



Coventry Village News

December, 1987

The Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Volume 11 No. 11

Mini-park, parking lot plans on CNI agenda for meeting December 8 at Lib.

The City's Planning Department has been invited to Coventry Neighbors December 8 meeting to share with Coventry Neighbors plans it has developed for the redoing of the public parking lot between Coventry Beverage and Bistrot des Artistes, across from Tommy's Restaurant. The redevelopment of that parking lot, planned for next summer, will add about two dozen parking spaces to the lot.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 7:30 PM, at the Coventry Village Library. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in discussions, but only dues-paid

Snow parking ban exempts parts of Coventry Village

Those Coventry Village streets on which over-night parking is allowed are exempt from a new snow parking ban which recently became law here. Those streets include parts of Hampshire, Euclid Heights, Mayfield, and Middlehurst.

Elsewhere, cars parked at curbside may be ticketed or towed if they are not removed from the street within one hour after a snow emergency is announced on radio and television. Such emergencies may be announced whenever snowfall exceeds two inches.

Councilman Leonard Horowitz assured the *Coventry Village News* that the City would be reasonable about enforcement. He said that some warnings would be issued at first, and that cars wouldn't be forced from curbside in commercial areas during business hours.

members may vote.

Spencer Caress, head of Community Services for the City, has asked for some time on the agenda to begin the process of planning the rebuilding of the mini-park in front of Coventry Yard. [See Letter to the Editor, page 2.] Actual work on the mini-park is expected next fall.

The position CNI might take with regard to liquor licenses sought for Irv's Deli will be discussed.

Summer events

The Special Events Committee has selected Saturday, July 23, noon to 7:00 PM, for an Arts Festival. The event will include substantial musical entertainment, children's activities, and a trolley tour. Funds were allocated at the November 10 CNI meeting for the printing and distribution of a brochure and application form for the Arts Festival.

Concerts and tours are set for June 25 and August 27.

A revival of the neighborhood Halloween Party is set for October 29.

Memberships expire soon

All memberships to Coventry Neighbors, Inc. and all subscriptions to the *Coventry Village News* expire at the end of each year. Use of the form on the last page of this newsletter will help us give you accurate credit.

City objects to liquor at Irv's Delicatessen; CVDC supports move; CNI to discuss issue

The Coventry Village Development Corporation (CVDC), in its first significant action in the public affairs of this neighborhood, has determined to support the City of Cleveland Heights in a recently-filed objection to the issuance of a liquor license allowing on-premises consumption at Irv's Delicatessen (1798 Coventry Road).

CVDC member Bruce M. Hennes agreed at a meeting held on November 19 to

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

Thank you, Coventry Neighbors, for support of Issue 15, the Parks Improvement Bond Issue. The tremendous majority that voted for the issue made a strong statement about the importance of parks to this community. Now the challenge is to implement the proposed improvements efficiently and effectively.

Master plans have been developed and conceptual drawings have been executed for the major parks projects. No such work has been done toward the Coventry mini-park rebuilding. I do not believe that we can proceed with the Coventry mini-park without input from the neighborhood. All of us know the deficiencies of the current design. How do

we meet the needs of those who use the area in a design that is both functional and beautiful? What do the area's residents and merchants expect?

Those who are interested in sharing their ideas are invited to write to me at City Hall (40 Severance Circle, 44118). I would like also like to take some time at the December 8 meeting of Coventry Neighbors to discuss the matter. We will then be able to share these ideas (and concerns) with the architects who will develop final plans.

When preliminary designs are available, I will share them with the community for further discussion. Developed in this manner, I believe that the project can truly meet the needs of Coventry Village.

—SPENCER CARESS

Director, Community Services
City of Cleveland Heights

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

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Opinions expressed in these pages are strictly those of the respective writers, except where clearly identified as those of CNI, CVN, or the HCC.

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The deadline for each month is the 16th day of the preceding month. While no unsigned material will be used, names may be withheld from publication at the writer's request.
Phone: 371-6095.

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

Library goings-on

Coventry on Stage, a program for school-age children, will feature the Wiley Chorus on Tuesday, December 15, at 2:30 PM.

The Annual Holiday Craft program will be held on December 16 at 3:30 PM. The program is for school-age children, and registration is limited. It is funded by Friends of the Library.

The Winter Reading Program will begin on January 11 and will continue through February 20.

