



# Coventry Village News

SEPTEMBER, 1982

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

Vol. VII No. 8

## 1982 COVENTRY VILLAGE STREET FAIR - A SUCCESS

With an additional stage, different hours, more booths and less publicity than ever, the 1982 Coventry Village Street Fair was a tremendous success.

This 9th Annual Fair gave us a chance to show off the best of everything Coventry Village has to offer and provided a financial boost to both Coventry Neighbors and most of our local merchants.

Although almost everyone who helped with the Fair was mentioned in our Fair Guide, a number of people surface every year and provide either the manpower, expertise, or service we need then and there. They were:

Chuck Blake	Bliss Restaurant	Jack Boyle
Cleveland Boomerang Sc.	Cleveland Clown Coalition	Coventry Laundromat
Creative Copy	Heights Community Cong.	Lenny Horowitz
Vicki Hunt	Jeans Inc	Michael Melincoff
Montefiore Home	Alan Rapoport	Record Revolution
Russo's Stop & Shop	Dan Salat	Peter Schlewein
Regis Sedlock, Jr.	Bernard Stregovsky	Cindy Taylor

The following persons deserve a special mention: Mike Borkan, for being everywhere, doing everything; Cmdr. Les LaGatta, CHPD, for keeping a friendly but firm lid on; Marcia and Joe Polevoi, for providing special accommodations; Kathryn Young, our "Most Valuable Player."

We are especially grateful to a few of our service merchants who closed early on Saturday. They are truly public spirited citizens and they are: Heights Cleaners, Coronet Cleaners, and Heights Hardware. If I have overlooked anyone, please let the CVN know.

Some of the changes anticipated next year are: longer Fair hours; lower booth fees for local merchants; a parade, and a dance. If you are interested in working on next year's Fair or you wish to rent booth space, please contact me and you will be put on our list for next year.

And now, to present for one final time, our battle-weary crew of seasoned veterans.

## THE 1982 COVENTRY VILLAGE STREET FAIR STAFF

Dennis Coughlin  
Kathryn Young  
Janice Cline  
Debbie Heller  
Debbie Graves  
Abby Linhart  
Lonnie Hennes  
Ellie Strong  
Tom Lee  
Nancy Hubbert

Larry Beam  
Jay Young  
Barry Bennett  
Marion Fisher  
Peter Goldsmith  
Diane Bersnak  
Charles Owen  
Ann Siclaire  
Timothy Smith  
Lisa Gitlin

-- Bruce M. Hennes  
1982 Street Fair Chair

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Barbara M. Littell.

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Congress Staff.

ALL opinions and statements are strictly those of the respective writers, except when clearly identified as formal positions of CNI, CVN or HCC. Circulation 1,500.

PERSONS wishing to submit copy for the October issue may do so by sending it to the EDITORS, COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS, 1621 Eddington Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118 no later than September 24. Please include your name, address and phone number. While unsigned items will not be published, your name may be withheld upon request.

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . .

We Watch Out For Each Other

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: CNI MEETING NOTES

July, 1982

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., received the first 1982 post-Street Fair committee report at its July 13 meeting. Over 200 booths were in place, the income-to-expense ratio was quite satisfactory, and the minipark was preserved from destruction against all expectations. CNI voted support for the application of the New England Clam House for outdoor seating, with appropriate pest control. The organization called for a reversal of the decline of two apartment buildings in the area by appropriate City action, and voted support of a change in inspectional practices so that a single family home left vacant for a set period of time be internally inspected regularly.

CNI passed a vote of thanks to Chief Martin Lentz for capture of the Coventry apartment arson suspect, and authorized a contribution to the Raymond A. Robinson Memorial Hockey Scholarship Fund.

August, 1982

Coventry Neighbors committed itself to a leadership position in the campaign to dry up Irv's Bar, at its August 13 meeting. CNI had authorized support at an earlier meeting; the new resolution, at the recommendation of the Trustees, authorized explicit sponsorship by CNI and action in its name.

