



Coventry Village News

SEPTEMBER, 1981

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS INC.

Vol. VII No. 8

1981 COVENTRY VILLAGE ARTS FAIR IS HISTORY - MANY TO BE THANKED

An event as ambitious as July's 1981 Coventry Village Arts Fair can operate smoothly and successfully only if hundreds of people, businesses and organizations pitch in to help. Many were thanked in the official Fair program. However, as always, lots of sleeves aren't rolled up until after the program has been sent to press. This is our only chance to tip our hats in appreciation to . . .

ABC Rental Center
The Badger
Connie Bauman
Garry Biller
Jack Boyle
Marcie Brush
Bob Cerminara
Joe Cieszko
Coventry Bike & Ski
Coventry Laundromat
Flask Industries

Howard Heller
Heller Electronics
Bill Hervey
Horvitz Construction
Bill Jones Leather
Kane Electric
Jim McConocha
Ernie Mook
Bob Pae
Alex Pausley
Pee Wee's Bikes

R & A Discount
Al Roker
Marv Rosenberg
Marv Silver
Silver Legal Clinic
Lette Sklader
Angelo Tomasone
U-Haul (Mayfield Road.)
WJKW-TV
WKYC-TV
Joel Young

and, of course, good old Alan Rapoport.

The following are hereby designated as . . .

HEROES: Gerone Germany
Officer Brian McHugh, CHPD
Robert Miller.

As was mentioned in the Fair program, a Videotape documentary was made of the Fair. The tape is now being edited, and will be shown on Viacom Cablevision's public access channel late this year. The CVN will publish dates and times in advance.

During the Fair, you may have noticed a group of super-competent, hyper-active people scurrying about in yellow T-shirts, alternately chewing antacid tablets and their fingernails. It can now be told that they were. . .

THE 1981 COVENTRY VILLAGE ARTS FAIR COMMITTEE

Sherri Appleton
Shelley Bachman
Larry Beam
Janice Cline
Vicki Fitzgerald

Leslie Fortney
Debbie Graves
Debbie Heller
Bruce Hennes
Nancy Hubbert

Joan Jordan
Tom Lee
Abbey Linhart
Charles Owen
Kathryn Young

-- F. David Gill, Chair

BOOS & BRAVOS

- BOO: To the ne'er-do-wells who think that Coventryard is a den for merchants who are somehow obsessed with making Coventry something that it is not. These small business people have put their futures on the line in this neighborhood. Most everyone is excited about the breath of fresh air that Coventryard has provided.
- BOO: To our young "space cadet" who vandalized all the storefronts between the Heights Theatre and Carroll Drug. This was not an act of creative expression, but rather a gratuitous act of blight. Many thanks to those persons who scrubbed long and hard to return dignity back to these buildings.
- BRAVO: Thanks to recent approval by the Board of Zoning Appeals, the new playground and amphitheater at Coventry School is now moving ahead towards completion. Let's hope that the dirt mounds turn green very soon.
- BRAVO: To Sam and Eileen Roth of the Gallery Inuit for their beautiful new hand-laid tile floor entranceway. They did all the toil themselves!

-- Charles Owen

EUCLID HEIGHTS BOULEVARD - UPDATE

by

Barbara M. Littell

The re-construction work on the eastbound lane of Euclid Heights Boulevard (EHB) between Cedar and Coventry is nearing completion. The base is in, some repairs still need to be made to driveway aprons and curbs before the finish, wearing course can be put down. That should take about a week and a half, according to Dominick Tomaro, Director of Public Works. Then the westbound side will be given its final course. The work should be completed on Phase I by the end of September.

In the meantime work has started on Phase II, the segment between Coventry and Superior. Repair crews are working on the drains and catchbasins while waiting for approval from the state and federal authorities to start excavation. Once started EHB will be closed to traffic until its completion which, according to Tomaro would be six to eight weeks from now.

The work on the segment between Lee and Taylor Roads is almost complete. The striping is the only remaining task to be completed. That should be done in less than a week. This will leave only the segment between Superior and Lee to be completed.

ODDS 'N ENDS Only three entries to the poetry contest sponsored by this column have been received. There was no space to give it a plug in the July issue, and there was no August issue. I therefore want to give it one more plug before I let it die from lack of interest. Come on Coventry poets! Send me some poems. All you need do is send your poem about anything to do with Coventry to: Poetry Contest, 1526 Coventry Road, #4, East Cleveland, Ohio 44118 to the attention of Bobbie Littell. The poems will be evaluated by a committee formed by Coventry poet Barbara Angot. The ones judges best will be published in the CVN. Those that meet the standards will be submitted to the Cleveland Poetry Project.

