



Coventry Village News

SPECIAL PARENTS' EDITION

Dear Parents,

This special front cover of the Coventry Village News is to spotlight three items we feel are of special interest to you.

At our next regular meeting of Coventry Neighbors we will have a special program on the state of the CH/UH school system. School Board members Maureen Weigand, Russ Baron, and Bob Soltz will be there to talk to you and answer all of your questions. Of particular interest is the fact that out of five School Board members, all three of the above live in Coventry Village. Even though it is now unlikely that Coventry Elementary will be closed, this program is still timely and it is a chance for you to find out what is going on at the "top."

We will meet on Tuesday, October 9 at 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Church on Lancashire Road. You do not need to be a member of CNI to speak or attend.

Also, on Saturday, October 27 at 8:00 PM we will host our 3rd Annual Halloween Party in front of Coventryard Mall. Although a bit late for the kids, we encourage you to bring them in costume for the festivities. The theme this year is an old fashioned square dance and it is truly a family event. And it's free!

Lastly, if you have lived in our neighborhood for any length of time and read the Coventry Village News you are aware of the activities of Coventry Neighbors. From the Street Fair to neighborhood beautification projects, CNI helps you continue to live in a safe, stable neighborhood with increased property values. But we need your help. Please take the time to fill out the membership application on the back page of this issue. Attend our meetings, get active on our committees--at least join and support us.

Sincerely,

Bruce M. Hennes, President

Larry Beam, Editor



Coventry Village News

OCTOBER, 1984

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL 8, NO. 9

CITY MOVES TO BUILD 3 NEW PARKING LOTS

by Larry Beam

The City of Cleveland Heights intends to construct a new parking lot where a vacant house now stands at 2736 Lancashire Road. The plan became public at the Council meeting of September 17, when Councilman Leonard Horowitz, a former Coventry resident and merchant, introduced legislation authorizing the City administration to offer \$35,000 for that house. Council passed Mr. Horowitz resolution unanimously.

Council's action comes just as construction work is beginning new, 46-space parking lot at the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Lancashire. An important step toward the building of yet another new parking lot was taken at about the same time as the City's attorneys prepared the first documents in an eminent domain action to acquire a house at 2722 Hampshire Road. Together these three lots will add between 112 and 127 parking spaces to Coventry Village.

Progress towards the building of these three lots partially fulfills a long-standing, though unofficial, City plan to develop a corridor of off-street public parking in Coventry's apartment district. Other houses in the apartment district may be sought by the City in the future.

It is not yet clear just how the rules governing on-street parking will change when these lots are built. It has long been City policy to remove on-street parking when off-street lots are built. But the City's sometimes-violent prejudice against on-street parking has softened a bit recently. When the lot at Lancashire and Euclid Heights is fin-

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

CNI SPECIAL PROGRAM ON SCHOOL CHANGES

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will host a discussion program on the Cleveland Heights/University Heights School System at its regular meeting of Tuesday, October 9, at 7:30 PM.

Board members Maureen Weigand, Russel Barron, and Robert Solts have agreed to participate in the program. All three are Coventry residents.

The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Church, 2728 Lancashire Road, across from Musicians Towers.

The closings of Taylor and Northwood Elementary Schools, and other important changes to the schools' organization, will have an important impact on Coventry Village. This program will be of interest to residents with and without children.

The meeting is open to the public. You do not have to be a CNI member to attend or speak.

HCC WILL HOLD TENANT FORUM

The Heights Community Congress will sponsor a discussion of landlord-tenant relations. Bob Wilkinson, head of Inspectional Services at the City, Ken Montlack, a landlord and attorney, and Helen Payton of the HCC will participate. Such tenant complaints as lack of maintenance, code violations, and security deposits will be covered. There will also be some discussion of tenant unions. The program will be held at the Main Library, 2345 Lee Road, at 10:00 AM, on Saturday, October 27. Coffee and donuts will be served. The program is free. Contact the HCC at 321-6775 for details and registration.

\$50 REWARD OFFERED FOR GRAFFITI ARTISTS

a CNI/CVN editorial

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., offers a reward of \$50 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of person or persons responsible for graffiti in the Coventry neighborhood.

The renewal of this offer, first made last February, was occasioned by a recent rash of graffiti on the retaining wall at the rear of Municipal Lot 20, across from Tommy's.

There will be one award of \$50. That one award may be shared among several persons who provide information.

All decisions about an award will be made by a special committee consisting of Bruce Hennes, President of CNI, Charles Owen, a Trustee, and Martin Lenta, Chief, Cleveland Heights Police Department. The decisions of the committee will be final.