Mayor Alan Rapoport reported that Council had approved the bulk of the Coventry Merchants Assn. request for a Commercial Areas Improvement Fund grant, excepting only additional minipark benches. Council's rationale for this decision was discussed at some length. Rapoport also reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals had granted the outdoor seating request of the New England Clam House, with a limitation of terminating at 9 PM in respect of the proximity of apartment buildings.

David R. Burwasser  
Secretary

Coventry Neighbors extends its sincere condolences to City Manager Richard Robinson and his family in their recent tragedy resulting in the death of eight year old Raymond Robinson.

CNI LOCAL OPTION PETITION SEEMS TO SQUEAK THROUGH

by  
David R. Burwasser

As of CVN press time, the Coventry Neighbors petition campaign to put a measure on the November ballot to dry up Irv's Bar seemed to have succeeded by a minimal margin. This first phase had encountered unexpected difficulties, both internal and external.

A minimum of 165 valid signatures was required to place the prohibition of hard-liquor and wine service by the drink before the voters of Precincts 1-B and 1-K. All signatures must be of registered voters with voting addresses in one of the two precincts. While an overwhelming majority of voters contacted signed willingly, not many were found at home. CNI President Charles Owen filed petitions bearing 201 signatures with the Board of Elections on the Wednesday, August 18, deadline. Veteran petition campaigners would counsel a much wider margin, as insurance against illegible, non-registered, mis-addressed or otherwise invalid signatures.

Petitioners canvassed on Lancashire, Hampshire, Mayfield and Euclid Hts. Blvd. most of Saturday, August 14 and Sunday, August 15 in an effort to meet the deadline.

Internally, the campaign was plagued first by disagreement over precincts to be covered, and then by a late start. The political strategy disputes were ironed out over two regular CNI meetings. CNI leaders fatigued from the Street Fair and other summer activities did not realize how much time would be consumed by residents not being home, obsolescence of the voter lists obtained from the Board of Elections, and the generally slow pace of summer canvassing. Owen noted that "We learned a lot" in the rushed final days of the drive.

The major extrinsic problems centered almost exclusively upon Musicians Towers and the attempt to gather signatures from its residents. Tower management was uncooperative, and the drive was the target of various rumors within the Tower.

Management of the Tower threatened petitioners that they would be arrested for illegal soliciting if they attempted to circulate within the building. The distinction between commercial solicitation, which the Tower may properly restrict, and political activity, which is Constitutionally protected, had to be clarified before this obstacle was removed.

The rumors revolved around Irv's Deli, alleging it to be the "only Jewish Deli" surviving in the area. One version mistook the campaign for a direct attempt to close the Deli; this actually cannot be done by local option, which addresses only liquor sales. Another asserted that Coventry Neighbors was acting out of anti-Semitic sentiment in "trying to close the Deli." While such things are difficult to pin down, these rumors appeared to prevail among Tower residents who have never attended a Coventry Neighbors meeting. (In point of fact, there is at least one other Jewish deli, Import Foods, on the street.) In any event, signatures were successfully collected from Tower residents, without which the campaign would have failed.

Assuming the question is on the November ballot, CNI will have to mount a vigorous campaign to cut through the rumors and extranea. A primary tool will probably be the 4-page list of police calls from the vicinity of Irv's Bar between January 1981 and May 1982. This compilation was an effective "convincer" during the petition drive.

As a matter of course, the liquor license of Irv's Bar is up for renewal in October, and the City has the option of active objection to renewal by the Ohio Board of Liquor Control. Coventry activist F. David Gill, acting on his own behalf, has already formally requested Council to undertake such an objection.

| | | H E L P   W A N T E D | | |

As the fall season starts it is time to plan ahead. Planning ahead requires one to first look back.

