



Coventry Village News

December, 1986

The Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Volume 10, No. 11

CNI will meet December 9 at Coventry Village Library

The City's housing inspectors are insufficiently responsive to problems in the apartment district here. That proposition has the support of several leaders of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

The issue of housing code enforcement in Coventry Village will be among the topics discussed when CNI meets at the Coventry Village Library on Tuesday December 9, at 7:30 PM.

An increase in the annual dues for CNI members will also be discussed. Because of recent postal rate increases, CVN subscription costs are no longer quite enough to cover the cost of producing and mailing the newsletter. Modest subscription and membership dues increases may soon be necessary to avoid

PAY YOUR DUES NOW!

All memberships in CNI and subscriptions to the *Coventry Village News* expire on the last day of each year. The December meeting will be the last at which you will have voting rights until 1987 dues are paid. Leaders of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., are talking seriously about a dues increase beginning the first of next year. If you pay your 1987 dues today, you can be a 1987 member of CNI for the 1986 price.

That's just \$5.00 for individuals, \$7.00 for families, and \$2.50 for senior citizens. Please use the form on the last page of this publication to insure proper credit. If possible, please enclose a mailing label from your last issue of CVN with your membership dues check.

subsidizing the newsletter with capital resources of CNI.

Constitutional review

The constitution of CNI requires a review of that document every five years. That review is now past due. Most CNI activists see the present Constitution as a sound and effective document--but some changes are in order. For instance:

The present Constitution makes any "felony or non-traffic misdemeanor" grounds for impeachment of officers. Because all housing code violations are misdemeanors, a number of members (and in particular, homeowners) believe this clause should be reviewed.

Some other members feel that another member, a new trustee-at-large, ought to be

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Council allocates \$70,000 for parking in the commercial area

Cleveland Heights City Council has allocated \$70,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for parking in Coventry's commercial area. The allocation exceeds by \$30,000 the amount recommended by the Citizens Advisory Committee, which prepares the initial draft of the annual Block Grant budget.

About \$60,000 will be spent on the rebuilding of the public parking lot next to and south of Coventry Beverage, across from Tommy's Restaurant. Planners believe that between twenty and twenty-five spaces can be added to that lot, just by using the site more efficiently.

An additional \$10,000 will be spent studying the feasibility of building a decked parking structure.

Work on the rebuilding of the lot should be completed next summer, according to

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Coventry Village News is published monthly, except in August, by **Coventry Neighbors, Inc.**, in cooperation with the **Heights Community Congress**.

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All opinions and statements are strictly those of the respective writers, except where clearly identified as positions of CNI, CVN, or HCC.

Circulation: 2,000.

Submissions: Anyone wishing to submit copy to CVN may do so by sending it to the Editor, *Coventry Village News*, 2776 Hampshire Road, Apartment 1-B, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106. The deadline for a given issue is the 16th of the preceding month. No unsigned copy will be used, but names may generally be withheld from publication at the writers request.

Phone: 371-6095

*Coventry Village . . .
where we all get along together
pretty well*

Letters welcome

The Editor of the *Coventry Village News* welcomes letters from readers. He especially likes letters that differ with the opinions and points of view expressed in these pages. Letters that bring new topics to these pages are also favorites.

So write to him. Your letter will help make the the CVN more reflective of the diverse character of Coventry Village.

There are just a few simple rules: (1) no cuss words; (2) nothing that might get us in trouble with the law or the Lord; and (3) keep it as short and direct as possible.

We won't promise to use every letter, but we'll try. Deadlines for a given issue are the middle of the preceding month. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and style.

HCC offers book on community heritage

In conjunction with the tenth anniversary Heights Heritage Tour, the Heights Community Congress has published *In Our Day*. The book contains all the material from *Heritage on the Heights* and *In My Day*, books published by the HCC in 1977 and 1978, plus new text and photographs.

This 96-page, soft-bound book measures 8.5 by 11 inches. It makes a wonderful coffee-table piece, and is packed with fascinating lore about the history of our community.

Copies may be had at local book stores or by mail from the Heights Community Congress, 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44118. Price: 8.95 plus \$1.33 for tax, postage, and handling.

Give to the Hunger Center

Donations to the Hunger Center are especially timely now, as the holidays approach.

Two Coventry Village businesses, **Mac's Backs Paperbacks** (1785 Coventry Road) and **Metropolitan Savings** (1865 Coventry Road), accept donations. They are then passed along to the Hunger Center at Euclid Avenue Christian Church for distribution to the needy.

Gifts of money (checks preferred) may be sent directly to the Hunger Center care of Euclid Avenue Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

Happy New Year

AIP may soon offer grants as well as loans

The Board of the Apartment Improvement Program (AIP) has recommended changes designed to make the AIP a far more effective program.

Grants of as much as \$2,500 per suite are proposed. Additional grant funds of as much as \$1,000 per building will be available for architectural services.

At present, the AIP offers only bargain-rate loans; these would continue under the proposal.

