



Coventry Village News

JUNE, 1981

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS INC.

Vol. VII No. 6

THIEF HITS COMMERCIAL AREA

by
David R. Burwasser

In the mid-afternoon of Friday, May 22, a sneak thief entered at least two Coventry Road businesses, The Saloon and Tommy's, according to Cleveland Heights Police Chief Martin Lentz. An intruder was spotted near the office area of the Saloon, and ran away when challenged. The police were alerted but the suspect was not apprehended. Subsequently, according to Lentz and Tommy Fello, the office at Tommy's restaurant was entered by an unlocked door in the rear alley. Fello said he found the office safe, which had been unlocked, open and a money bag missing. An employee at Tommy's had spotted the intruder and the description matched that of the Saloon intruder. No suspect is in custody, but the police are following leads.

Ruefully remarking that "hindsight is the best sight," Tommy Fello noted that
(Continued on page 3)

ARTS FAIR NEEDS YOUR HELP!

by
F. David Gill
1981 Coventry Village Arts Fair Committee, Chair

The 1981 Coventry Village Arts Fair cannot be held unless we make room for it. As of this writing, no one in the community has come forth to organize the civilian barricade volunteers. It is absolutely necessary that the neighborhood itself staff five barricade posts during the Fair. Traffic must be directed away from the commercial district so that vehicles do not run amok within the Fair itself. If you feel that "Coordinator of Traffic and Safety, 1981 Coventry Village Arts Fair" would enhance your resume, please call me at the number below.

Application for the Fair permit has been made to the City. Given the City Manager's approval, and the appearance of a Traffic and Safety Coordinator, the Fair will be held Saturday evening, July 11 and Sunday afternoon, July 12. For further information, please call:

F. David Gill, General Information, 321-4735

Kathryn Young, Booth Reservation, 321-3413

S. Bachman or S. Appleton, Juried Fine Arts, 932-4423

Musicians: Please send tapes to Rivercity Music, 2851 Derbyshire Road, Cleveland Heights, 44118

Best get well wishes to music producer, Abby Linhart, who suffered a broken leg in a roller skating accident.

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BOOS & BRAVOS

- BRAVO: To Lewis Zipkin, owner of Coventryard, for going beyond what was required by the City in reconstructing the municipal minipark in front of Coventryard (formerly used as a construction site). Nice job, Lew!
- BRAVO: To Cleveland Heights Mayor Robert Arnold, who has promised strict enforcement of the "handicapped only" parking spaces in the municipal parking lot on Hampshire Road. The Mayor proclaimed the City's participation in the International Year of the Disabled Person on May 18.
- BRAVO: To Lake View Cemetary for replacing the badly deteriorated signs at their Mayfield Road entrance.
- BRAVO: There are 17 brand new red maple trees all along upper Hampshire Road, paid for by a grant from Operation Pride. Congrats to the Upper Hampshire Road Street Association and especially to Beautification Committee Chairman, Ralph Ballard for all the effort to beautify one area of Cleveland Heights.

-- Charles Owen

CITY RECYCLES NEWSPAPERS

by
bobbie littell

On April 7 Cleveland Heights initiated a 4 week pilot project for the recycling of newspapers in an 11 block area of the Fairfax neighborhoods. During the test period 45 tons of newspapers were collected and resold at \$30.00 a ton. The goal of the project was to work the "bugs" out in a small scale operation before expanding it to include the whole city.

The trial was a great success and was enthusiastically received by both the public and the operators according to Lauri Rosenberg, coordinator of the project. It was put into full operation on May 11 and in the first two weeks collected ninety tons of newspapers.

Residents are asked to tie up their papers in bundles using twine, tied in two directions and to place them on their tree lawns on regular collection days. These bundles are placed in the specially mounted racks on the trucks. When the trucks reach the transfer station next to City Hall they are placed in a bin provided by the Packaging Corporation (PCOA). When the bin is full (about 10 - 13 tons later) PCOA brings out a replacement bin and hauls the full one away.