CVN has grown greatly in the past few years. It has doubled in size from an average of six to an average of twelve pages. It has adopted identifiable graphics and format. It has expanded its area of focus to include items of general interest to Coventry residents; increased its circulation and expanded its readership to include all of Cleveland Heights.

In order to do this two things have been necessary: organization and manpower.

As people move into fall and resume their activities after a summer of relaxation, many make changes. Some people go on to try new things and often volunteer staff's become depleted rather suddenly. A number of CVN regulars will be playing much smaller roles in its production this coming year and CVN is going to need new manpower.

If you would like to try something new and different, consider volunteering for CVN. Many people are needed to prepare each issue. The more people we have the easier it is on all, and the more fun it is. Needed are:

**REPORTERS** - Either on an "occasional" basis or as an ongoing "beat" reporter. (Coventry School, School Board, Library Board, Merchant's Assoc. to name but a few.) If this sounds like fun to you, call Dave Burwasser, 932-7676 or Bobbie Littell 321-8397.

**TYPISTS** - If you have reasonable speed and are accurate you might like to help prepare "camera ready" copy. We have a brand new electric typewriter with correction tape available to us. This work is usually done during the second last week of the month in the business district of Coventry. Call Bobbie Littell, 321-8397.

**COLLATERS** - Our production crew meet usually on the last Sunday of each month to put it all together and prepare it for mailing. Six to eight people can collate, staple and sort 1,500 copies in four to six hours. This work is done at the Heights Community Congress office on Lee Road. If your name is on our list of volunteers you will be called in rotation. If you would like to help collate call Carol Gibson, 932-8733.

If you care about what's happening around you, you think maybe you can write a little and are willing to learn; or, if you just like to be where the action is, volunteer for Coventry Village News.

-- Bobbie Littell

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STREET TALK

Coventry really has that "village" feeling when you see Chris Patronik Holder's two little boys, Patrick (1½) and Nicholas (2½) playing outside in front of their mom's "Cedar Chest" on a bright summer morning. Chris tells me that she is sponsoring her 2nd annual "Shower Curtain Art Show." Last years was such fun with so many fascinating entries. Deadline for this year is September 29. For further info call Chris at 932-6700. Cash prizes of \$100 and \$50 will be given for first and second place winners.

Coventry activist, Joy Marshall, will speak to the Citizens for Social Responsibility at the Library, September 16 at 7 PM. Her topic will be, "A Layman's View of the History and Consequences of the Nuclear Arms Race." I have heard that she really knows what she is talking about. She tells me that her sister, Gay, is off to Las Vegas after her successful run as Edith Piaf at the Greatlakes Festival

(Continued on page 9)

## INSPECTIONAL SERVICES BOILS OVER DURING LONG HOT SUMMER

Inspectional Services have long been of concern to residents of Cleveland Heights, a community of ageing houses and apartments.

While there seems to be general agreement on the necessity for housing inspections, it has not always been clear what the inspections are intended to accomplish. For some the goal has simply been the enforcement of the building code, while for others the goal has been a broader one of preservation of the City's housing stock. Two citizens' groups have been particularly critical of the City's performance.

During the summer a group of citizens formed an organization they call "Home Owners and Landlords of Cleveland Heights." They held a meeting and invited representatives of the City, Council, the Heights Community Congress Inspectional Services Committee and residents to hear a list of fourteen complaints against the City. They included unfair and uneven code enforcement; invasion of privacy; unnecessary and irrelevant information requested on forms; inter-departmental inconsistency regarding acceptable standards; attempts at intimidation; preferential treatment for some; attitude of inspectors; and unrealistic goals.

According to Elizabeth Mulcahy of E. Scarborough, a member of the steering committee, the organization presented its complaints and recommendations to the City at the July meeting.

