



Coventry Village News

MAY 1988

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL 10, NO. 5

New City Forester is guest of CNI at May 13 meeting; the Fair is coming soon

Tom Morgan, the new City Forester for Cleveland Heights, will talk about trees in the city and answer questions at the May 13 meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc..

Morgan will discuss the problems we have with keeping trees alive and well in business districts like Coventry Village. He will answer questions about City policy and about maintaining trees in the community.

Morgan holds a degree in urban forestry from The Ohio State University. He joined the City staff last fall. He worked with several private tree companies before joining the City.

All are welcome to the May 13 meeting. It will be held, as usual, in the community room of the Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road, beginning at 7:30 PM.

Street Fair

The annual Coventry Village Street Fair is set for June 28 and 29, less than two months away. Anyone willing to work on the event, and those who want booth space, should call 321-2510.

As is traditional, a contest will be held to select the design for the Fair's promotional poster. Call for technical requirements.

Participation in the annual Fair is an ideal way to have fun while making a significant contribution to the Coventry community. Many, many volunteers are needed. Help us.

Coventry Village . . .

*where we all get along together
pretty well.*

Merchants press for several parking solutions, and the City offers a possibility

Coventry Merchants Association (CMA) is seeking to keep cars of merchants and employees out of prime parking spaces. CMA wants merchants and employees to park in less convenient spaces outside the commercial area.

A study conducted recently by Tommy Fello, proprietor of Tommy's Restaurant, 1820 Coventry Road, revealed that as many as several hundred convenient parking spaces could become available for customer parking if merchants and their employees were willing to park in less convenient spaces. The idea so far depends on the voluntary cooperation of merchants and workers; no method for enforcing it has been devised.

In late April, City installed nine parking meters on the north side of Lancashire Road, allowing on-street parking on a section of that street where parking has been banned for many years.

The City has also announced very tentative plans for a new, 19-space parking lot on a patch of unused, flat land near the Euclid Heights Boulevard entrance to the Pick-n-Pay parking lot. The lot, on land the City already owns, would cost about \$73,000.

"Permit only" parking spaces in commercial-area parking lots will also be moved, as soon as possible, to other lots outside the commercial area, according to Marcia Nolan, an Administrative Assistant to City Manager Bob Downey. Signs indicating the locations of parking are planned; these may go up in the next two months.

—LB

Meeting Notes

April regular meeting

Jim Jackson, manager of the Bistrot des Artistes, 1825 Coventry Road, presented plans for Ebbitt's Bar and Rotisserie, a new restaurant his employer wants to build at 1824 Coventry Road.

The Membership voted unanimously to support the parking variance request sought for Ebbitt's. That support was communicated to the Board of Zoning Appeals and to the City Council.

CNI voted to put its weight firmly behind the creation of more commercial district parking. Tommy Fello reported findings of a survey he conducted of where merchants and employees park; this study revealed that hundreds of customer parking spaces could become available if workers and shop owners parked outside the commercial area. City Community Relations staff member Julie Alandt was asked to report City progress toward new parking to Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

CVN Editor Larry Beam was again authorized to shop for improved printing equipment.

COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS is published monthly, except in August, by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. in cooperation with the Heights Community Congress.

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Larry Beam

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ALL opinions and statements are strictly those of the respective writers, except when clearly identified as formal positions of CNI, CVN, or HCC. Circulation: 2000.

ANYONE wishing to submit copy for the June issue may do so by sending it to the Editor, *Coventry Village News*, 2776 Hampshire Road, #1-B, Cleveland Heights OH 44106, no later than May 16. While no unsigned items will be published, your name may be withheld on request. Phone 371-6095.

Coventry Village . . .
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Poets corner . . .

CAESAR

Caesar was killed on one March day in Rome;
His blood ran free across the marble floor--
He who had led his countrymen in war
Was dead, and Calpurnia wept at home.
The assassins had made their axiom,
That he who claims great honors by the score
The knife shall cut, will bleed from every pore
Detested by the many, mourned by some
And Brutus made his speech, Anthony his
And graves opened up and their corpses rose
Because Caesar had been of such great pose
As to cause the earth to shake, pillars rise,
Engulfing Rome in remnants, I suppose,
Of every mighty thing that was, or is.

--Jerome Clifford Nahtenson

Getting ready for the 1986 Coventry Village Street Fair

The Street Fair has opened its office at 1854 Coventry Road. It's off the balcony of the courtyard behind Coventryard. It is open Tuesday through 1:00 to 4:00, Wednesday and Thursday evenings 7:00 to 9:00, and Saturday 10:00 to 3:00. The phone is 321-2510.

Applications for booth space at the Fair must be received on or before June 12. Fine arts and crafts booth applications are due by May 24.