(Continued on Page 9)

SOLUTIONS SOUGHT FOR PROBLEMS AT IRV'S DELI

Officers of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. and the management of Irv's Deli are working together to focus on problems that have developed around the restaurant/bar during the past few months. As the result of a resolution of Coventry Neighbors, the Crime Prevention Task Force convened a meeting on July 24 to discuss the situation at Irv's Delicatessen, at the corner of Coventry and Hampshire.

Numerous complaints have been received by CNI about trash, loitering, alleged narcotics violations by customers, noise, blocked sidewalks, alleged prostitution, and violence.

The Police Department is pleased with the way Irv's management keeps children out of the bar but displeased that police are not called in when there is trouble. Small disturbances must be either witnessed by the police or they must have a signed misdemeanor complaint before they can intervene.

Throughout the meeting, Herman Winston, Irv's day manager and Jeff Pollock, Irv's attorney were openly solicitous of the assembled views and they stated repeatedly that they wished to be better neighbors.

The meeting ended with a verbal agreement by Winston to do the following:

- Erect new lights to brightly illuminate the side and front of Irv's to discourage loitering. He has already met with CEI and F. David Gill (CNI) and is awaiting City Hall approval.
- Clean the planters and sidewalk more often. There are still beer cans every morning, but it is obvious that Irv's is trying.
- Plant lush, overhanging, prickly vegetation in the planter all around the building to eliminate the seating around the restaurant and bar. Charles Owen (CNI) has been attempting to arrange a meeting between Winston and a landscape consultant.
- Improve management at night. This is the tough one. Better bouncers, a no nonsense approach, the willingness to call the police at the outset of trouble, and refusal to serve known alcoholics and troublemakers will go a long way to correcting the situation.

Although the police are reluctant to permanently station a patrolman on the premises, they have promised to pay closer attention to Irv's. The Police Department took this opportunity to inform the group that Irv Guiko, owner of Irv's, plead "no contest" to a reduced minor misdemeanor charge stemming from an incident earlier this summer when he allegedly discharged a firearm outside of Irv's during a scuffle. Guiko was fined \$40.00.

In attendance were: Larry Beam (CH Planning Department), Philmore Hart (architect), Charles Owen (CNI President), Bruce Hennes (CNI Vice-President), Nancy Hubbert (CH Community Relations Dept.), Lester Lagatta (CHPD), Elise Strong (Coventry Merchants Association), Pollock and Winston.

PLEASE HELP COVENTRY NEIGHBORS monitor these promises. If you see illegal activity, call the police. You need not leave your name (even if the police request it) although, unless the police witness a minor crime, prosecution will be impossible without witnesses. If the trash piles up, go in and complain. Or call and complain! If the situation greatly improves, then let Irv and Herman know that you appreciate their efforts and patronize the restaurant.

-- Bruce Hennes, Chair
Crime Prevention Task Force

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT. David R. Burwasser, Chair.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REVISED CNI CONSTITUTION: On July 14, 1981, CNI adopted a revised Constitution and By-Laws redefining membership and adapting procedures to bring them into line with practice.

MEMBERSHIP is open to all Coventry Village residents over 18. Non-Coventry residents may apply to the Board for membership, and the Board's action is subject to review by the CNI membership. Individual dues are \$5, senior-citizen dues \$3, and family membership (up to three persons) \$7. People who join between July and December get a 50% discount. Continuing members' dues fall due in part at the March meeting and in full at the April meeting. Voting members must be dues paying members for 30 days. No present member's status is altered.

COMMITTEES: Standing committees are formed by membership action, ad hoc committees by Board action.

MEETINGS: Monthly; quorum = 10.

OFFICERS & TRUSTEES: No changes in offices. Elections are held in October; nominations open September. CVN Editorial Board is formed by the Trustees, with the Trustees as the core. Street/Arts/Whatever Fair arrangements are set forth in the new Constitution to reflect practice developed in the field.

COVENTRY VILLAGE: Includes the East Cleveland streets bounded by Coventry, Superior and Avondale. Boundary lines in Cleveland Heights runs southeast along Superior from the East Cleveland border to Lee; south on Lee to Cedar; and west on Cedar to the Cleveland border. The intent here is not to Imperialize Cedar-Lee or East Cleveland but to include all the area where most of our membership lives.

