OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN EXTENSION PROPOSED

By the time you read this newsletter, legislation will have been prepared for the Cleveland Heights City Council which will propose extending the ban on on-street parking throughout the city by an extra two hours. The present law states that no parking is allowed on city streets between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. If enacted, the new law will forbid parking between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. The City Council has exempted ten streets from this ban in the past, and present plans do not seem to envision any elimination of the exemptions.

The proposed legislation was discussed at a public hearing at City Hall on Tuesday, November 30 before a committee composed of Councilmembers Richard Weigand, Oliver Schroeder, and Libby Resnick. No decision to recommend approval to the full Council was formally announced, but Councilmembers Weigand and Resnick each voiced personal satisfaction with the hours change. The committee heard comment by Police Chief Martin Lentz and by Tony Manzi of the City's Service Department, each of whom voiced support for the change. In opposition to the proposal, opinions were expressed by David Burwasser and by Alan Rapoport. Coventry Neighbors, Inc. was polled, through its officers, and its opposition was reported to the committee.

Proponents of the change cited recent crime statistics and argued that an increased ban would further reduce crime. They also noted that street cleaning operations would have an additional two hours in which to function.

Opponents of the change mentioned the inconvenience of a ban taking effect at 2 a.m. One speaker felt the major burden of the legislation would fall upon non-criminals--i.e., that minority of citizens who stay up past 2 a.m. and have visitors or guests at that hour. Chief Lentz replied that the police department has a long-standing policy of logging phone calls of citizens who report they have parties in progress, and that when such calls are received, the police will not ticket cars parking during the ban period. If cars are accidentally ticketed despite a call, drivers can bring the tickets in, call attention to the log, and have the tickets voided.

Streets presently exempt from the 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. ban include: 1) Mayfield Road from the westerly line of Eddington Road west to Coventry Road, 2) Euclid Heights Boulevard from Coventry Road west to Edgehill Road, 3) Derbyshire Road from Euclid Heights Boulevard to Norfolk Road, 4) Norfolk Road from Derbyshire Road to Cedar Road, 5) Cedar Road from Surrey Road to Norfolk Road, 6) the entire length of Surrey Road, 7) Bellfield Avenue from Cecil Court southerly to North Park Boulevard, 8) Middlehurst Road from Mayfield Road to Hampshire Road, 9) Hampshire Road from Hampshire Lane to Coventry Road, and 10) Grandview Avenue from Cecil Place southerly to West St. James Parkway. An eleventh exempt area on Superior Road from Mayfield Road to the Corporate Limits of East Cleveland was removed from the list in June of 1075.

THE NEXT MEETING OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1976 AT 8:00 p.m. AT THE HOME OF SAM AND RUTH GORDON AT 3041 LINCOLN BOULEVARD. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DROP IN.

Editor's Note: Issue 20 was the recently passed proposal for an increase of the municipal income tax from 1% to 1½%. The same proposal, then called Issue 16, failed last June. CNI felt that a post-mortem of the Coventry election results might be of interest.

COVENTRY SUPPORT FOR CITY TAX ISSUE MARGINALLY BETTER THAN CITY AVERAGE

The precincts that constitute the Coventry area showed one percentage point better than the citywide 60/40 margin by which Issue 20 passed in the November 2nd general election.

Actually, the showing made by Coventry depends on what you mean by "Coventry." The Coventry Area, as defined by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. for its purposes, includes that portion of the Roxboro Elementary School District north of Cedar Road, and an area extending east from Coventry Road only about halfway to the boundary of the Coventry Elementary School District (Census Tracts 1410/11/12). Counting the results from precincts that best approximate these areas, gives the following:

REGION	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL	PCT FOR
Coventry School District	2393	1523	3916	61.1%
CNI "Coventry Area"	2088	1333	3421	61.0%

The tenth-of-a-percent difference is really not to be trusted, because the precinct boundaries do not exactly match either those of the school district or those of the census tracts. However, either figure is slightly but significantly ahead of the 60.1% citywide figure based on the best totals available (65 out of 70 precincts completely reporting, and the official downtown tally not ready as of this writing).

A more interesting question is, did the campaign make a difference in Coventry? Let's look at the results for Issue 16 in the June primary, the first submission of the tax levy:

REGION	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL	PCT FOR
Coventry School District	1114	1108	2222	50.1%
CNI "Coventry Area"	914	944	1858	49.2%

This compares with 45.2% city-wide support for Issue 16.

MEETING LOCATIONS TO CHANGE.....

At the last meeting of CNI, it was agreed that meeting locations should be rotated. The next meeting is being hosted by Sam and Ruth Gordon (3041 Lincoln Bld.). Our January meeting will most likely also be held at a private residence.

Locations will be noted in this Newsletter. For further details, contact Alan Repoport (days, 241-7313; nights, 932-1144).

.....have you paid your dues yet?