The Heights Community Congress Inspectional Services Committee has been in existence for three years, and has taken a number of highly critical positions relative to Inspectional Services. The Committee's purpose is to improve the quality of this service; its premise is that inspections are needed but can be undertaken with less animosity and more consistency; and its position is that the basic issue is responsiveness of the City government to residents' complaints, rather than any individual case of nit-picking or arbitrariness. The Committee has met regularly with Councilmembers, City staff and representatives of the Municipal Court throughout its existence.

Some of the results of the Committee's activities include the use of a uniform checklist for inspectors to use on the job; an undertaking by the City to supply the homeowner with a violations list within 10-15 days of inspection, rather than weeks or months later, as has sometimes occurred; and better Inspectional Service record keeping to make sure that some homes are not reinspected several times while others never see an inspector.

A questionnaire from the Committee is included in this issue of CVN.

There is no question "We have a problem," according to Mayor Alan J. Rapoport. He feels that code interpretation, procedures, communications and attitudes all are part of it. The City has been taking a number of steps to improve the situation, Rapoport said. An inter-departmental Internal Review Committee has been formed to review the housing code and procedures. It is hoped they will establish internally consistent standards and procedures, he said. It is also hoped that the new Commissioner of Inspectional Services, Robert Wilkinson, will be able to institute procedures which will monitor the system more effectively. (See Community Watchdog column, page 11, this issue)

-- Barbara M. Littell & David R. Burwasser

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . .

WE WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER

**\*\* COMMUNITY CALENDAR \*\*****- BULLETIN BOARD -****SEPTEMBER**

- 6 LABOR DAY
- 7 COUNCIL MEETING - City Hall - 7:30 PM
- 8 YWCA - Open House - 1795 Cadwell - 10 AM
- 9 LIBRARY - No. Shore Alert: 7 PM  
CNI - Trustees Meeting - 2910 Hampshire 7:30 PM
- 11 LIBRARY - Film: Dr. Dolittle - 2 PM
- 14 COVENTRY SCHOOL PICNIC  
CNI - General Meeting  
Library - 7:30 PM
- 15 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
City Hall - 7:30 PM
- 16 LIBRARY - Citizens for Social Responsibility - Joy Marshall 7 PM
- 18 JEWISH NEW YEAR
- 19 LIBRARY - Book Discussion "The People Shapers" - 4 PM
- 20 COUNCIL MEETING - City Hall - 7:30 PM
- 21-22 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY  
Book Sale - Coventry
- 23 COVENTRY SCHOOL - Workshop - Education a Dual Responsibility" - 7 PM
- 26 HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS - Heights Heritage Tour.

**LIBRARY NOTES**

Debby Graves, Librarian

Coventry Library will host the Friends of the Library Paperback Book Sale, Tuesday, September 21 from 6 - 9 PM and Wednesday, September 22, 10 AM - 5 PM. Neighborhood volunteers are being sought for help setting up on Tuesday and selling Tuesday and Wednesday. We hope to see everyone buying lots of books from our very generous Friends of the Library. Coventry Library receives funds from these sales to provide programs for children. The popular Concerts on the Lawn are sponsored by them.

A series of three book discussions relating to Man and Nature will begin Sunday afternoon, September 19 at 4 PM. Our first book (which is now available at Coventry Library is The People Shapers by Vance Packard.

The Coventry Library will be closed Sunday, September 26 because the Heights Heritage Tour Tea will take place here.

September 11 a special back to school movie, "Dr. Dolittle," will be shown at 2 PM. This is also sponsored by Friends of the Library.

-- Debbie Graves, Librarian

**YWCA PLANS OPEN HOUSE**

The Heights YWCA Without Walls is hosting a Fall Open House, Wednesday, September 8, at 10 AM at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. Russell, 1795 Cadwell Road. The community is invited to attend. Come out and learn more about programs offered by the Heights YWCA. This is also the time for you to become active on the Heights YWCA Steering Committee. For further information call 382-4300.

**COVENTRY SCHOOL PICNIC**

Coventry School will start off the school year with a picnic in the school yard on September 14 from 6 - 8 PM. That is just before CNI's meeting and might prove to be a nice way to start the evening.