Audition tapes from musicians may be sent, before May 20, to Kathryn Young, 2504 Kenilworth Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106. Include the name of the band, a return address, and a phone number for a contact person. Tapes will be returned.

As always, the Fair is seeking volunteers. There are openings on the Fair Committee in the areas of t-shirt sales, traffic and safety, and the Fair in a Fair. On the day of the Fair, there are hundreds of jobs in traffic control, clean-up, fair guide distribution, and much else.

Join us. It's fun, and a fine opportunity to meet people, to learn how an event like the Fair is put together, and to contribute to the community.

Fair poster contest

You may be the designer of the poster used to promote the 1986 Coventry Village Street Fair.

The design will also be printed in t-shirts that will be sold at the Fair.

Submissions are due by June 1. Call 932-3586 (evenings) or 321-2510 (most days) for technical specifications.

Youth Center dinner and dance: May 16

Tickets are still available for the Coventry Youth Center dinner dance set for May 16 at Crawford Auto and Aviation Museum.

Call 932-9785 for reservations.

Coventry Cinema will change its strategy

A festival of animation will open on May 16 at Coventry Cinema.

The offering marks a sharp departure from the theatre's recent marketing strategy. Also planned in the near future is an engagement of a lengthy documentary of the memories of Holocaust victims.

For nearly two years, Coventry Cinema has offered popular current movies for a \$2 admission. It has faced stiff competition from the Center-Mayfield Theatre, just a few miles away. The two theatres often offer the same films, and the Center-Mayfield has the advantage of superior parking.

Coventry Cinema manager George Fitzpatrick believes that there is a large, un-tapped market demand for such specialty films as the 19th Annual Tournee of Animation, which opens May 16.

The Tournee of Animation has been a popular offering of the International Film Festival at the Cedar-Lee Theatre. Fitzpatrick plans to offer more of this sort of special film. Prices for these films will be lower at Coventry Cinema than at houses like the Cedar-Lee. Some selected second-runs of popular films are also expected.

The Coventry Cinema prospered in the 1950's and 1960's, showing the art films of that era. Like so many older movie houses, it has seen a lot of hard economic times since.

HCC Phoneathon from May 28 to June 5

Each year for a decade now, volunteers for the Heights Community Congress have telephoned members, seeking contributions.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., hopes you will respond generously when a volunteer calls.

Shoplifters busted in two incidents

When a man snatched a bottle of wine from the Corkcrew wine shop a few weeks ago, the manager of the shop called the police to report the incident. Police arrived in less than a minute, and arrested the man and several friends. They were charged with dumping over trash containers on Coventry, and with the possession of a small amount of illicit drugs. No shoplifting charges were filed, because the shopkeeper had not seen the man well enough to make positive identification.

In another recent incident, workers at High Tide/Rock Bottom got a clear description and a license number of a man who stole a clock. The man turned up in the jail of a neighboring community a few weeks later. The man continued to insist that he was innocent of the theft, but agreed to pay for the clock.

In This Fallen City opens at Dobama

In This Fallen City, by Bryan Williams will open on May 3, and run through May 17, at Dobama Theatre, 1846 Coventry Road. The production is a Cleveland premier.

The drama was presented at the 1985 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights' Conference. It won a New Drama for Television Award, and is now being produced for television by ABC.

The play tells the story of a man who has run a card shop in a tough neighborhood for forty-five years.

Ron Newell plays the man, and Joe Gunderman portrays his friend, a young school teacher. Donald Bianchi directs.

Curtain times are 8:30 on Thursdays and Saturdays, 9:00 on Fridays, and 7:30 on Sundays. Call the box office at 932-6838 for reservations and further information.

Perceptions of schools is subject of study

The Schools Consensus Project has commissioned study of community perceptions of school issues. Decision Research Corporation has been engaged to conduct the telephone survey, which will be administrated by professional interviewers.

About 500 randomly-selected households will be contacted. Half of these are to be families with at least one child in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights system.

Results of the survey will assist the Board of Education and school administrators in making informed policy decisions.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I am surprised to see the constant one-sided approach that the *Coventry Village News* has taken to the Bistrot des Artistes.

You never write anything about the drop in business at Tommy's and Passport to Peru. It's not their fault; it's the lack of parking. What about the Inn on Coventry and Turkey Ridge, whose patrons are forced to drive around the block to find parking? If these patrons don't find parking, they are forced to go to other business areas where parking is not monopolized by a single business.

The Coventry merchants who have been on the street for years have all been involved in community activities, and have been contributing to the City's coffers. When has your newsletter reported these activities? Yet you mention the Bistrot constantly.