There are a few more bugs to be worked out, according to Rosenberg. Many people are accustomed to putting the papers in grocery bags - it's easiest; however the paper in the grocery bags is a different quality than the newsprint and must be removed manually, adding to the cost of the operation. Twine used to bind the papers can be removed mechanically at less cost. Residents are asked to use a light (40 lb.) weight twine. The bundles should be small enough to be handled comfortably by the residents. If it is raining, put the plastic trash bags on top of the papers to keep them dry.

The project was funded initially by a special grant from the Gund Foundation through the auspices of the Heights Citizens for Re-Cycling (HCR). The City, with the cooperation of volunteers from HCR, have been conducting educational/promotional programs in the schools using slides and puppets. Anyone wishing to schedule a presentation can call Laurie Rosenberg at 321-0100 X 229 or 230.

The recycling of aluminum is being studied for the future.

LETTER:

To The Editor, Coventry Village News,

Satisfaction was the feeling shared by the volunteer cleanup crew assigned the Coventry Road business district on Saturday, May 2nd. We had all those bottles, wrappers and filter tips packed away in plastic bags. A Monday morning, May 4th visit to the street gave me quite a jolt, however; the gutters looked dirtier than they did before we put in 10 man-hours cleaning them.

I do not have a simple suggestion for changing people's littering habits, but cleaning up could be systematized. Why not have no parking on the east side of Coventry Road between Euclid Heights Blvd. and Mayfield from 8:00 - 10:00 AM every Monday, and no parking from 8:00 - 10:00 AM on Tuesday on the west side? This would give the city street cleaners a chance to make a clean sweep of the gutters once each week.

This would not solve other bad litter problems like the pizza parking lot, but it would get a substantial amount of the week-end litter out of the way before it blew all over the neighborhood or simply continued to sit there looking terrible.

-- Carol Gibson

* AAH, WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT CLEVELAND HEIGHTS?? *

* Try this small example, in which a common function was performed uncommonly well. *

* One morning recently a loose pile of newspapers fell from one of our City's garbage trucks on Mayfield near Monticello. The pile was about the size of a week's worth of Plain Dealers. Did the men on the truck merely drive on, pretending that they didn't notice the mess, as they could have easily done? Not in Cleveland Heights. *

* Out of the garbage scow they flew, darting about in moving traffic with the penache of foreadors until the last scrap of windblown debris had been arrested. *

* Hats off to you gentlemen, and to the first rate municipal service system which inspires your dedication. *

* -- F. David Gill *

THIEF HITS COMMERCIAL AREA (Continued from page 1)

the door in question should have been locked, and was no less critical of himself than of any of his staff for leaving it open. Fello also suggested that a quick-response "telephone tree" among the merchants might keep such situations that start in one shop from eluding notice when they spread to another.

Coventry Merchant Association president, Joan Jordan, told this reporter that the merchants have instituted a quick-notification network, and are presently examining how to upgrade it.

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . . We Watch Out For Each Other

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT F. David Gill, Chair

The committee has been meeting directly with executive management of the Pick-n-Pay chain, pursuant to the action of the March CNI meeting committing the matter to P&Z. F. David Gill, Chair; Joan Jordan, Coventry Merchants Assn. President; and Marcia Polevoi, CMA secretary, have met with Robert Samuels, Senior Group Vice President - Administration of Pick-n-Pay Supermarkets.

The committee has presented Mr. Samuels with that excerpt of the "Neighborhood Design 3 Guide" that deals with new developments in Coventry and was adopted as policy at the April CNI meeting in specific reference to Pick-n-Pay.

Mr. Samuels has shared with the committee the most recent in a long series of plans for the Pick-n-Pay site, prepared by Architect Richard Fleischman, plus a quick run-through of the earlier superceded plans.

All of the plans show a 30,000 square foot Pick-n-Pay, 2½ times as large as the existing store.

All show a decked parking structure, to be built, owned and operated by the City, according to Mr. Samuels. The current version has a 163 car upper deck.

Most, including the current plan, show Pick-n-Pay acquiring and removing Ross properties to the immediate north, including Coventry Audio & Video, Coventry Poultry and Coventry Bike & Ski.

