www.cuyahogaheights.com at the top select 'Online Services' and select the red 'Charity Pick Up' tab. Please enter your address and select from the drop down. Fill out your name, phone number, email address and all information regarding items you would like to donate and where items are located. This must be submitted prior to the first Wednesday of the month for this service. You will then get an email response when the request has been successfully submitted. **If you have any questions, please contact Vera at 216-641-3505.**



Dumpsters – **NOW ONLINE!**

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. Please visit www.cuyahogaheights.com at the top select 'Online Services' and select the red 'Dumpster Rental' tab. Select your address from the drop down. Fill in your name, phone number and email address. Select a requested date for the dumpster to be delivered and where you would like the dumpster to be placed. There is now the option to pay the fee online via a link sent to your email. You also can drop off cash or check payments at village hall. 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.

Village Services



Table & Chair Rental

A limited number of tables and chairs are available for use by residents having parties at their residence, free of charge. Please contact the service department at 216-641-3505 to reserve your tables and chairs and to arrange a time when you can pick them up.



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) – **NOW ONLINE!**

Visit www.cuyahogaheights.com at the top select 'Online Services' and select the red 'Meals On Wheels' tab to fill out an application. 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 (*you 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 Vera Heinzman at the service department at 216-641-3505 or sd@cuyahogaheights.com.**



Tree Trimming/Removal Service – **NOW ONLINE!**

The village will provide a professional tree trimmer to remove or trim a tree on a resident's property. Please note that tree trimming/removal is limited to two (2) trims per year and one (1) removal. If a crane is needed for tree removal, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to pay for the service. In addition, if a stump needs ground, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to pay for this service, whether the homeowner uses the tree company that the village has a contract with or another tree company. Please visit online at www.cuyahogaheights.com under 'Online Services' and select the red 'Tree Trimming' tab.



Newspaper/Cardboard Recycling

Do your part in helping the environment; recycle cardboard and newspaper. Our village has a recycling container located at Bacci Park in the rear of the back parking lot. The container is strictly for cardboard and newspaper. Please make sure to break down your cardboard boxes before placing them in the container. 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.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

Recreation Coordinator, Vera Heinzman

Fantastic job to everyone who brought their A-game on the court this basketball season! A special round of applause goes to the players of the Cuyahoga Heights team for representing the village this year! We want to extend a huge thank you to all the young sports champions for taking part in this season.

Sports Registrations

If you are interested in participating in Youth Baseball & Softball, the registration deadline is **March 15!**



Cedar Point

2024 SEASON PASS REIMBURSEMENT

The Village of Cuyahoga Heights will reimburse \$75 to any resident who purchases or has already purchased a Cedar Point Season Pass for the 2024 season. Residents must show a valid 2024 season pass or receipt of payment (with pass holder name listed) and proof of residency for reimbursement. Reimbursement will NOT be given for anyone not currently residing in Cuyahoga Heights. Please email or bring your valid 2024 season pass or receipt of payment (must show passholder name) and proof of residency to Village Hall for verification. Reimbursement will be issued within three weeks of submission acceptance. Reimbursement is \$75 regardless of pass type purchased. Contact Vera at (216) 641-2702 or chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com with any questions.

YOUTH TRIP: AREA 51 on FRIDAY APRIL 5



Get your calendars out because we're off to space for some spring break shenanigans! Round up the crew and meet at village hall by 11:30 for an adventure to Area 51 Laser Tag in Middleburg Heights - where a legendary showdown awaits! The cost is \$5 per resident child in grades 1st through 12th, which includes 3 games of laser tag, a \$10 arcade card, and pizza lunch. To sign up, please visit our website at www.cuyahogaheights.com. Navigate to Online Services at the top and select Events and Outings Registration.

VILLAGE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT



LIFEGUARDS

POOL ATTENDANTS



Job Requirements for all positions:

- All Park Monitors must be **16** years old by **March 1, 2024**.
- Concession Stand Cashiers, Pool Attendants, Lifeguards and Playground Monitors must be **15** years old by **June 1, 2024**.
- All Concession Stand Cashiers must possess proficient math skills, have an outgoing personality, and must be available to work nights and weekends.
- Lifeguards must be a Certified Lifeguard, CPR Certified and WSI (Water Safety Instructor - if applicable).
- Applications **must** be turned in by 4:00 p.m. on **March 15, 2024** for **Concession Stand and Park Monitors** and by 4:00 p.m. on **April 5, 2024** for the **Pool**.
Applications will not be accepted after these dates.

All applicants, new and returning, must apply online at www.cuyahogaheights.com under “Online Services”.

Job descriptions are available at the village hall and online at www.cuyahogaheights.com under “Employment” or by email request to hr@cuyahogaheights.com.

APPLY NOW



**PLAYGROUND
MONITORS**



PARK MONITORS