CNI believes that the responsibility for finding a solution to the graffiti problem lies partly with citizens, who can help stop this vandalism by telling the police if they see it being done. Partly, too, responsibility lies with the owners of vandalized property, who should remove graffiti as soon as possible. CNI is trying to do its part by offering this reward. We believe that the Police Department is doing the best it can.

CNI POTLUCK

The Second Annual Potluck Dinner for members and friends of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., was held on July 1.

Many thanks to the folks who helped put together this well-attended event: Diana Cyganovich, Chairman of the event; Kathryn, Jamie, Judson, and Gwyn Young; Marcia and Joe Polevoi, and especially Ann Siclaire.

HALLOWEEN PARTY WILL BE ON OCTOBER 27

The Third Annual Coventry Village Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, October 27, in the small park in front of Coventryard Mall. Festivities will begin at 8:00 PM and continue until 11:00 PM.

The party will take on a Country flair this year with bluegrass and square dance music provided by True Blue, a local group.

There will be a contest for best costume.

Record Revolution, Coventry Cinema, High Tide/Rock Bottom, Sunshine II, and Simon & Co (owners of Coventryard) have provided financial support making the event possible. The party is sponsored by Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

In the event of rain, we'll try again next year.

—Bruce M. Hennes, Chairman

CNI OBTAINS FEDERAL TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

After a protracted application process, Coventry Neighbors, Inc., has received 501(c)3 tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

This means that contributions to CNI are fully tax-deductible. It also means that CNI is now eligible to apply for a wide variety of foundation grants.

Special thanks go to CNI Vice-President Kathryn Young, Treasurer Diana Cyganovich, and our corporate accountant, Richard Glaser of Peat-Marwick-Mitchell & Co.

A very special thanks is due to Howard Essner, an attorney with the firm of Hahn Loeser Freedheim Dean & Wellman.

—Bruce M. Hennes, President

PARKING . . . continued from page 1
ished, meters will probably be installed farther west along Euclid Heights.

The lot at Lancashire and Euclid Heights is being built by G. R. Osterland Company. That firm's bid of \$97,990.85 for the work was substantially below the City's own cost estimates. Funds from the Jobs Bill that had been budgeted for the project—but which now won't be needed for it—will be used to buy the house at 2736 Lancashire.

The house on Lancashire sits between two parking lots. Just to its west is the Unitarian Society parking lot and Church; on the other side is a 34-space municipal parking facility. The house, vacant for some while, was acquired just a few months ago by William Davis, who had intended to do repairs on it and offer it for rent. When Davis learned of the City Council's desire to add parking in the area, he approached the City, and discussions of the purchase began.

A combination of Jobs Bill money and funds from the Community Development Block Grant program will apparently be used to pay the site acquisition and development costs. Work on building the lot may begin next spring or summer.

While negotiations with Davis are apparently friendly and going smoothly, the effort to acquire the house at 2722 Hampshire appear headed for court. Legal processes could delay the acquisition for some while, quite possibly delaying construction beyond next summer.

The Hampshire Road house is owned by Paul L. Veil, a Mayfield Road resident. Veil acquired the now-vacant and deteriorated house a few years ago as a gift from George Hoyt, its last occupant. Veil rejected a recent City offer of \$22,500 for the site. It is located on Hampshire, just east of Musicians Towers; it is one block due north of the Davis house on Lancashire. Just east of it is a small park, often called

Coventry Commons, which contains a sidewalk and a few benches. That park, at least the portion of it closest to Hampshire, will become part of the parking facility.

Veil has other ideas as to how the site ought to be used. Months ago, he suggested that a veteran's hospital should be built there. More recently he suggests that something called the Islamic Christian Peace Center be built there. Veil writes that this Center would be "of modern design and serve a number of Community services and needs, including areas for cultural development, condos, business sections, housing for elderly, disabled and retired, educational facilities, research, etc."

Veil's plans are contained in documents issued by an entity called "City Council of Citizens." Largely because Veil has no phone, efforts by the *CVN* to contact him, to learn more about his Council, have failed. No one else we talked to could supply any information about it. Documents it has issued have appeared on bulletin boards throughout the neighborhood. One of its recent documents says it is "a governing body of the City of Cleveland Heights."

All of the several City officials we discussed the matter with suggested that they are having substantial difficulty negotiating with Veil.

LETTERS WELCOME

The *CVN* welcomes letters to its Editor. Letters can be on any subject; about the only letters we won't print are ones that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be sent to The Editor, Coventry Village News, 1811 1/2 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. Letters must be signed, and a phone number must be included. The deadline is mid-month before intended publication.