Some show other new retail spaces along the eastern Coventry facade line including the current plan.

The current plan involves demolition of "the Rock" and of all remaining residences on the lower part of Rock Court; and truck traffic out Euclid Heights Blvd. opposite Coventry Elementary School.

A committee meeting scheduled for June 2 will be reported at the June CNI meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS REPORT. Charles Owen, Chair

COVENTRY VILLAGE CLEAN-UP DAY: The Environmental Concerns Committee would like to thank all the friends of Coventry who participated in the successful clean-up day. Special thanks to Cleveland Heights City Manager Richard V. Robinson for supplying Strash bags, Service Director Dominic Tomaro for arranging special trash pickups, and Health Commissioner Walter (Ozzie) Oswald for stressing the cleanup day with local landlords. Thanks also to Larry Peacock, principal of Coventry Elementary School, and all the Coventry students for their support. Thanks, also, to the Scouts who were out in force.

A special tip of the lid goes to Carl Jones of Arabica Coffee & Tea for his quick first aid treatment of one of our young workers who cut his hand. Good job, Carl!

FLOWER PLANTING PROJECT: If all goes according to plan, the flowers paid for by the CNI Flower Fund will be planted on Saturday, June 20.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS. Dave Burwasser, Chair

The special meeting called for ~~May 26~~ did not gather a quorum, so the proposed revisions will have to be considered at a regular meeting. Members should not discard the copies they received by mail.

CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE REPORT. Bruce Hennes, Chair

Thanks and a tip of the Heights hat to Rachel Beam and Ann Siciare for organizing the Women's Self Defense Workshop held at Coventry School on May 26. Sponsored by the Crime Prevention Task Force, the workshop trained over 35 women to avoid and/or resist personal attack.

The Task Force will have an informational booth at the Coventry Village Arts Fair. If you are interested in helping us staff it, please come to the next Task Force meeting (June 11, 8:00, 3015 Lincoln) or call Bruce Hennes at 321-4670.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REPORT bobble littell, Chair

THE LANDLORDS AND TENANTS ASSOCIATION OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS was formalized on May 11 at a meeting called by property owners Stanley Melrson and Joyce Rajki to address the issue of "Section 8" housing. Melrson, of Fenwick Road, University Heights expressed concern about the concentration of fifty federally subsidized family housing units in Coventry and the effect on rents and property values in the area. Rajki, a resident from Overlook expressed concerns about the effect of the concentration on the life style of the community and the schools.

The thirty people in attendance voted to organize to address these issues and elected the following officers: Stan Melrson, president; Dennis Jinman, vice president; Joyce Rajke, secretary; Ann Arch, treasurer and Emmeline Clauson, parliamentarian. A membership fee of \$5.00 was voted to cover the cost of meeting notices and mailings.

There followed a general discussion of various actions the Association might undertake. These options will be studied and reported back to the group at a future meeting.

EUCLID HEIGHTS BLVD. UPDATE.

A grading problem in the westbound lane of Euclid Heights Boulevard (EHB) between Cedar and Kenilworth caused a delay in the completion of phase two of the project, i.e., excavation and rebuilding of the westbound lane according to Dominic Tomaro, Director of Public Works for the City of Cleveland Heights. As a result work crews were diverted to phase three (Lee Road to Taylor Road) which will be completed the first week in June.

In the meantime the problem at the western end has been solved and the work will resume at the completion of the excavation of phase three.

A meeting will be held with the Contractor, City & County officials on Tuesday, June 2 to finalize work schedules and to plan for the relocation of parking for the estimated 100 cars that will be displaced during the work in the westbound lane from Cedar to Kenilworth. After the meeting Tomaro will notify the residents of the schedule and parking arrangements for this segment.

Although there has been a 3 week delay in phase 2 the project as a whole is still on schedule, Tomaro said. Because of the fact that 87½% of the funding comes from federal and state sources, Cleveland Heights has little control over timetable revisions.

The Cedar to Kenilworth segment should take three to four weeks to complete. Following that the segment between Kenilworth and Overlook will be dug up and rebuilt.