Coventry School will also sponsor a Workshop for parents of children from kindergarten through grade 6 and children and their parents from grades 4-6 on Thursday, September 23 from 7 - 9 PM. The topic will be: "Education: Dual Responsibility of Parents and Teachers." Call the school for further information.

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . .

We Watch Out For Each Other



NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR CNI OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

by  
Barbara M. Littell

Nominations for officers and trustees of CNI will be received at the September 14 general meeting. At that time candidates for the offices of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and two trustees-at-large will be named. Elections will be held at the October 12 general meeting. Additional nominations will be received from the floor at that time.

This is a change from previous years when nominations were submitted at the time of election. It was one of the changes incorporated in the Constitution adopted in early 1981. According to the Constitution "All members shall be eligible to nominate and be nominated for office, and each voting member present shall be entitled to one vote for each office. No votes may be cast by proxy."

The Constitution further states "Only members whose . . . dues have been accepted. . . at least thirty (30) days prior to a meeting may vote at that meeting."

If you have not paid your dues you will find a convenient membership application blank on the last page of this or any previous issue. Remember if you are not a member you don't get to vote.

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CVN TO BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH COVENTRY SCHOOL

by  
Barbara M. Littell

School opens September 8. Again this year the Coventry Village News will be given to the students of Coventry School to take home.

CVN wishes to welcome back the parents who did not receive a copy during July and August and extend a friendly hand to the parents of children entering Coventry for the first time.

Coventry Neighbors Incorporated is Cleveland Heights' oldest neighborhood organization. CNI has been in existence since the late 60's when Coventry was a deteriorating "inner ring" suburb of Cleveland, center of the drug culture and a virtual "hippyland." The City of Cleveland Heights, in its attempt to deal with the myriad of problems here was considering a "re-newal" project which would have in effect razed the area. Many of the residents were students and young people living in its low rent housing. They organized to help to preserve the community. Their issues were mainly housing (landlord/tenant) and crime.

The Coventry Village News was started as a vehicle of internal communication. It has been published continually since 1973 and has expanded its focus to include items of interest to all residents of Coventry Village.

The organization is made up of a general membership, four officers (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer), and two trustees elected at large. Officers and trustees are elected yearly in October.

The work of the organization is done through its committees: Community Affairs; Crime Prevention, Editorial Board; Environmental Concerns, Finance; Planning and Zoning; Public Relations and Street Fair.

Membership in CNI is by payment of dues. Newsletters are mailed to all members. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Branch Library.

CNI cordially invites parents of Coventry School students to attend our meetings and consider membership. A convenient membership application form will be found on the back page.

Members who receive a CVN through Coventry School are urged to give their second copy to a friend or neighbor.

REPORTS FROM THE CONGRESSCOVENTRY EVENTS SPARK "HIDDEN TREASURES" HERITAGE TOUR

Several simultaneous events, many of them in the Coventry area, will enliven the Sixth Annual Heights Heritage Tour, which celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Heights Community Congress in Cleveland Heights.

The Coventry Village Branch Library will be the site of a tea, a slide-and-tape shop, demonstrations by The Dance Center and an art show and sale in space donated by the Potters Guild Coop in the Library building.

In addition to eleven residences with "hidden" architectural or landscaping treasures, reflecting the diversity of style and history in Cleveland Heights, the Tour will include St. Ann's Church at Cedar and Coventry.

Other events include a mixed-doubles five mile run beginning at 10 AM at the Cleveland Heights High Track, and a house hunt contest for which a brochure with details of the houses to be identified can be secured for a mere 50¢.