THE GRASS IS GREENER, BUT IT AIN'T LEGAL YET

A revised "Drug Abuse Control" Chapter in the Cleveland Heights General Offenses Code was passed at the November 1 meeting of Council, bringing Cleveland Heights drug laws into line with State of OHio statutes. This includes a significant reduction in marijuana use and possession-for-use penalties, to the "traffic ticket" level, but by no means a legalization of the beleagured weed. (It's what commonly, and erroneously, called "decriminalization"--a better term would be "defelonization."

Speaking as an individual, I urged Council to omit marijuana penalties from the Cleveland Heights law. At best this could only have "demonstration" effect because the Ohio statute would not be affected and City police would still have to enforce State law. My personal reasons (which I stated) are my belief that the law should not prohibit behavior not threatening the legitimate interests of society; my observation that drug laws have been viciously abused in repressive police action; and that marijuana law fits both of these concerns. The reasons I offered for Council's deliberation were: (1) the law is absurb since, despite repeated research attempts, no harm from moderate, typical marijuana usage has been found; (2) Ad hoc declaration that a certain population is a criminal class, for no good reason, is reckless; (3) a contraband substance doesn't vanish, but comes to be a source of employment for the outlaw and gives the latter access to people who ordinarily would never deal with him; and (4) Silly drug laws contradict intelligent drug education programs--which must be truthful to be effective--and create for the youngster a "Mother-says-Yes/Father-says-No" kind of conflict that undermines both authorities.

There are reasons, from a managerial standpoint, why City law should be as close as possible to State law on the same subject, and on that basis my request was denied. I am pleased to report, however, that I was courteously listened to and civilly answered. No one tried to assert that marijuana leads to a life of dissipation, or to deny my observations on the repressive abuse of drug laws. Reality is slowly breaking through!

- David Burwasser

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Coventry Village Library

Tuesday - Weekly	Storytime: Scary stories and related carfts; ages 5-10 at 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 15	Preschool Storytime: ages 3-5. Registration required. 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 16	"Coventry Library Players;" ages 9-14. 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 18	Open House; special magic program at 2:30 p.m.

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PUBLIC HEARING

On December 15, 1976, the Board of Zoning Appeals will meet to consider the request of Jacques Picard/Heights Pet World, 1763 Coventry Road, in a "C-3" commercial zoning district, for a special permit to vary the sign regulations to all the proposed signage scheme to replace the existing non-conforming signs located on the building.

The hearing will be at 8:00 p.m. at City Hall, and is open to the public.

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PLAYGROUNDS?

If it seems like there's a lot of discussion about playgrounds lately, and you're wondering why something that's been part of the landscape for so long has suddenly become a hot issue, you may be interested in the following.

A few years ago, the federal government started collecting accident information from selected emergency rooms throughout the country and discovered that out of a list of 104 consumer-product-related accidents, playground equipment ranked eighth in terms of frequency. An estimated 118,000 children are admitted to hospital emergency rooms each year as the result of playground equipment-related injuries; in a fifteen month period, 23 of these children died.

In 1974, this writer, a Coventry parent, petitioned the Consumer Product Safety Commission to develop a mandatory standard for public playground equipment. In March, 1975, the Commission agreed to do so, and as a result, this writer was one of five consumers chosen from throughout ; the country to draft the federal standard. Doing so involved commuting to Washington over a ten-month period to meet with park and recreation officials, industry representatives and other consumers. The task of the thirteen people selected to draft the standard was to focus on the types of playground accidents which occur most frequently and to try to eliminate the causes of these accidents by improving the equipment itself, the surface underneath the equipment, or both.

The most common type of playground equipment related accident is a fall onto a hard surface. Typically, the child involved is between five and nine years of age, and most often sustains an injury in the head area. Because this type of injury is so common, research was done to test the relative hardness of surfaces most often found under playground equipment. Two pieces of information emerged from this research which are likely to revolutionize playgrounds within the next generation. First, when an object simulating a child's head was dropped onto asphalt from a height of one foot, the result was an average force of 150 G's. When this same weight was dropped onto concrete, the average force was 500 G's. The second significant fact, namely that the serious injury level is considered to begin at 50 G's and the fatal level at 160 made it quite clear that we have, in effect, been playing a kind of Russian roulette with our children when we let them play on equipment which is installed over asphalt, concrete —or even packed earth, which has an impact level of 200 G's at four feet.

Many other aspects of public playground equipment came under scrutiny during the drafting of the federal standard; heavy swings, sharp edges, pinch and crush points and protrusions are just a few of the areas studied. At the present time, the Consumer Product Safety Commission is studying the proposed standards, which it received on May 1st of this year.