Persons willing to serve as communicators during the period when their segment is torn up please call bobble littell at 321-8397.

**** COMMUNITY CALENDAR ****
JUNE

- 1 7:30 COUNCIL MEETING - City Hall
9:00 DEADLINE - Coventry Village Arts Fair - Poster Contest
- 2 LIBRARY - After School Special - 2:30 & 3:30 PM
- 3 LIBRARY - Preschool Storyhour 10:30 & 3:30
New Decade Players 4:00
- 4 CNI TRUSTEES - 7:30
2910 Hampshire Road
- 6 CMA/CNI MINI PARK PARTY 1:00 - 5:00 PM
- 7 CMA/CNI MINI PARK PARTY 1:00 - 5:00 PM
3:00 Dedication
- 10 DOBAMA - Marilyn Bianchi 3rd Annual Playwriting Festival - Benefit 8:00 PM
- 11 LIBRARY - Registration - Summer Reading Program All Day
DOBAMA - Playwriting Festival Free Performance 8:00 PM
CNI - CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE - 8:00, 3015 Lincoln
- 12 DOBAMA - Playwriting Festival Free Performance 8:00 PM
- 13 INUIT - Show Closes
DOBAMA - Playwriting Festival Free Performance 7:00 & 9:00 PM
- 14 DOBAMA - Playwriting Festival Free Performance 2:30 & 7:00 PM
- 15 COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30
City Hall
- 16 TURTLE PARK - Story Time 10:00 AM
LIBRARY - Summer Special Gravann, The Magician 2:00 PM
- 17 LIBRARY - Preschool Story Time - 10:30 & 2:30
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS 7:30 - City Hall
- 20 CNI ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
Flower Planting Project

-- COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD --

"Section Eight" MEETING JUNE 23. . . David R. Burwasser

A special Coventry Neighbors meeting will convene on Tuesday, June 23, at the Unitarian Society at 7:30 PM to air information and viewpoints on the proposed placement of Section 8 housing in Coventry. CNI has taken a position of support for the idea but with reservations over concentration of several such buildings onto two streets in the Coventry apartment area. CH Council members, also generally supportive, have voiced concern over the impact on Coventry School. Coventry area landlords have expressed strong forebodings over the effect on rents in the area and consequently on the character of, and housing values in the neighborhood. No business will be conducted at the meeting.

CRIME PREVENTION NOTEBOOK . . . Bruce Hennes, Chair

Crime Prevention Task Force

You can protect yourself and others by "keeping an eye out" for some of the following suspicious activities

Slow moving vehicles following an aimless or repetitive course.

Parked vehicles occupied by one or more persons, especially if at an unusual hour.

A vehicle parked in a neighbor's drive being loaded with valuables, even if the vehicle looks legitimate . . . such as a moving van or repair truck.

People running, especially if carrying valuables.

People waiting in front of a house.

This is only a partial list. If your "sixth sense" tells you that something is suspicious, call the police immediately. The CH Police have repeatedly told the Task Force they would rather respond to ninety-nine false reports if they can catch a perpetrator the hundredth time.

If you phone a tip to the police, you will be asked to leave your name and number so the police can report the results of their investigation to you. YOU NEED NOT LEAVE YOUR NAME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO. The Police have assured us anonymous tips receive exactly the same attention as do tips with witnesses names. But keep in mind arrests can only result in convictions if witnesses come forward.

If you see suspicious activity, you can help the Police by noticing as much of the following as possible: sex, race, height, weight, hair color, tattoos or scars, glasses and clothing of the person; auto license numbers, color, make, model, and year, number of occupants and direction the car is moving. (Continued on Page 7)

-- COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD --

CRIME PREVENTION NOTEBOOK (Continued from page 6)

We are very lucky to have a police force with an average 2 minute response time for priority calls. But the Police cannot be everywhere at once. They depend upon citizen participation.

Remember, the only stupid call is the one that isn't made.

PLANNING & ZONING NOTES. . . F. David Gill, P/Z, Chair

Public Hearing was held before the Board of Zoning Appeals on May 20 regarding ABC Appliance's request that their projecting sign remain in place. (See the April & May CVN) Coventry Neighbors, Inc.'s formal position that the request be denied was presented at the hearing.