Tickets for the public tour, to be held on Sunday, September 26, 1 - 6 PM, will be on sale at Coventry Books and several other Cleveland Heights merchants, for \$6 per person (\$4 for seniors 60 and over). Tickets may also be ordered from the Heights Community Congress, 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Oh 44118; please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

A Patrons' and Sponsors' Tour will be held Saturday, September 25, 4:30 - 7:30 PM. This Tour will be followed by cocktails, dinner and music at The Civic (old Temple on the Heights). Tickets for these events are \$40 per person (\$20 tax deductible); call the HCC for reservations, 321-6775.

The treasures include a unique stucco home with a huge stone fireplace and an original Van Sweringen summer cottage.

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE FOR CODE COMPLIANCE - HOME REPAIR WORKSHOPS

On October 9, the Heights Community Congress will sponsor a series of all-day workshops at the Cleveland Heights Main Library. Per usual, reservations are necessary and can be made by calling the HCC at 321-6775. The schedule is as follows:

10 AM - Noon	Plumbing Repair Masonry Window Insulation Treatments
1 PM - 3 PM	Electrical Repair Window Glass and Sash Cord Replacement Attic and Whole House Insulation

CHOOSE one AM and one PM workshop

Learn all you ever wanted to know about: which tools to use; what materials to buy; how to save money; how to identify trouble spots; how to complete the job.

PHONEATHON OVER THE TOP

The Heights Community Congress is pleased to announce the collection of \$15,111 in our drive to collect \$15,000 in the June Phoneathon. The HCC would like to thank all of our supporters from the Coventry Neighborhood. The amount collected represents approximately 900 member households.



STREET TALK (Continued from page 4)

Theater this summer. Joy hopes she'll (Gay) get back to do a benefit for the CSR sometime this fall.

Jeanne VanAtta and Lorraine Schalamon have sold their Food Project at 1807 Coventry to Greg Wilson and Mitch Segal who recently bought Marshall Grain and Bean on Lee Road. It will be business as usual, with no major changes anticipated. It off to try life in the "Big Apple" for Lorraine while Jeanne plans to concentrate on photography. She's somewhat interested in finding out more about the new Cleveland Heights newspaper rumored to be starting sometime this fall. Meanwhile back on Coventry Mitch will take over the management of the Food Project.

The cop on the beat during July and August was Chris Lillis. We thank him for his pleasant assistance. The regular beat cop, Bill Amato, was going to school most of the summer. Our new beat man started September 1. His name is Gregory Popovich and he will be on the street from 10:30 AM - 6:30 PM. We welcome him.

I would like to offer my personal condolences to Mayor Alan Rapoport on the death of his grandmother and to Larry Beam on the loss of his father.

Did you know Coventryite Steve Schecter is running for the State Board of Education?

Although the New England Clam House applied for, and received, a permit to serve outside in the courtyard at Coventryard, it may be a while before we can eat out there. Now they need permission to cut through another service door into the kitchen. I think the Building Department is handling that one. Owner, Jack Beigelman, who runs the place with his partners, son Samuel and Art Mandel, says they are doing very well. Speaking as one who has tried - the desserts are super (especially the cheesecake which is flown in from California). John Bassett entertains on Saturday nights with his own combination of sentiment and silliness.

I heard that Gallery Inuit was going out and when I went to check it out they were already closed. We'll miss them.

Down at the north end of the strip things are looking much better. They have a vacuum cleaner and they vacuum the parking lot in front of Open Pantery and Revco every day. . . Central National Bank joins the list of merchants who have instituted regular outside cleanup. They have a man Fridays who cleans up the corner for the week-end. To the best of my knowledge the following merchants regularly sweep and/or hose down the side walks in front of their establishments: Coventryard, Turkey Ridge, Central National, Record Revolution, High Tide/Rock Bottom and Irv's Deli. If there are some I have missed CVN would be happy to publish their names also.

Many thanks to the gang at Turkey Ridge who found my billfold and returned it intact. One does not expect such things these days. Again, thanks.