Unfortunately, the standard just drafted deals only with public playground equipment. It says nothing about backyard play equipment, which actually causes more fatalities. Because of this,this writer recently filed another petition requesting that the Commission also develop a standard for home play equipment. Action on this petition is still pending; unfortunately industry pressure against it is strong. If you would like to see mandatory standards for home playground equipment, <u>write</u>: Secretary, Consumer Product Satety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207.

-Theo Sweeney

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FAIRMOUNT CENTER FOR CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS - 1925 Coventry Road is having an <u>OPEN HOUSE</u>

Caroling, tree lighting, refreshments

DATES: Monday, December 13-16 TIME: 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

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Editor's Note: "Mopery" (pronounced "mōp-er-ē') has been variously described as a disease of the soul, a higher state of being, a victimless crime, and a small city in south-central Utah. None of these definitions is adequate.

CORRECTION: MOPERY

In the past year, my first report on the severity of the mopery problem in Coventry had the desired effect of alerting the populace to the dangers with which it was confronted. The report was so shocking that it was deemed necessary to reprint it, and so baffling that some fool named Snooks even felt compelled to comment on it. I feel that there has been much misunderstanding about the mopery problem, and so this correction and partial retraction is in order.

I reported that two elderly ladies on Mayfield Road were living together in sin om Mayfield Road without a license to commit mopery. This was, and is, true. But how strange it is that certain residents of Musicians' Tower would actually go to the still-present Coventry Library to find out whether mopery was some kind of sex crime committed by the elderly! (Actually, I can now reveal that the sin I referred to was after-hours backgammon.) You can check with City Hall, and I absolutely guarantee that they will not even issue you a license to commit mopery. Not even if you say please. (Of course, I didn't offer to pay for a license. Perhaps that was my mistake.)

Someone told me that the people at the late, great C-Saw were out looking for me because I had maligned them in the article. I never even mentioned the C-Saw. I don't deny there was a lot of mopery going on there. However, I did mention Irv's. Now some people there are upset. Of course all I wrote was that "It was reliably reported by several sources at Irv's Deli" that mopery was going wild in Coventry. I stand by that statement. My expose on mopery at Irv's is being saved for the next issue.

I will retract one statement I made. Private funds are not being solicited by interested developers for the purpose of replacing Coventry with a scale model of the Emerald City of Oz. (I have heard an interesting counter-suggestion that a toll booth be built at the top of Cedar Hill to raise the needed funds.)

- Elmer Fudd

Postscript: In the past year, there has been one outstanding instance of attempted mopery. When Developer Ross proposed to create a Chinese Restaurant out of a building located roughly between the C-Saw and Coventry Beverage & Pizza, he was directed to a city ordinance which prohibits the operation of a restaurant within 100 feet of a place where poultry are slaughtered. Thus, the ever-vigilant City of Cleveland Heights was able to avert the fowl crime of chicken mopery.

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HEIGHTS GUILD OF ARTISTS AND ARTISANS will meet on Tuesday, December 14th at 7:30 p.m. at the CH/UH Main Library, 2345 Lee Road. Refreshments will be served.

"Each dream begins as a mere spark....."

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LINCOLN BOULEVARD CLUB

Next year the Lincoln Boulevard Club will mark its 60th Anniversary. The years saw few changes in the group, which started as an organization rolling bandages for the Red Cross.

At the monthly meetings, projects were varied from lap robe and Christmas boxes for partients of local hospitals to cake decorating. Members took a home nursing course.

Monthly dues were collected and other contributions donated to aid a number of causes ranging from Greek war relief to an inner-city Girl Scout troop.

Programs included an annual street picnic, fall pot-luck, ice skating sessions, the May Show and theatre parties. Programs at the monthly meetings often included the many talents of the residents, as well as outside speakers interested in community concerns.

Lincoln Boulevard residents represent differing professions, creeds and political beliefs. Each new resident is automatically a member. Both children and adults have benefitted from the Club. Former residents keep in touch and frequently attend special events.

- Marie Sawyer

LIBRARY ADVISORY GROUP URGES COVENTRY BOARD MEMBER

The Coventry Community Library Advisory Committee has gone on record in support of the idea that the Library Board should have at least one member from the Coventry area because of the existence of a branch in Coventry. Two Library Board vacancies are opening up in 1977. The Advisory Committee has asked Coventry PTA and Coventry Neighbors, Inc. to endorse its suggestion, and its request will be considered at the next CNI meeting.

Dr. John Picken, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, announced that he will be leaving the community in 1977. It is sad to see Dr. Picken go and we wish him well.

COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS

A Publication of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. and the Heights Community Congress

Executive Editor: Alan Rapoport Contributing Editors: Karen Lind, David Burwasser, Al Lustig

All opinions contained in the Coventry Village News are solely those of the author unless otherwise specified. Official pronouncements of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will be specifically noted. Articles for publication, letters to the editor, and comments would be most welcome and should be sent to the editor, c/o Apt. 301, 2753 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

We found it. Who else wants it?