Each of the three Board members in attendance informally stated his or her desire to deny ABC's request, based primarily upon the apparent failure of the applicant and the Buddy Simon Sign Co. to obtain a permit for the sign at the time of its installation. However, one Board member asked that the City Law Department conduct research to assure him that the absence of a permit gives the City adequate legal grounds to compel the sign's removal.

The case has, therefore, been continued until the Board's June 17 meeting.

THERE'S GONNA BE A PARTY!

On June 6 & 7 Coventry Merchants Assoc. and Coventry Neighbors are holding a party in the mini-park. The park was closed during the rebuilding of Coventryard. It has been re-designed and re-opened. Now it's time to celebrate.

There will be popcorn, balloons, clowns and music from 1:00 - 5:00 both days. On Sunday at 3:00 City officials and other guests have been invited to attend a dedication and naming of the park. A contest is being held to choose a name, and the winner will be announced at that time. Come one and all.

A JULY 4th FAMILY FESTIVAL OF OLD TIME MUSIC AND DANCING will be held both July 4 & 5 in Cleveland Hts. On Saturday at 2:00 there will be a Concert and Picnic in Cain Park Amphetheatre. Sunday there will be a Picnic and Workshops in Square and Clog Dancing, instruments, music and song classes from noon till 6:30, and a party with live music and dancing at 8:00. All events are free and open to the public. The Festival is sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with Rivercity Music.

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other

**** COMMUNITY CALENDAR ****

JUNE

- 23 TURTLE PARK Story Time 10:00 AM
LIBRARY - Do Your Own Magic Tricks - 2:00
CNI SPECIAL MEETING - "Section 8" Housing - 7:30 - Unitarian Society
- 24 LIBRARY - Preschool Story Time 10:30 AM
- 30 TURTLE PARK - Story Time - 10:00
LIBRARY - Mrs. Sicherman's Mythical Stories 2:00

JULY

- 1 LIBRARY - Preschool Story Time - 10:30
- 4 FAMILY FESTIVAL OF OLD TIME MUSIC - Picnic Cain Park - 2:00
- 5 FAMILY FESTIVAL OF OLD TIME MUSIC - Picnic & Workshops - Noon - 6:30
Cain Park - Party 8:00
Recreation Pavilion
- 6 TURTLE PARK Story Time 10:00 AM
COUNCIL MEETING 7:30 City Hall
- 8 DANCE CENTER - Cain Park - 7:30
LIBRARY - Preschool Story Time - 10:30
- 11 COVENTRY VILLAGE ARTS FAIR - Coventry Road 6:00 - 11:00 PM
- 12 COVENTRY VILLAGE ARTS FAIR - Coventry Road 12:00 noon - 7:00 PM
- 14 TURTLE PARK Story Time 10:00
LIBRARY - Real Monster Stories with Mrs. Sicherman - 2:00 PM
CNI GENERAL MEETING - 7:30 - Unitarian Soc.

* * * * *
* It seems to me, *
* God is a verb. *
* * * * *
* -R. Buckminster Fuller *
* * * * *

YOUR SCHOOLS ELECTS OFFICERS

Your Schools, an independent organization of parents in the Cleveland Heights/University Heights School system (CH/UH) met on May 17 to choose officers and identify objectives for the coming academic year.

The new officers are: Alex Dybbs, president; Joyce Norr, vice president; Arlene Fine, secretary; Norm Bresky, treasurer; Minna Saldel, communications; bobble Iltell, newsletter; Jerry Saldel, membership.

The objectives for the year are: to work to get well qualified candidates elected to the school board; to study and respond to the School Board's Lay Advisory Master Plan (LAMP) Committee's report; and, to study state school funding formulas.

The organization, which studies school issues, and provides public airing of issues it feels vital to CH/UN schools is open to all for a membership of \$5.00 (\$10.00 per family). For more information call Jerry Saldel at 321-1557.