I was extremely impressed with the functioning of the Charter Review Commission this summer. A lot of very learned, and practical people spent a long, long time studying, discussing and weighing the many, many issues that came before them during the course of their deliberations. The recommendations they came up with were the best of their considered judgements. I am somewhat disillusioned, however, with Council's treatment of their recommendations. Council seems to have only one yardstick by which to evaluate the Commissions findings and that is political. I have many times, right here in this column, defended politicians for acting like politicians. But this time, I guess, I had hoped they would act more like statesmen.

-- bobbie littell

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS TENANT OUTREACH PROGRAM

Cleveland Heights tenants are receiving the attention of City Hall through the Tenant Outreach Program of the Heights Housing Service (HHS). "The goal of the program," says Susanna Niermann of HHS, "is to let tenants know Cleveland Heights cares about their needs (such as parking, disputes with landlords) as a group."

Tenant Outreach contacts dwellers of multi-family homes by way of a telephone survey. The talks take from five to fifteen minutes, and are made during working hours (time permitting), and once a month at night. Tenants are asked questions about their reasons for living there, their family and any problems they feel the City can help solve.

Since the inception of the program in January 1982, 400 residents have responded. HHS will use the information to learn how it can better serve tenants as a group.

--Cleveland Heights INFO-PAK, September 1982

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STATE, CITY LOW-INCOME WEATHERIZATION AID AVAILABLE

The State of Ohio assists low-income householders and tenants in conserving energy in their dwellings. Up to \$1,600 is available per household for insulation, storm windows, caulking and weatherstripping. Applications are available at the Housing Preservation Office, 371-6694, or the North American Indian Cultural Center, 631-2266.

The City of Cleveland Heights has \$500 grants available to homeowners for a similar winterization program; call 371-6693 or 371-6696 for details.

Income guidelines for the Ohio program are a function of family size: gross income = \$5,850 for a family of 1; \$7,775 for 2; \$9,700 for 3; \$11,625 for 4. Guidelines for the Cleveland Heights program are somewhat higher.

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BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTES: At the BZA meeting of September 15, owner Elva H. Cumberworth, 2552 Kenilworth (MF-3), will seek a parking variance to make the third-floor dwelling unit of the structure--presently classified two-family in City records--a legal unit.

H&S Management, 2585 EHB (A), will ask permission to intensify a prior non-conforming use by adding 2 new basement units to the current 6-suite building.

Owner Marie T. Reimer, 2970-2972 E Derbyshire (B), will request a yard variance to pave more than 30% of the rear yard.

--Dave Burwasser

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EAST CLEVELAND GARAGES SUBJECT TO LEAN (SIC)

It sounded like a dump truck dumping a load of stone in the driveway behind my building. I ran to the window to see a huge cloud of dust. When the dust cleared, there were 15 garages flat, except for the bulges showing where auto's were still parked. The garages represented about half of the 30 that ran behind five apartment buildings.

What does one do in a situation like this? Call the police, there might be someone trapped in there. So I did. Call the landlord. I did. While I was on the phone - that noise again. The rest of them went, just like a house of cards. When it was all over the garages were gone and 6 cars were destroyed. I had forgotten to put mine away the previous evening, luckily.

BML

The Inspectional Services Committee of the Heights Community Congress is a volunteer group that has been working to improve the City's residential inspection program. It has been determined that documentation of the criticisms leveled at the City is necessary. In the past few years, the process of identifying problems, researching their source and making recommendations for change has proven very useful. The information collected from this questionnaire will assist the Committee to substantiate problem areas with the Inspectional Services Department of the City. Recommendations to resolve problems which you may note will be made to City council members. The Committee welcomes the participation of individuals residing in Cleveland Heights. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please call the HCC at 321-6775. Please mail the questionnaire to the return address noted below.