Established merchants in Coventry Village cannot get even a word in your newsletter. You never mention their contributions.

Politics has no place in Coventry Village or in the newsletter.

S. Linn
Coventry Village

Around Coventry

ANNIVERSARY . . . It had been called *Chez Moi*, the French Restaurant, *Chesters*, and *Diane's*. On April 21, the restaurant and bar at 1848 Coventry Road celebrated its fifth anniversary as *Turkey Ridge Tavern and Eatery*.

Under each of its previous names and ownerships, it had enjoyed some times of success, but mostly it hadn't worked out as a business. It just didn't return a real profit. A string of owners blamed Coventry's chronic parking shortage.

Then J. Steele Matheny bought the place, and hired Jeff Lindbloom to manage it. *Turkey Ridge* has been a success ever since.

Lindbloom's management carved out a stable niche in the Cleveland area's night-spot market. *Turkey Ridge* has consistently been packed with the followers of popular local bands, seven nights a week, despite the parking problem. By day, it's a comfortable lunch spot and neighborhood bar.

Previous owners of *Turkey Ridge* had terrible problems with the consistency of food quality. Under Matheny's ownership, the kitchen has been dependable and consistent.

Matheny and Lindbloom introduced an imaginative and exciting menu when they took over. Except for specials, that menu has been essentially unchanged for these five years. Recognizing this as a problem, Matheny and Lindbloom have been working on a revised and expanded menu. It is due soon.

Turkey Ridge has recently been scrubbed and repainted. It has new carpeting. A new day manager, Cheryl Carter Smith, has been hired. She comes from the *Burton Inn*, and Lindbloom says he expects a lot from her.

SKATEBOARDS . . . On April 15, a tale of a ten-year-old arrested for riding a skateboard on the crowded sidewalks of *Coventry Village* shared the *Plain Dealer's* front page with the

bombing of Libya.

Since that day, this Coventry neighbor hasn't seen a single youngster riding a board through the crowds on our sidewalks. Skateboard-riders have moved their action to the alley-ways behind buildings, and to a residential parking lot on *Hampshire Road*.

We hope the *Plain Dealer* will give similar publicity to arrests for littering, bike-riding in crowds of shoppers, too-loud portable radios, and failure to pick up after one's dog.

We'll need the cooperation of the police in this. We hope they'll write fewer parking tickets, and make more of the sort of busts that are *Plain Dealer* front-page stuff.

RIGHT STUFF QUILTS . . . A. Calisto Caminati was not the best-known official of our municipal government, but he may have been its most effective staffer. He resigned at the end of April to accept a position with an Akron-based private developer.

Caminati began with the City as Zoning Inspector a dozen years ago. He invented the post of Zoning Administrator, and set a top standard for land use regulation here. More recently, Caminati was given responsibility for numerous major construction projects, including two fire stations and a new City Hall. The success of those projects shows Caminati's careful attention to detail.

City Manager Bob Downey recently recommended that City Council appoint Caminati as Planning Director. But Council denied that recommendation. The Council majority wants a Director with greater skills in abstract planning matters. While every Council member recognized Caminati's ability to get things done, that strength was not what they wanted in a Planning Director.

So Caminati resigned. We, and all of this town, will miss him deeply. --Ed.

Coventry Village

Restorations

This month we return to Hotton's book for some advice about gutter maintenance. It's a task that is really possible only during the dry days of summer and which falls naturally to the procrastinator in each of us...so we're covering it early in the season...

Gutters, the Colonials might have said, are the invention of the devil. They're meant to drain water from the roof away from the foundation. If roof runoff found its way to the ground near the foundation, it could seep into the ground and enter the cellar.

This can happen even with gutters, if the downspouts are not directed away from the house. Just putting an elbow at the bottom of the spout is not enough; the water must be drained at least 10 feet away from the house. Or, it can be connected to a storm sewer if, indeed, your house is served by one. Another method is to build a dry well, one for each downspout.

Now, suppose you have gutters. There are two basic types: wood and metal. Both are good but the wood ones are expensive and take steady maintenance. Metal ones are less traditional but are virtually maintenance free.

Wood gutters should be treated on the inside with boiled or raw linseed oil once or twice a year. This conditions the wood and keeps it from drying out. Wood gutters can be painted on the outside. Do not line wood gutters with roofing cement. It seals them and tends to dry out the wood, causing cracks and all kinds of miseries.

Metal gutters — aluminum, copper, or steel — can be painted, although copper gutters should be allowed to weather. They turn that attractive green color over the years. Besides, painted gutters have to be repainted. If you have copper gutters and flashing, be grateful. It's handsome and will last several lifetimes. Don't plan to buy new copper, though, unless money is no object, except for copper pipes. Paint aluminum and galvanized gutters with a zinc-rich metal primer and 1 or 2 coats of house paint or trim paint. Oil-based paint is the best for metal.