COVENTRY VILLAGE LIBRARY ANNOUNCES SUMMER SCHEDULE

by

Debbie Graves

"Mystical, Magical, Mythical Monsters" will be the theme of Coventry Village Library's (CVL) Summer Reading Program this year. Registration will be on June 11 at the Library. The program will run till August 20.

There will be a series of weekly "Summer Specials" expanding on that theme, according to Debbie Graves, CV Librarian. In addition there will be a story time in Turtle Park on Tuesdays in June & July and Preschool Story Times at the Library on Wednesdays.

The schedule for the Summer Specials, to be held at 2:00 at the CVL are as follows:

- June 16 - Gravann The Magician
- 23 - Do Your Own Magic Tricks
- 30 - Mrs. Sicherman's Mythical Stories
- July 7 - Making Clay Mythical Monsters
- 14 - Real Monster Stories with Mrs. Sicherman
- 21 - Who Are The Real Monsters? with Don Altemus, Cleveland Metropolitan Zoo.
- 28 - Mrs. Sicherman's Mystical Stories
- Aug. 4 - Mary McGinnis and her Puppets

CITY HALTS SCHOOLYARD CONSTRUCTION

by

David R. Burwasser

Construction of the amphitheater in the yard area of Coventry Elementary School has been ordered to a halt by the City of Cleveland Heights, according to a City Hall source, because the legal requirements for new construction have not been met. The School Board must secure a building permit and certain variances, according to the source, before construction can proceed. Due to the delay involved, the schoolyard will look pretty much as it does right now during the Coventry Village Arts Fair, the source conceded.

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other

ODDS-N-ENDS

Lots of neat "stuff" is being planned for kids and their families at the Coventry Village Arts Fair. This year's activities include a fire engine, new games, magicians, jugglers, clowns, mime, actors, puppets, story tellers, cooperative collages, graffiti boards and barter booths for comics, baseball cards or whatever kids want to swap. (No kid brothers, please.) The committee needs volunteers to assist with activities. Please call Debbie Graves at Coventry Village Library (932-3600) if you can help.

I ran into Gar Hylar of Coventry Books the other day and he told me "The XYZ Casket Co. is in a grave situation - their business is dying. They only have a skeleton crew working. The employees are undertaking to find other employment in spite of the fact they dig their work. Everyone is in low spirits." That's our Gar.

The exhibit "Five Women Artists" can currently be seen at the Gallery Inuit. It features paintings, papermaking and photography of Marilyn Rae Barnum, Janet Century, Martha Liebert, Nora Liu and Becca Ruben Smith. The show continues through June 13. Don't miss it. . . There's another women's show you must see - the Judy Chicago Auction, at Coventry Art Gallery which opened this week. All the works displayed will be auctioned off and the proceeds will go to the "Judy Chicago Project." ~~The list of participants reads like a local arts "Who's Who". As you know, many, many, women's groups from Northeastern Ohio have worked to earn money to bring the project here. What you may not know is any money raised over and above the cost of bringing the project here and promotional expenses will be distributed among the groups who worked so hard to make it possible.~~

The Unitarian Society has generously donated its space for the second month in a row for special CNI meetings. The Society, which usually charges rental for the use of its hall, furnishes free space for the regular monthly CNI meetings as a contribution to the neighborhood.

It occurred to me that there are many poets in the Coventry area and it might be fun to have a contest for poems about Coventry. I ran into local poet Barbara Angel and she has agreed to get together a committee of judges - so how about it, Coventry bards? Send in your poems - not over 20 lines, before August 20, to Coventry Poetry Contest, 1526 Coventry Road, E. Cleveland, 44118, ♪ bobbie littell. The prize is - we'll print the winners beginning in September, one a month for as long as they last. I spoke to Pat Vair of the Cleveland Poetry Project and she said they might consider the winning poems for broadcast (poems would have to go through their evaluation process before they could be accepted for broadcast).

A LATE BREAKING STORY - At least one shot was fired in front of Irv's Bar and Deli Friday night, May 29th. Larry Beam, who arrived moments later, spoke to several witnesses. Irv was ejecting a disruptive bar patron, according to witnesses, and got into a shoving match with the patron on the sidewalk outside. All that is certain as we go to press is that at least one combatant fired at least one shot, with nobody getting hit. The patron was taken into police custody.