This was the product of weeks of hard work by the C & B-L Committee. Thanks to Bobbie Littell, Kathryn Young and Bruce Hennes for their labor and perseverance and the rest of the Hennes family for their hospitality and forbearance.

PLANNING & ZONING NOTES. F. David Gill, Chair

Five items affecting Coventry are on the Board of Zoning Appeals September agenda. CNI will have the opportunity to take positions on them at its September 9 meeting.

Sohio wants to replace its gas station at Mayfield and Coventry with a self-service operation, and seeks variances for the pump canopy and signage. CNI opposed a similar proposal made in 1978. At that time, BZA approved the self-serve but denied the signage, and Sohio chose not to build then. (#1506).

Turkey Ridge Associates, Ltd. wants to build a 16 unit condominium at Edgehill and Overlook. Yard and heights variances are sought. (#1508).

A video "game room" is planned at 2804 Mayfield, at the so-called "Taj Mahal" building, to include about 30 coin operated video games. A conditional use permit is needed, as game rooms are neither permitted nor prohibited by code. (#1516).

A resident at 2701 Hampshire wants to increase the height of his existing short-wave radio antenna from 50 ft. to 70 ft. (#1517).

Central National Bank wants to put a "bank-in-a-box automatic teller facing the Lancashire sidewalk at its Coventry branch. CNB wants to identify the teller with a sign that is seen as contrary to a 1977 agreement which allowed CNB to upgrade a projecting sign on condition that there be no other signage for the bank. (#1518).

Recommendations for CNI action on these items were to be developed at a P & Z Committee meeting scheduled for August 26.

JOIN CNI, 2745 HAMPSHIRE 44106. Dues structure above.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS REPORT. Charles Owen, Chair

SOMETHING OLD: As many of you have probably noticed, new concrete bicycle racks now grace the north and west ends of Coventry Park (Euclid Heights & Coventry). These improvements were made possible by an "Operation Pride" grant from the City of Cleveland Heights that Coventry Neighbors applied for in 1980. Other improvements paid for under this grant include park benches at Hampshire Commons, a bench in front of the Hampshire municipal parking lot, and benches at Coventry Park. Operations **Pride** grants are part of the Cleveland Heights Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG).

SOMETHING NEW: The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) has applied to the City for a "Neighbors In Action" grant for further improvements in the Coventry Village commercial district. It is planned that black, Victorian style, wrought iron fencing be installed around the trees and flower beds of Coventry Park to protect the plants and provide the park with a sense of 19th Century graciousness.

Also planned are the purchase of four concrete trash containers of the style already in use throughout Coventry Village. Three of the containers will be placed on the north side of Coventry between Lancashire and Coventry Park. The remaining container is to be placed near Irv's and the RTA bus stop on Coventry.

Finally, to facilitate increased bicycle parking, bicycle "eyebolts" are proposed for the parking meters on Coventry and Euclid Heights that do not already have them. This grant application, which will be funded by CDBG funds, has been approved by the Citizen Advisory Committee of the Cleveland Heights CDBG program. An affirmative vote by City Council on September 8 is all that is needed for the improvement program to go forward.

SAY YES! The ECC is looking for people who would like to do something to make Coventry look and feel better. We are planning an autumn bulb planting project and neighborhood dollars are needed to make our plans a reality. We also need volunteers who would enjoy working with others on environmental projects in Coventry. Do something that feels good. . . say YES! Call Charles Owen (321-1268) or mail a post card to Coventry Neighbors, 2745 Hampshire Road, Cleve. Hgts. 44106 for details. All donations to CNI are tax deductible, of course. The next meeting of the ECC will be on Monday, September 14 at the Coughlin residence, 2759 Hampshire Rd, 7:30.

CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE REPORT. Bruce Hennes, Chair

The Coventry Neighbors Crime Prevention Task Force had a very successful booth at the Coventry Village Arts Fair in July. Over 50 persons signed up for the free Crime Prevention Home Security analysis and literally hundreds picked up literature and emergency phone number stickers. Special thanks goes to the Cleveland Heights Police Department for their technical assistance, to Chief Martin Lentz and the Northern Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for a grant to fund the literature, to Rachel Beam for organizing the whole booth, and especially to the volunteers who took the time to sit in the hot sun and staff the booth.