AROUND COVENTRY

LITTER . . . Cleveland Heights may have a new, tougher litter law by the year's end. Staff is now studying laws in other communities, preparing legislation they will recommend to Council. Jay Gardner, a member of the Planning Department who describes himself as "the Ayatollah of litter," wants to recommend a fine of \$200 for dropping a candy-wrapper on the street. Spencer Caress, of the Public Properties Department, wants waivable fines of \$5 or \$10 for that offense; he feels that police would be more willing to write such tickets. Both want stiff fines for merchants who fail to sweep their sidewalks, and for folks who litter from cars. . . . Meanwhile, Coventry Merchants Association has purchased a sidewalk sweeping machine. They hope to have it in service early this month.

KICKED OUT . . . Daniel Thompson and his band of reading poets, known as the Postebank, were recently dismissed from Arabica. They have had similar difficulties other Coventry establishments, including Turkey Ridge Tavern, bliss, and the New England Clam House. Thompson thinks that some of his problems may stem from occasionally rough language contained in some of the poems. Others speculate that the problem is a resistance to poetry readings—from an audience that might reject even Robert Frost.

Thompson's group now plans a series of readings, beginning in November, to be held at Mac's Backs, the paperback book store at 1785 Coventry Road. Thompson believes that the audience there will be more receptive. He points out that most of folks who come will be there specifically for a poetry reading—not for a cup of coffee, or a few beers and some conversation.

Thompson will be teaching a course

called "Poetry as a Performing Art," offered as part of the autumn Community Services program of the Cleveland Heights/University Heights School District. Details may be had by contacting Thompson at 371-4340, or the department of Community Services at 371-2040.

COLOR . . . The prominent retaining wall at the rear of Municipal Lot Number 20, next to Coventry Pizza, was covered with graffiti in late August. At its September meeting, Coventry Neighbors, Inc., resolved to write to City Manager Richard Robinson, asking that he act forthwith to have those graffiti painted over.

A few days later—even before CNI's Secretary could get that letter in the mail—the wall was painted. The graffiti were covered over.

The paint with which the job was done was a sort of psychedelic blue-green day-glow aqua. Several observers have suggested that the paint must have been something the City had left over after painting the under-water portions of its swimming pools. It's not, exactly, the sort of color with which anybody, hereabouts, wants to see anything painted. We wonder how Robinson would react if a house in *his* neighborhood were painted that color.

Back in March of 1981, Robinson signed his name to something called the Coventry Village Improvement Program Guide. That document, largely the work of architect Phil Hart, contained a palette of colors to be used in Coventry Village. The aforementioned aqua was not included. We wonder how a city government that is so picky and concerned with detail in, for instance, its enforcement of housing codes on home owners, can ignore its own guidelines on a matter so important as the painting of that very prominent wall. —Ed.

LIBRARY GOINGS-ON

October begins a new round of programs for adults and children at Coventry Village Library.

A new program called Preschool Crafts and Films will be held on Mondays, beginning October 1, at 2:00 PM. Mrs. Bellamy will lead 3 to 5 year olds in special projects, and a half-hour film will be shown. On Tuesdays, preschoolers are welcome to the regular preschool storytime at 6:45 PM. There will be another preschool storytime on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. Toddler Time, for 2 1/2 to 3 year olds, will begin October 3 at 9:30 AM.

There will be three programs for older school-age children. The Read Aloud program will begin on October 2 at 2:30 PM. Volunteers will read some of their favorite books to the school-age children. James Gill, Ms. Viola Anderson, and Mrs. Margery Krutch will be our readers this fall season, which concludes the second week of December.

On Wednesdays at 3:30 Mrs. Ruth Sieberman will tell stories of long ago in a series of programs called "Happily Ever After," beginning on October 3. School-age children will travel with her to wonderful lands of make-believe.

Creative Dramatics, a four-week program with Janie Reinart, will begin October 13. Mrs. Reinart will work with children in kindergarten through third grade from 10:00 to 10:30 AM, and with children in fourth through seventh grades from 10:45 to 11:30. A performance by both groups will conclude the season on November 10 at 10:00 AM.

Adult programs have begun as well. Susanne Hartman and Judy Speiser will present a prose reading on Sunday, October 7, at 2:30 PM. John Ewing's Monday Cinema will begin on Monday October 8, 7:30 PM, with a series of short films entitled "New York, New York." Films will include "Big Town," "Coney," "Har-

lem Wednesday," "My own yard to play in," "Skyscraper," and "Third Avenue L."

October brings a special TV series to PBS called "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews." The Library system is promoting the series with bibliographies, book displays, and programs. Coventry Library will focus on the Jewish influences that shaped the commercial area here. Mr. Richard Karberg, a contributor to the book *Merging Traditions* and teacher of art history and photography, will discuss and present a slide show about Jewish influence on Coventry. Librarian Debbie Shoup, who's been researching the early history of Coventry, will discuss what she's learned. We hope that our neighbors will join us to look into Coventry's past.