Now that summer is in full swing the street is a busy place. We still have the litter problem - but as more people become aware of it, there's hope. Record Revolution looks so pretty with the red geraniums against the black & white trim - Coventry Books has a neat new sign and R & E Discounts is making an attempt to conform to design standards adopted by the Merchants Association - I remember in past summers, seeing shop keepers cleaning and hosing down their sidewalks of a morning. How about it merchants?! It really makes a difference and the difference is appreciated by many.

As a neighborhood eatery Irv's doesn't have a whole lot to recommend it. It does have one of the best waitresses around - her name is Charlotte.

-- bobbie littell

DOBAMA TO PRODUCE WINNING "KIDS" PLAYS

On June 10 Dobama Theater will hold the 3rd Annual Marilyn Bianchi Playwriting Festival Benefit at 8:00 PM. This remarkable undertaking commemorating the vitality of the late Marilyn Bianchi, is believed to be the first such project in the country.

In the fall school children are invited to submit plays - this year 272 were submitted. All plays are read and evaluated by a committee of Dobama actors and directors. Eight are chosen in three divisions. The plays are then produced by Dobama at a gala benefit, the proceeds of which are used to publish the plays.

Chosen this year are:

FIRST PRIZE - \$100 U.S. Savings Bond

ELEMENTARY - The Lost Rubies of Follyonefang, by Dean Moyar, grade 3, Ludlow School Shaker;

JR. HIGH - Pearly Gates, by Susan Petrone grade 7, St. Ann School, Cleveland Heights;

SR. HIGH - Commedia Dell Arte (An Elaboration of History), by Michele Minter, grade 12, Shaker Heights High School.

HONORABLE MENTION - \$50 U.S. Savings Bond

ELEMENTARY - The Things He Did, by Tracey Humphrey, grade 6, Mayfair School, East Cleveland;

- Under The Shell, Charan Devereaux, grade 6, Ludlow School, Shaker Heights

- The Marionette, by Linda Lister, grade 6 Chagrin Falls Middle School

JR. HIGH - Beyond The Outer Mask, by Susan Slocum, grade 9, Burneson Jr. High, Westlake

SR. HIGH - Epiphany, by Jennie Litt, grade 11, Cleveland Heights High School.

Tickets for the benefit performance are \$10.00 each in the form of a tax deductible donation to the Marilyn Bianchi Fund For Life and People, and may be obtained by sending a check to 2348 Charney Road, University Heights, Ohio 44118.

Six free performances will follow; June 11 and 12 at 8:00; June 13 at 7:00 & 9:00; and June 14 at 2:30 & 7:00 as Dobama's gift to the community in appreciation of its continued support.

VOCATION PROGRAM PLANNED

The Heights Guild of Artists & Artisans will present a vacation program in the arts beginning June 22 and ending July 29. The offerings will be: Clay Play for ages 4 & 5, Tues and Thurs 10:00 - 11:00; For ages 6 - 11, Tues: & Thurs 10:00 - 11:15, an introduction to technical terms emphasizing working knowledge of materials and processes (pinch, coil, and slab pot construction). Ages 8 - 14 Tues & Thurs 2:00 - 3:30, presents basic terms and methods using handbuilding and the wheel. Introduction to glazing and firing; contrast contemporary techniques with those of the South-west Pueblo Indians with burnishing and pit firing projects.

Clay Workshop for ages 7 - 14 plus. Mon, Wed, and Fri 10:00 - 2:00. A survey of methods of forming ceramic ware with exploration of different clay bodies - stoneware, porcelain, and local clays. Study of different firing techniques - oxidation, reduction, raku, and pit firing. The workshop is planned to give a sound basis for classes in wheel throwing during the year and is for beginning and experienced young potters. It should offer an educational, productive and enjoyable summer. The children are to bring a bag lunch to eat outdoors picnic style.