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other

THE JOYS OF RECONSTRUCTION - COVENTRY LIBRARY

"The window with the air conditioner has to go on Monday or Tuesday - we'll try to do it before the library opens," said John, our foreman. And sure enough we got bricked in within the day and sadly watched the sun disappear behind a grey brick wall, as our new emergency exit grew up and formed a roof before our very eyes. Only the stairs and the doors remain to be done. But one of those doors will come through the wall into the present library within the next few weeks, and we'll be placing part of our non-fiction collection (001-003) in the fiction room till the move.

One day, a patron came back from the restrooms quite perplexed and in apparent discomfort. "I went where you told me, but there's nothing there." I went downstairs to see for myself and sure enough, there were no fixtures of any kind in what had been the bathrooms. J.B. (who uses sign language to communicate) had signed "the rest rooms off" but I assumed he meant cleaned off, not gone. At the writing of this article, the rest room fixtures have still not been replaced and we have no dates as to when they will be - happiness is being forewarned.

All the walls are down that will come down for the library renovation. The elevator is in place. The display case and reference shelf have been rebuilt.

The scaffolding is up for reconstructing part of the ceiling over what will be the browsing area. Everyday some new pounding or drilling is going on, leaving the library less than quiet, but always with a sense of movement and change.

With all the changes and preparation for the move, which we hope will be in mid-December, we are still planning to start our story hours and poetry reading the first week in October. The first Sunday in October will be our first poetry reading with poets to be announced. The After-School Specials will begin Tuesdays at 2:30 and 3:30 on October 6 and continue until November 24. Our pre-school storyhours will begin Wednesdays, October 7 at 10:30 and be repeated at 2:30 and continue until November 25. We will finish programming by the end of November but intend to keep the library open all the regular hours except the Saturday before our Grand Opening, which will be announced at the Next Library Board meeting.

--Debbie Graves, Librarian
Coventry Village Library

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Attention Bobbie Littell

I don't know where you were in the 60's but, I was on Coventry, at Irv's Dell. Irv has been here on Coventry for over 20 years. He is an integral part of the street's nature. Irv's Dell is a meeting place for all types of people. (Including many of the writers in this circular). Meetings for the planning of Coventry Fair take place at Irv's. Many of the people involved in the "Coventry Neighbors Assoc." go to Irv's for pizza or just coffee in the wee hours of the morning.

When Irv's burned down many of us felt bewildered and truly at a loss. We had to use a friend's apartment to have coffee everyday and pick up on the local gossip. Still, it wasn't the same.

It may not be "in" to defend Irv's, it may be part of the nature of all "Irv-ites" to complain about him, but none of us are unaware that, while complaining, we are drinking coffee and munching on the tea biscuits at the usual time at Irvs.

Irv's is the "midnight circus of illusion," a "family restaurant," a "singles bar," a "study hall," an "after theatre snack," a "political forum," a "pain-in-the-ass," a "meeting place for the old Holocaust survivors" speaking Yiddish and sipping their hot tea from glasses. Sometimes all segments of our society, all the prejudice--isolated segments find themselves grouped together in Irvs, watching and listening to the objects of their culturally taught (Continued on Page 7)

CITY STUDIES PCB CAPACITOR ISSUE

by
F. David Gill

At the August 17 City Council meeting, Cleveland Heights Mayor Robert Arnold assured citizens that efforts are being made to gather legal, technical, and economic data regarding certain Illuminating Company poles which bear capacitors insulated with Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's). The City is not prepared to act in this matter until the data are in hand, although several area suburbs have passed ordinances requiring CEI to replace these devices swiftly with safe, oil-filled capacitors.

Many concerned citizens insist that leakage of PCB's from these devices presents a serious environmental and public health menace, and that the capacitors must be replaced immediately.

CEI's position is that the dangers are overstated, and that the capacitors need be replaced only as they wear out.

Citizens can be alert for PCB malfunctions. Six known PCB units are located in the Coventry Neighborhood.

WHERE THEY ARE (Source: Sun Press, 8/13/81):

- Across from 2524 Berkshire, between Euclid Hts. Blvd. and Kent;
- 1825 Coventry, east side of comm'l dist., north of Lancashire;
- 2395 Euclid Hts. Blvd., northwest corner of EHB/Lennox intersection;
- 2869 Hampshire, just east of Wilton;
- 2712 Overlook, just west of Mornington;
- South side of Superior in E. Cleveland, 2 poles west of Coventry.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: PCB capacitors look like black or gray rectangular cereal boxes, sometimes bearing white labels. They tend to sit high on the poles, and come in multiples of three. Obvious signs of trouble include fluid leakage, sparks, smoke, odd noises, or bulging, punctured, or cracked cases. Anything out of the ordinary should be reported.