The AIP is an arm of the City's Community Development Block Grant program. The aim of the AIP is to encourage the renovation of apartment buildings. Nearly all the buildings that qualify for the program are in Coventry Village. The AIP now has about \$250,000 at its disposal for the loan and grant programs.

The proposed grants could be used only for improvements to the exterior of buildings. The replacement of windows, a consistent need in area apartment buildings, is expected to account for about half the costs of the typical project.

The loans can be used for interior as well as exterior improvements.

In order to qualify for the grants, owners will be required to invest their own funds in an amount at least equal to the amount of the grant.

Not all apartment buildings will qualify for either form of assistance. In general, the

worse the present condition of a building, the more likely it is to qualify.

AIP rules for the loan program include limits on rent increases for tenants of low and moderate income. There are no limits on rent increases for the new grant program. Rent controls discouraged many landlords from participation in the loan program.

In its four years of existence, the AIP has made just two loans. Jay Gardner, who will administer the program, hopes to involve ten to twelve buildings in the grant program during 1987.

The Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC) made similar changes in its program about four years ago. Before the changes were made, that LDC was plagued with problems of ineffectiveness similar to those now facing the AIP. The LDC is now a very effective program. It has had a dramatic impact on most of the older business districts of Cleveland Heights. Similar good results are hoped for from the proposed AIP changes.

Any reader with questions about the program should call Jay Gardner at 291-4885.

-- Larry Beam.

Citgo station seeks right to expand

The Citgo gas station at 2785 Mayfield Road (the northwest corner of Coventry and Mayfield) is seeking to expand.

A 50 by 130 foot parcel of land, now an unused portion of the neighboring cemetery, would be purchased and used, mostly, for parking. Eventually, two additions would add a bit more than 1,000 ft² to the building.

A public hearing on some zoning questions raised by the proposal will be held on December 17 before the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Largely because the building was there before some provisions of the present zoning code were adopted, several variances are needed in landscaping and buffer zone requirements. Though the proposed plans do not fully satisfy the present zoning code, those plans do show substantially more landscaping and better buffering than is now in place there.

Architect for the project is James T. Heyer, who is incidentally a member of the City's Board of Architectural Review.

Also on the BZA agenda that night will

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*Merry Christmas
and
Happy Chanukkah*



Constitutional Review ...

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added to the Board of CNI. The Board now has six members; the addition of another member might help to make the decision process work more smoothly.

The paragraph in the Constitution devoted to the Street Fair must, clearly, be changed.

The present Constitution mentions no committees, except the Fair committee. Serious thought should be given to mentioning some key standing committees in the Constitution, and for providing an oversight mechanism to make committee activity acountable to the board and CNI membership.

--Larry Beam, President of CNI

Parking ...

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Councilman Richard Weigand, chair of Council's Planning and Development Committee. Weigand points out that federal regulations governing Block Grant allocations strongly encourage the spending of the funds in the year for which they are allocated.

Many important details of the plan remain unclear. Planning Director Mark Majewski has pledged to keep Coventry Neighbors, Inc., informed of these plans as they develop.

Plans that the City shared with Coventry Merchants Association last spring called for the removal of three houses on Rock Court, behind Pick-n-Pay. Plans presented a bit later to Coventry Neighbors, Inc., did not involve those houses. Clearly, the \$60,000 allocation is not enough for the purchase of additional land.

There was talk some years ago of building a parking deck along the east edge of the business district, where those Rock Court houses are. Now participants in discussions of the deck possibility favor building it closer to the street, perhaps on the site of the public parking lot across from Turkey Ridge Tavern, or on part of the Pick-n-Pay lot.

It seems unlikely that the city government will pick up the tab for a parking deck. Block Grant resources are half what they were a few years ago, and other municipal resources are similarly limited. Area merchants and landlords have expressed a tentative willingness to pay a portion of these costs.

--LB

CITGO ...

continued from previous page

be a request by Motorcars Honda, the folks who are building a new dealership at the old City Hall site, 2953 Mayfield Road. Motorcars is seeking the right to place a sign in the window of a construction trailer. The sign would simply identify the project. According to a recently-published agenda, the local law "makes no provision" for such "construction signs."

--LB

Bistrot des Artistes teas for seniors continue

All senior citizens, whether they live in Coventry or elsewhere, are invited to the Bistrot des Artistes, 1825 Coventry Road, for complimentary tea on the first Wednesday of each month.

Up-coming teas will be on December 3 and January 7. Coffee, tea, and pastries will be served. The event is free.

The tea on December 3 will be a holiday party.

Line-up changes in burger derby

The Saloon (1765 Coventry Road) is now offering its menu of burgers, sandwiches, chili and such until 10:00 PM each day.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Alan J. Rapoport is among the critics who see the Saloon's top-of-the line burger as the best in town. Until early November, it was available only for lunch.

The newest burger in Coventry Village is on the lunch and late-night menus at Bistrot des Artictes (1825 Coventry Road). Served with Cajun potatoe chips and cole slaw, its presentation is elegant.