Instructor for the summer program is Don Holzman, an experienced teacher and potter. Clay Play for 4 & 5 year olds will be led by Dorothy Halberg, a kindergarten teacher in the Heights School System. For further information call 371-2757.

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other

COMMUNITY WATCH DOG: LONG NEGLECTED HOUSING ADDRESSED

(Ed. Note: Community activist, June Wortman, has been involved in addressing community concerns for some time. CVN has invited her to air these concerns in a regular monthly column we call, COMMUNITY WATCH DOG. This is the first in a series about deteriorating housing. bml)

Many neighborhoods contain one or two houses that, suffering years of neglect, have long been the local eyesores. Such houses are the focus of helpless rage and frustration of residents who are trying to keep up their own homes. Deteriorated housing not only looks bad and lowers property values, but, if infested with rats or broken into and used as a hang-out by pot-smoking youths, can endanger the health and safety of nearby homes.

My neighborhood contains two such long neglected houses. Finally, instead of the usual back-porch complaining about buck-passing or suspected pay-offs, a number of residents decided to do something. This is the first in a series of articles telling about our investigation into the problem, suggestions for action that citizens can take, and a follow-up on what resulted from my neighborhood's attempts to solve the problem. My thanks to Judge Sarah Hunter of the Cleveland Hts. Municipal Court, and to Marcia Nolan, director of the Inspectional Services at Cleveland Hts. City Hall (CHIS) for their time, courtesy, patience, and extensive information. Thanks to the residents in the Upper Hampshire Road Street Association (UHSA) who took the time and trouble to act instead of complain.

THE PROCESS - AND GAPS THEREIN

Because three or four agencies may be involved in the process of dealing with neglected housing and absentee landlords, what may appear to be buck-passing is very likely to be a situation where the follow through on a complaint "falls between two stools." It may go like this: citizens make complaint to CHIS. Inspector visits the property, notifies the landlord of violations, and gives a date by which corrections must be made. Landlord does not comply. CHIS then sends him, by registered mail, a summons to appear in Housing Court. Landlord does not appear. An arrest warrant is issued. Warrant may never be served for several reasons: first, lack of adequate information legally required to be on the warrant; second, the priority that the police need to give to emergencies and criminal activities; third, the shortage of staff in all three departments.

If police pick up someone accused of a crime, they check on whether there are any warrants out for his arrest. They do not have a day on which warrants are served. The warrant may sit there for three years, or until another citizen complains. The process may repeat several times. If the landlord does come to court, the judge may not have full information on the history of the housing neglect, and its effect on the neighborhood. Therefore, the judge can not adequately determine what the sentence should be. Here is gap #2 - lack of background information for the court.

Next month's article will focus on suggestions for citizen action to fill the gaps and insure follow-through on long neglected housing. A third article will report the results of the UHSA's efforts to get action on their neighborhood eyesore. This reporter would like to hear from other citizens about their efforts to deal with the problem. You may help us to identify other gaps in the process. You may provide additional suggestions for action, or help us identify where and why the citizen action effort breaks down.

-- June C. Wortman

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CVN

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Persons wishing to submit items for the July issue of CVN may do so by sending them to the Editor, Coventry Village News, 1621 Eddington Road, Cleveland Heights, 44118 no later than June 26. Please include your name, address and phone number. While unsigned items will not be published, your name may be withheld upon request.

CNI

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS: General Meeting, Tuesday, June 9, 1981, downstairs at the Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road. The public is urged to attend.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS: Trustees Meeting, Thursday, July 19, 7:30 PM, 2910 Hampshire Road. Dues paying members are invited to attend.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS: Special Meeting, Tuesday, June 23, at the Unitarian Society at 7:30 PM to air information and viewpoints on the proposed placement of "SECTION 8" housing in Coventry. CNI has taken a position of support for the idea but with reservations over the concentration of several such buildings onto two streets in the Coventry apartment area. CH Council members, also generally supportive, have voiced concern over the impact on Coventry School. Coventry area landlords have expressed strong forebodings over the effect on rents in the area and consequently on the character of, and housing values in, the neighborhood. No business will be conducted at the meeting.