WHAT TO DO: Call the C.H. Fire Department (321-1212) or the C.H. Police (321-1234). If the Superior Road unit is in trouble, call the ECFD (541-1212) or the ECPD (451-1234). They will notify CEI, and will secure the area until CEI's decontamination crew arrives. Until the authorities reach the scene, stand at a safe distance, and warn others to keep away. Under no circumstances should anyone touch the pole, neighboring objects, vegetation, or soil.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (Continued from page 6)

prejudices - Blacks, Italians, gays, capitalists, communists, Catholics, Jews, old, young, etc. Irv's Dell is not Beechwood Place.

One cannot separate the man, Irv from his Dell. Irv's Dell is Irv. The man himself is not unaware of his diverse clientele, this is not an accident. Irv has seen trends come and go for years and years, what some may believe is a lack of perception is, in fact, tolerance. Irv has given jobs to the unemployable (at certain times), he has struggled through the 60's like the rest of us and still maintains relationships with those who, on LSD, heroine and alcohol, survived the 60's. Irv survived those years with us.

There are many things about Irv that are not easy, but nevertheless the man and his place has never been given the credit deserved. I think it's long overdue.

-- Joan McConocha

(Note: This letter was written in July but was not received in time for inclusion in the July issue. 8/1)

****COMMUNITY CALENDAR****

- COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD -

SEPTEMBER

C.N.I ELECTION NOMINATIONS OPEN

- 7 LABOR DAY
- 8 CNI General Meeting
7:30 Unitarian Society
2728 Lancashire Rd.
CH COUNCIL Meeting
7:30 City Hall
- 9 SCHOOL OPENS
- 14 CNI Environmental
Concerns Committee,
7:30, Coughlin's 2759
Hampshire
- 16 Board of Zoning
Appeals, 7:30 City
Hall
- 21 CH COUNCIL Meeting
7:30 - City Hall

by
David R. Burwasser

Nominations for the CNI Trustees and Officers election of 1981 will be open at the September CNI meeting, in accordance with the recently adopted CNI Constitution (see related story Page 4). The election will take place at the October meeting.

Offices include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Trustees At Large. The term of CNI's Heights Community Congress Trustee is also and will be filled by nomination and election. Any dues paid member of CNI may declare him/herself a candidate for any office.

Only members whose dues are paid on or before September 13 are eligible to vote in this election. A membership application form will be found on Page 9.

OCTOBER

- 4 LIBRARY - Poetry
Reading
- 5 CH COUNCIL Meeting
7:30 - City Hall
- 6 LIBRARY - After School
Special 2:30 & 3:30
- 7 LIBRARY - Pre-school
Storyhour - 10:30 a.m.
2:30 p.m.

COVENTRYARD GRAND OPENING SEPTEMBER 26 and 27

by
Joan Jordan

Any Coventry organization wishing to have its events included on the Community Calendar may do so by sending notice of the event to Bobbie Littell, 1526 Coventry, Apt. #4, East Clev. by the 3rd Friday of each month. Phone 321-8397

The 26th and 27th of September will be days of great celebration as developers, Lewis Zipkin and Michael Hennenberg, shop owners and neighbors celebrate Coventryard's Grand Opening.

Merchants currently in the Yard: Arabica; The Inn on Coventry; Coventry Flower Mart & News; The Fancy Fruit Market; Feel Rite Health Foods; Tropical Delights; Jeans, Inc. and the Silversmith will all take part in the celebration. The Haagen Dazs store should be open by then.

Coventryard's rebirth has been a testimony to the Coventry Neighborhood and the people involved. The Grand Opening will celebrate the vitality of this neighborhood as well as the opening of a fine group of shops.

PLAYGROUND, DIESEL STATION OK'D - TURKEY RIDGE REZONED

At its July meeting, the Board of Zoning Appeals permitted the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Board of Education to proceed with construction of a new playground at Coventry School.