DOBAMA OFFERS "CLOUD NINE"

The twenty-fifth season of the Dobama Theatre, 1946 Coventry Road, will open with *Cloud Nine*, by Caryl Churchill. The first act is about social and sexual mores in British South Africa in the 1880s. Its second act is set in London in the 1980s. Ron Newell will direct. For reservations and further information, contact the box office at 932-6838.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I am astonished that Coventry Neighbors' Street Fair office, at 1824 Coventry Road, was such a mess. I am especially astonished since, in the last number of the CVN, you devoted a whole page to admonishing merchants for their sloppy behavior.

It is curious that persons so dedicated to Coventry should be so insensitive to a store's appearance.

—John Kelsey
Coventry Village

COVENTRY'S TURN AGAIN

by Mayor Alan J. Rapoport

Sometimes we take a positive development for granted. Newspapers once reported that Coventry was Cleveland's first suburban slum. Then it became a thriving, upbeat, trendy shopping area. More recently, however, it has seemed a bit ragged around the edges. In parts of the neighborhood, some have openly wondered if the good days have passed.

The strength of Coventry has been its ability to change and adapt. This was true in the late 1970s, when three major commercial buildings burned down. These sites are now occupied by good stores. High Tide/ Rock Bottom, Tommy's, Irv's Deli, Arabica, Haagen Dazs, and the Inn on Coventry are in these locations today. Once the challenge was to rebuild. Today it is to remarket.

Coventry is getting better all the time. The parking problem is being addressed, as plans in-process for years are now coming to fruition. Many merchants are remodeling their storefronts. Landscaping will soon appear at the corner near Open Pantry. The road itself has a new layer of asphalt, new curbing, better sidewalks, and more street trees than before. Public money has been targeted and spent. The question now is how the private sector will respond.

The merchants and landlords of Coventry must now do their part. They must clean up their signs and storefronts, making them more attractive. They must remove the litter from their sidewalks. Most of all, they must quit blaming the parking situation for their problems, and work on better merchandising.

Finally, we Coventry residents must do our part. We must patronize our local merchants. I am not asking for charitable donations. We consumers should vote approval of Coventry merchants with our dollars—and should let them know very vocally what we like and dislike about their merchandising. The merchants need feedback and the neighborhood will

profit from it.

I hope you will all discover—or rediscover—the joys of live music at the Turkey Ridge, or excellent hamburgers at the Saloon, or good cheap movies at the Coventry Cinema, or browsing at Antique World. Spend a few hours some weekend exploring the strip and looking for new things going on. It is truly Coventry's turn once again. I think you will find the the time well-spent.

MIDNIGHT SALE ON OCTOBER 13

Coventry Merchants Association will sponsor a midnight sale, with strolling musicians, mimes, and other entertainment, on Saturday October 13.

Twenty-four stores will participate. The event will honor Dobama Theater, which this season begins its second quarter-century.

A ten-speed bicycle will be the first prize in a drawing to be held that night. Other prizes include meals in Coventry restaurants and season tickets to Dobama. Tickets for the drawing are priced at fifty cents, and are available from participating merchants. Proceeds will benefit Dobama.

CITY SHOULD CONTINUE CABLE CONTROL

a CNI/CVN editorial

We of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., encourage Cleveland Heights City Council to continue to regulate the rates charged by Viacom. Not having examined Viacom's finances, CNI is not now qualified to take a position on whether or not Viacom is justified in seeking a rate increase at this time. We trust that City Council—through its Cable Commission—can obtain the relevant data, analyze them, and reach a rational, reasonable conclusion.

Coventry Village News
Heights Community Congress
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Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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TIME VALUE — PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1984

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General Meeting, Tuesday, OCTOBER 9, 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Church, 2928 Lancashire Road, across from Musicians Towers. The public is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, November 8, 7:30 PM at 2910 Hampshire Road. Committee Chairpersons are asked to attend. The Trustees meeting is open to all dues-paid members of CNI.

NOW is the time to join COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Membership includes a subscription to the *Coventry Village News*. All memberships expire on December 31 of each year. The form below may be used for renewals.

Please check one of the following:

Class of membership: _____ Individual (\$2.50) _____ Family (\$3.50) _____ Senior (\$1.50)

_____ Just a subscription to the *Coventry Village News*—no membership.

(\$5 for 11 months; the *CVN* is not published in August.)

I wish to make an additional tax-exempt contribution of _____

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I am now receiving the *Coventry Village News*: YES _____ NO _____

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