To repair leaky gutters if the wood is not rotted out, or if the metal is in fairly good shape (it can

have holes, but badly corroded or rotted areas must be replaced), apply a coat of roofing cement along the inside of the gutter for about a foot on each side of the leak. Embed a piece of aluminum foil (heavy-duty type, found in building supply stores, not the kitchen type), into the roofing cement, making sure it covers the entire gutter from front to back. Put another coat of roofing cement over this. A patch like this will last for years (Figure 275).

If a joint in a wood gutter is leaking, the roofing cement and foil trick might work. Or, caulking compound can be forced into the crack or joint. Wood gutter joints are normally butted, and kept

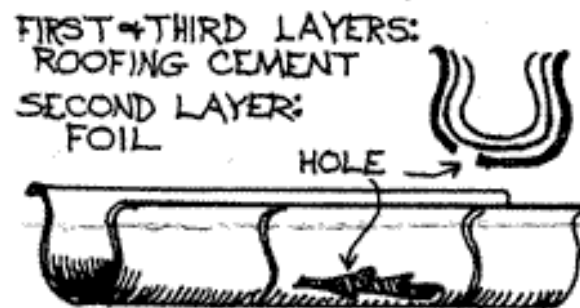


FIGURE 275. A good patch for metal and sometimes wood gutters.

together with dowels or splines, and are very difficult to replace properly. For leaks in the joints of metal gutters, the slip connectors could be replaced, or at least taken apart and recaulked with a special compound used for this purpose. A slip connector is a short connecting piece of the same shape as the gutter, with a slot on each side for slipping the two ends of a gutter into. It is caulked before it is installed.

It's worth the effort of twice-yearly inspection of gutters, and cleaning at least once a year, in the autumn, to clear the season's debris. If your house has lots of trees around it, a twice-yearly cleaning might be necessary.

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BZA approves Ebbitt's parking variance

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) has granted a parking variance which will allow the backers of Bistrot des Artistes, 1825 Coventry Road, to build another restaurant across the street, where Coventry Books once was, at 1824 Coventry Road.

The variance request is now before City Council. Approval is expected.

Work on the new restaurant, to be called Ebbitt's Bar and Rotisserie, will probably not begin until November. Feasibility of the proposal depends on a local option vote to allow sales of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. Backers of the proposal hope to obtain voter approval for liquor sales at the November election.

Hands Across America needs you on May 25 in Cleveland Heights

At exactly 3:00 p.m. Sunday May 25, 6,000,000 people will join hands in an unbroken line stretching 4,000 miles from New York to Los Angeles in a project known as "Hands Across America."

The line will pass through Cleveland Heights--up Cedar Hill and east along Fairmount Boulevard.

While this is a project of USA AFRICA (United Support of Artists for Africa), its purpose is to assist hungry and homeless Americans.

A place in the line costs \$10 (tax-deductible). Every penny raised will go directly aid our nation's 20,000,000 poor. Administrative costs have been underwritten by grants from firms including Coca-Cola and Citicorp.

Over 3,000 people are needed to form a solid line through Cleveland Heights. If you are interested in taking part, call either the Northern Ohio office at 694-HAND, or Esther Kornitzky, Cleveland Heights coordinator, 291-8668, evenings.

Two integration forums are offered by HCC

Two panel discussions of integration in the Heights will be presented this month by the Heights Community Congress. One of these looks at housing integration, the other at school integration.

The housing integration discussion will be moderated by Charles Bromley, Director of National Neighborhoods. It will be held Wednesday May 21, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, corner of Lee Road and Monticello Boulevard.

The discussion of school integration will be moderated by Rick Taft, President of Your Schools. That discussion will be held on Tuesday May 27, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Main Library, 2345 Lee Road.

Refreshments will be served at both meetings.

Bargain-rate loans for energy-saving steps

You may qualify for a home improvement loan with an interest rate as low as 0%. Many others will qualify for loans at 5%.

As much as \$2,000 can be borrowed under this program, for as long as five years.

Loan proceeds must be used for energy-conservation measures, like insulation, weatherstripping, caulking, and furnace improvements.

A family of four with a gross income of \$45,281 can get the 5% funds; with an income of \$24,150 that family could get an interest-free loan.

Call the Heights Community Congress at 321-6775 for more information.

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TIME VALUE -- PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1986

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General Meeting, Tuesday, May 13, 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Library. The public is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, June 5, 8:00 PM at 2929 Washington Boulevard. 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 (\$5.00)Family (\$7.00)Senior (\$3.00)

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

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

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