W. Healy Dowd and Charles S. Fuller were given permission at the Board's August meeting to re-open a defunct gas station at Mayfield and Middlehurst. The applicants agreed to do extensive landscaping and facade renovation, and to install tasteful, subdued signage. It is believed that this station will be Cleveland Heights' only retail diesel fuel outlet.

Both of the above applications had been endorsed unanimously by CNI, although the unique market position of the diesel station raised concerns about traffic congestion.

(Continued on Page 9)

IT'S UP TO US NOW?

CNI's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) has just come to the end of another year. We know that our neighborhood and especially the Coventry Village commercial district has benefited by the many hours of labor put forth by our six young people. It is now up to the residents of Coventry and the Coventry Village merchants to continue to keep our neighborhood clean.

One of the SYEP young people was overheard to say, as he walked down Coventry during the evening hours "I can't throw this on the side walk, I'll have to clean it up in the morning." He learned something this summer and will be conscious of littering. We could all do the same and litter less.

The young people who participated in the SYEP were: Jeff Carter, Trent Holt, Janise Watkins, David Walter, Jay Young and Joel Young.

Our thanks go to the following merchants for their help with the program; Coventry Mall, Bill Jones Leather Shop, Turkey Ridge, Record Revolution, High Tide/Rock Bottom, Irv's Deli & Restaurant and Coventry Pizza.

Thanks, also to the following for their assistance during the program: Larry Bean, Charles Owen, Vicki Fitzgerald, Rachel Beam, Peter Goldsmith, Mike Green, Lynn Ford, Leslie Fortney and Debbie Helier. Your help was greatly appreciated.

-- Kathryn J. Young, Supervisor SYEP

ODDS 'N ENDS (Continued from page 2) The Coventry Merchants Association held its semi-annual election of officers on August 25. Elected were Ellen Strong (Coventry Books) President, Marcia Polevoi (High Tide/Rock Bottom) Vice-President, Carol Norwalk (Feel Rite Health Foods) Secretary, and Gladys Nobles (Coventry Books) Treasurer. Board members elected were: Ernie Munck (Coventry Bike & Ski), Tim Mannen (The Corkscrew), Leslie Fortney (High Tide/Rock Bottom), Debbie Graves (Coventry Library) and Joan Jordan (Pfarmigan). In addition CMA voted to send a letter to the CH Board of Zoning Appeals supporting the CNB Bank-in-a-box sign; to further study ways to keep Coventry clean following CNI's efforts with the Summer Youth Employment Program; and, to invite the CHPD to talk to them at their next meeting. The next meeting will be an evening one and they voted to invite Coventry Neighbors Crime Prevention Task Force.

According to a release by Coventry's Joan Jordan a Silvermith has opened on the lower level of the Yard. Dan Salat will make jewelry and do repairs in his shop by the lower level back courtyard. She also says that Knic a Bric, a craft store, a restaurant, Bliss, and a book store, Blackberry Warren, The Book Burrow will be opening soon.

-- bobbie littell

YOU may become a member of COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, Inc. simply by filling out this tear slip and returning it with your check, made payable to Coventry Neighbors, Inc., to 2747 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

Check one of the following classes of membership.

Individual (\$5.00) Family (\$7.00) Senior (\$3.00)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

I am now receiving COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS by mail. Yes No.

"MEALS ON WHEELS" AVAILABLE

by
Joanne Blanchard

Low cost meals, delivered daily to homebound adults is one of the services offered by the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging. Known as Meals on Wheels, the program is open to any adult, regardless of age, who is unable to cook because of disability or illness.

For \$3.00 a day, a hot dinner and cold supper can be delivered to your home. The menu reflects the standard American diet. A typical dinner is roast chicken, mashed potatoes, and a pint of milk. Supper is usually a sandwich with milk and fruit.

A low-sodium and a diabetic diet are also offered. The diabetic diet was designed in the kitchen of the Margaret Wagner House on Euclid Heights Boulevard.

To receive a Meal on Wheels you may call the Office on Aging at 371-8280. A professional case worker will come to your home, explain the program and determine the extent of your need. If you are in need of financial assistance, it will be determined at that time. If there are other community services you need and are eligible for, she will help you to obtain them.

Two or three days later, the first meal is delivered by volunteers. You can get meals Monday through Friday, as many days as you like. Two working days are required to cancel a meal. Consumers are billed at the end of the month.