Do you live in a single family \_\_\_\_\_ duplex \_\_\_\_\_ apartment bldg. \_\_\_\_\_  
How long have you lived here? \_\_\_\_\_ When were you last inspected? \_\_\_\_\_  
If you have not been inspected, do you know whether your street is scheduled for inspection? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
If you were inspected, how many violations were cited? \_\_\_\_\_  
If you were inspected, how soon after the inspection did you receive your violation list? \_\_\_\_\_  
If you were at home when the inspection was conducted, did you see the checklist that the inspectors are required to use? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
How soon after the original inspection were you reinspected? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did the inspector identify him/herself? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
Was the inspector pleasant and courteous? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
If no, please describe the situation. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
If you had occasion to phone the City regarding your inspection, whom did you speak with? \_\_\_\_\_  
Were your questions answered and problems resolved? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
If you did not have a satisfactory experience, please describe. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Who was your inspector? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did you ask for an extension of time to correct your violations? yes \_\_\_\_\_  
no \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, for what period of time? \_\_\_\_\_  
Was it granted? \_\_\_\_\_  
When was the reinspection completed when an extension had been granted? \_\_\_\_\_  
How much did it cost you to correct the violations? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did you arrange financing to correct the violations? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ from where? \_\_\_\_\_  
Will you allow us to use this information in our documentation? yes \_\_\_\_\_  
no \_\_\_\_\_  
Can we have a copy of your violation list? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ (if yes, please enclose a copy or bring or send your copy to HCC and we will Xerox copy it. If you mail us your only copy, please enclose a note requesting its return.)  
Can we have a copy of your compliance document? \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND COOPERATION TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. PLEASE RETURN IT TO: HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS, 2163 LEE ROAD, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44118

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY WATCHDOG: An Open Letter To Robert Wilkinson

Dear Bob,

While we have publicly thanked the Sun Press, your former local employer, we have not publicly thanked you for your help in saving Coventry Library. You took the trouble to attend the town meeting held at Coventry School. You were the first to present our concern to the public, thereby providing a forum for exchange of opinion. From then on, our letters were printed. Coventry's cause became a much broader cause - the issue of whether the service should be brought to the people, or whether the people should have to come to a centralized library for service.

You have always had the reputation of caring, listening, helping the small and unimportant to be heard. You are also known to be thorough and fair. We know you will bring those qualities to your new position as Director of Inspectional Services. We hope that you will also demonstrate that you possess courage and toughness. Will you be able to bear down on the absentee-landlords who let their properties deteriorate, and who do only what they are forced to do? Or will you let them go for years until aroused citizen groups force you to act? Will you be able to temper the nitty-picky inspectional policies that so enrage the responsible home-owners trying to maintain their homes, especially when they see how the absentee landlords are coddled along? Will you be able to push for some legal action against owners of long empty houses or apartments, some empty for 15 years? Will you have the power to fire inspectors whose shoddy work delays court cases? Will you be able to prod the police department into serving bench warrants issued by the court? Or will you permit the warrants to sit, unserved for five years, protest your department's helplessness, and then blame the court for doing nothing?

Perhaps the biggest question is, will the City Manager's office, the Law Department, and City Council back you up if/when you get tough? Have you made this a condition of your employment? We hope so. We desperately want you to be the real thing - not just facade, window-dressing, a P.R. person to charm the public behind which business proceeds as usual. To be a real director you will need your good brain, a strong heart, a steady stomach, and a steel spine.

With gratitude and hope - we, the small and unimportant, all of us who have sunk our all into Cleveland Heights and who wish to continue calling it home, welcome you back.

-- June C. Wortman

YOUTH CENTER BOARD FORMS

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8 at 7 PM at the Unitarian Society on Lancashire Road to form a Board of Directors for a proposed Youth Center in Coventry.

At that time, committees formed by a group which has been meeting since early summer to consider the needs of Coventry youth will report their recommendations regarding: goals and objectives; program; budget and finance; site possibilities; and a Community Development Block Grant funding proposal.

Persons wishing to help in the development of this Center are invited to participate in making some decisions which will determine the future structure of the organization.

-- BML

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . . WE ~~WALK~~ Walk Out For Each Other