Turkey Ridge Tavern and Eatery offers eleven fine and distinctive burgers on its recently-revised menu.



A SURVEY FROM COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

This survey will help us determine how to serve our community more effectively.

You can return the completed sheet to us by simply by folding it in half, sealing it with a bit of tape, applying a stamp, and mailing it.

Feel free to comment on any question, using additional paper if necessary.

1. Your age _____ Your sex _____
2. Are you a member of CNI? _____
3. Do you live in Coventry Village? _____ If YES, how long _____
4. Do own or rent where you live? _____
5. If you rent, would you consider buying in Coventry? _____.
6. What do you feel are the most important activities of CNI?

7. What types of things should CNI be doing that it is not doing now? _____

8. What do you feel is the most important issue in the Coventry neighborhood today? _____

9. Have you been involved in any CNI activities in recent years?

10. How often do you come to meetings? _____.

11. Why do you come--or not come? _____

Thanks for responding!
Please mail this before December 31, 1986.
Thanks again!

Ice show at Pavilion is set for December 12 to 14

An ice show called "Sounds of the Holidays" will be performed by skaters enrolled in various programs at the Pavilion. The program is directed by Elva Nowak, and is coordinated by the Pavilion Skating Pros, in cooperation with the Pavilion Skating Club.

The show involves such traditional Christmas themes as Santa's workshop and a gingerbread house.

Performances are at 8:00 PM on December 12 and 13, and at 4:00 PM on December 14. Tickets cost \$2.00 for individuals and \$5.00 for families.

Funds still available to keep homes warm

Local programs still have money available to help with the costs of insulating one's home against winter's cold.

For further information, call the City's Housing Preservation Office at 291-4896, or the Heights Community Congress at 321-6775.

Library Goings-on

The Coventry Village Library will offer a holiday concert of early music on Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 PM.

Newly-acquired fiction includes *Answered Prayers*, T. Capote; *Cash*, P. Sulitzer; *Dark Angel*, V. C. Andrews; *The Dragon Portfolio*, R. Hoyt; and *A Lover Scorned*, I Holland.

New non-fiction includes *The Story of English*, R. McCrum; *New Kosher Cooking*, C. Rossant; *The Blood of Kings*, R. Schele; *Field of View: Film Criticism and Comment*, S. Kaufmann; *How to Stop the One You Love From Drinking*, M. Pinkham; *The Holidays: 21 Menus for Elegant Entertaining*, J. Hadamuschin; *Ernie's War: The Rest of Ernie Pyle's World War II Dispatches*, E. Pyle; and *Trompe L' Oeil: Painted Architecture*, M. Milman.

Among new records at the Library are "The Best of John Lee Hooker," and Lionel Richie's "Dancing on the Ceiling."

*Coventry Village . . .
where we all get along together
pretty well.*

City program recycles paper, glass, aluminum

Newspapers, glass containers, and aluminum cans can be recycled through programs offered by the City of Cleveland Heights.

Newspapers are collected by the same crews who collect trash. The City sells the paper, and saves about \$30 per ton that it would otherwise spend getting rid of the stuff. The program pays for itself, and residual profits go to the City's general fund, helping to keep taxes down.

Newspapers--*only* newspapers, not other sorts of paper--should be tied into bundles and put out with other waste on the regular collection day.

A related program will pay you for aluminum cans and glass containers. (The program no longer buys newspapers.) These should be brought to the parking lot of the Recreation Pavilion (at Mayfield and Superior Roads) on the second Saturday of each month, between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

Glass containers must be segregated, according to whether they are clear or tinted. Tops must be removed, but labels may be left on.

Steel cans cannot be accepted. Many soft drink cans are steel; most beer cans are aluminum. Test cans with a magnet to make sure they're aluminum.

When this was written, the program offered \$0.20 per pound of aluminum, and \$0.02 per pound for glass. These prices are subject to change depending on market conditions. An individual's monthly load of glass and aluminum is typically worth \$3.00 to \$4.00. Call 391-7329 for precise price quotations.

Special arrangements are available for organizations.

The program is an experiment. It will become a permanent part of life here only if enough residents take advantage of it.



Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
c/o The Heights Community Congress
2163 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights OH 44118

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Coventry Neighbors, Inc. General Meeting, Tuesday December 9
7:30 PM, at Coventry Village Library. Everyone is welcome.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Trustees meeting, Thursday, January 8
8:00 PM at 2754 Hampshire Road The meeting is open to all dues-
paid members of CNI.

JOIN Coventry Neighbors, Inc., NQH. You must be a member to
vote on the issues decided at our meetings. Join now for 1987,
and get December of this year free. All memberships expire at
the end of each year.

Please indicate the class of membership you want:

___ Individual (\$5.00) ___ Family (\$7.00) ____ Senior (\$3.00)
____ Just a Subscription to the Coventry Village News (\$5.00)
I would like to make an additional tax-free donation of \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Are you now receiving the CVN by mail? _____
Please return this form with your check to
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Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106