Forty-five meals are delivered each day by the volunteer staff. There is no waiting list for meals at this time. The Fairmount Presbyterian Church is the base for the Coventry area. A captain receives the meals from the Swifty Foods in Solon. A packer helps the captain pack the hot dinners in insulated containers for transport. The driver and visitor pick up the food and route sheets about 11:15 a.m.

The program also guarantees a daily safety check. If the volunteer doesn't get an answer when she comes to deliver the meal, an emergency process is set into effect. The visitor calls the Office on Aging, who in turn calls a contact designated in advance by the consumer.

The program is entirely self-supporting, although Pam Land (Director of the CH Office on Aging) says donations are accepted. Some churches include donations from their annual budget.

The churches provided the seed money to set up the program in 1978. The Office On Aging determined a need for such a program when they kept receiving phone calls from citizens. They approached area churches and civic organizations who helped raise the money and recruit the volunteers for the program. There are similar programs in Euclid, Bedford, Lakewood and University Circle.

The Office On Aging provides a variety of social services, generally without cost, to citizens 60 years or older. They are partly supported by funds from the Older Americans Act, and authorized by the Ohio Commission On Aging and the Cuyahoga County Commissioners. It is located at the corner of Mayfield and Superior. The staff helps seniors with particular problems, and assists in finding jobs. It publishes a free monthly newsletter with articles of interest to seniors regarding health, travel and programs of interest to retired people.

(NOTE: Joanne Blanchard was a student in a summer course in Neighborhood Journalism at Cleveland State University. She served as student intern with CVN during the summer. We thank her for her assistance. BML)

COMMUNITY WATCHDOG: LONG NEGLECTED HOUSING, PART IIIREPORT OF A SUCCESS STORY

In early May the Hampshire Street Association (HSA) president and several residents called the inspections Dept. (321-0100) and went to talk to Marcia Nolan. (Note: effective September 1, the new inspections director is James Keiter.) They learned that although the court had issued an arrest warrant in 1979 it had never been served by the police because of lack of an address. The landlord (LL) was located. He attended the court hearing May 25. Before the hearing HSA members had sent about 20 individual letters to the court, inspections, and to the LL directly, listing complaints and reporting the long history of violations. HSA members also called the prosecutor and offered to testify.

At the hearing the housing inspector read five pages of violations which included non-functioning radiators, collapsed ceiling plaster and huge amounts of trash in the basement, garage, and around the outside of the house. Previous court appearances in 1974 and 1976 on housing violations were noted. HSA members sat in the front row taking notes, but were never called to testify. They were pointed out to the LL as very irate and concerned neighbors.

Judge Sara Hunter gave the LL a fine of \$3,000 plus costs, and a six month jail sentence. The case was continued to June 29 for a progress report, by which time substantial progress was to be made on correcting the violations. Those not completed were to be accounted for in a written schedule indicating the LL's plan. (Time spent at the hearing by HSA members: two hours.)

Throughout June, feverish activity went on at that house. Truck-loads of trash were removed. Many people came to work on the place. On June 29, the LL appeared in court, this time with an attorney. They gave excuses about why the house was in such condition, and why corrections had not been made. Judge Hunter held the discussion to the current violations, most of which were corrected. Six were yet to be done. Another extension was given until July 27, to be sure the work got done. (Time spent by HSA members: two hours.)

On July 27 the court determined that the work was completed. Two-thousand-seven-hundred dollars of the fine was suspended, leaving \$300 plus costs to be paid by the LL. The LL was also placed on probation for one year. The house now looks pretty good, not like a slum. It must be more pleasant to live in, and should be warmer this winter for the tenants, some of whom are children. I hope HSA had a party to celebrate.

COMMENT: Because of the time required to be present at the hearings, and the follow-up work, there is a real need for citizens with time available to take part in these neighborhood actions. Retired senior citizens can make a great contribution by becoming active in their street associations. Your neighbors need you!

CORRECTION: Information on the Landlord-Tenants Organization in our July column was in error. It should be: Cleveland Tenants Organization, Colonial Arcade, #215, 530 Euclid Avenue, Phone: 621-0504. They provide counseling on the rights and responsibilities of tenants, help in negotiations with landlords, and information about how to place rent payments in escrow.

NEXT MONTH: an article about the court. This will provide an introduction to our next action series, beginning in November, on what citizens can do about that "Impossible Family" on your street. You are not alone. Almost every street has one. We have a success story to report, and also some attempted actions that have encountered problems. These are tough problems to solve.

-- June Wortman

