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VoCH Building Department

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Summer Maintenance & Energy Efficiency

Exterior Maintenance Inspections started in May and concluded in June. We have seen some vast improvements over the last few weeks and at this rate hope to see more. We really appreciate the residents who have taken the responsibility to view their Property Maintenance Inspection Report and adhere to the terms by correcting any violations. We humbly thank you for your efforts.

Summer Maintenance Check List

Warmer weather also means increased attention to utilities and the housing envelope to keep your home running cool and efficiently.

- Clean refrigerator coils
- Check for air leaks around doors and windows
- Wash windows and check screens
- Clean out your exterior Dryer exhaust duct
- Clean your outdoor A/C condenser unit. Cut away vegetation from around the unit
- Safely clear out all debris from your gutters and downspouts

Be Eco-Friendly: Self Sufficiency is the key

- Start a Food Forest: Plant perennial fruit & nut trees (like apples, cherries, or hazelnuts) that produce harvest year after year with minimal maintenance.
- Backyard Poultry: Raising laying hens or quails provides a steady source of protein while generating rich compost for your garden. (4 ALLOWED)
- Rainwater Harvesting: Install rain barrels or cisterns to collect runoff from your roof for gravity-fed garden irrigation.
- Greywater Systems: Safely redirect water from sinks and showers to water non-edible landscaping, reducing total household water consumption.
- Renewable Energy: Invest in residential solar panels to generate clean, off-grid electricity.
- Energy Efficiency: Swap out older incandescent lightbulbs for energy-efficient LEDs and ensure your home is properly insulated to reduce heating and cooling cost.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that following the simple (6) point Summer Maintenance Checklist stated above will INCREASE/IMPROVE your home's energy efficiency & DECREASE/LOWER your energy bills.

We're Here to Help

The building department is available to assist with permits, inspections, and property maintenance questions.

Build safely. Maintain proudly. Enjoy a safe and successful summer season!

The George M. Suhy Grant Program

The process is now done online through our website at www.cuyahogaheights.gov, click on the online services tab at the top of the page and scroll down to Suhy grant application. This is where you will start your application for your grant. Please follow the steps listed below:

1. **If using a contractor, the contractor must be registered with the village's building department. Once they are registered, they will receive a contractor registration number.**
2. **You or your contractor must apply for a construction permit for your project, (the permit application also can be accessed through the online services tab on our website.) Once your application is reviewed and approved by the building department, you will be emailed an approval with the permit fee, there will be an attached link to pay for your permit fee online. Once the permit is paid for, you will receive a permit.**
3. **Complete the George M. Suhy grant application.**
4. **Schedule a pre-inspection of your project with the building department, (a pre-existing picture is required before new work can be started).**
5. **Proceed with your project, if your project needs an outsourced inspection, the building department will notify you.**
6. **Complete your project.**
7. **Schedule a final inspection with the building department (a picture of completed work will be required).**
8. **Submit all receipts and have your contractor sign and date their invoice, the contractor must verify how the invoice was paid. If the contactor's invoice was paid by a check, the building department will need a copy of the deposited check front and back, if the invoice was paid by a credit card, we will need a statement showing paid with a confirmation number for the credit card used and if the invoice was paid by cash, your contractor will have to sign, date and write paid in full by cash.**
9. **Once all the above steps have been completed, you will receive your grant check by mail within 45 days.**

Please note: If you do not have access to a computer, please call the building department and we can schedule a time when you can come into the village hall, and we will assist you in filling the application out on a village computer. Please call 216-641-7020 to schedule with the building department Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.