Registrations are now being accepted for the winter session of the Toddler Storytime program. Children aged two-and-one-half through three years are welcome. Please call Mrs. Tyus at 321-3400 for more information.

An open poetry reading will be held on Sunday, December 6, at 2:30 PM.

The Martin Luther King Program will offer a dramatic presentation by James Spriggs, Jr, Tuesday, January 12, at 2:30 PM. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Preschool Storytime will resume in January. All participants must choose the session they will attend — Tuesdays at 7:30 PM or Wednesdays at 10:30 AM.

New non-fiction includes: *America by Design*, S. Kostof; *Armed and Dangerous: the Rise of the Survivorist Right*, J. Coates; *Fat-Free Forever*, M. Johnson; *Hoffa's Man*, J. Franco; *Letitia Baldrige's Guide to a Great Social Life*, L. Baldrige; *The Making of the African Queen*, K. Hepburn; *Management Game*, A. Burst; *Sylvia Plath*, L. Wagner-Martin; and *What Every Baby Knows*, T. Brazelton.

A CVN Editorial

Council should forget proposed ban on "bed-and-breakfast" transient lodging

Cleveland Heights City Council is still considering a law which would forbid the operation of bed-and-breakfast lodging facilities here. We believe that this a bad and foolish law. Its sponsor, Councilman Richard Weigand, should withdraw it. If he does not, we hope and trust that the legislation will fail.

The proposed law would make illegal any arrangement under which residents of Cleveland Heights might *accept payment* for roomers or other guests who stay for less than 30 days. Present law limits the number of unrelated persons staying in a household to two. Roomers who stay for more than thirty days are legal now and under the proposed legislation.

Winston Churchill's famous stay here might have ended him up before the Judge if we assume he had the courtesy to thank his host with, say, a bottle of wine.

No, supporters of the law say, they'd never enforce their new law in a situation like that. They're *reasonable* people.

Weigand himself says he has no quarrel with the the folks who now offer bed-and-breakfast lodging in their elegant homes. They're fine, upstanding citizens, he says. And their guests, mostly professional people, are welcome here. Yet these transient lodging arrangements must be made illegal, Weigand believes.

Since it's clearly not the present operators of bed-and-breakfast facilities at whom Weigand's law is aimed, then just who are its targets? Weigand seems to have no clear answer. Weigand arrogantly invokes smoke, ghosts, and fear; we must have this law, he suggests, for the long-term stability of the community.

Just after a hearing on the proposed law, held on October 19, Weigand privately criticized the President of CNI because CNI had not "heard both sides" of the question before resolving to oppose the legislation. The President thereupon invited Weigand to the November CNI meeting to tell his side. Weigand at first said that it would not be appropriate for him, a Councilman who's going to vote on the law, to lobby regarding it. We reminded Weigand of the frequency with which he lobbies the Board of Zoning

appeals on matters before it.

Neither Weigand nor any other supporter of the bed-and-breakfast prohibition came to that meeting.

Hurlyburley at Dobama

By Harriet Tramer

The title *Hurlyburley* aptly describes the lives portrayed in the David Rabe play now on stage of Dobama Theatre, 1846 Coventry Road. Confusion, turmoil, and unrest prevail. By any standard, the characters have relinquished control over their lives. Alcohol, drugs, and sheer happenstance call the shots.

Donna, a rolling stone from the Midwest who wanted to see the Grand Canyon but somehow ended up in Los Angeles where she has taken up residence in an elevator, becomes the butt of the men's jokes. They view her as nothing more than a "love gift." Subjected to an equal amount of disrespect from the buddies—Phil, Eddie, Mickey, and Artie—who dominate much of the action are Darlene, a photographer, and Bonnie, an exotic dancer.

The circumstances in which these women find themselves are pitiful. Pitiful, too, are the men; yet their expensive outfits, bluster, and Devil-may-care demeanors mask the fact, at least initially.

Accordingly, it takes a while to realize that their fast lane lives have taken a toll upon them. Alcohol, drugs and casual relationships serve to help them escape this negativity. Eventually, destructive behavior results in the most vulnerable of them—Phil—committing suicide.

Since the play is set in Hollywood, many will view it as an indictment of that world. The drama, however, delivers a strong message about lives that have spiralled out of control no matter what the locale.

The cast includes Paul Blumberg, Kirk Brown, Alan Zeilinger, Michelle Meers, Brenna Humphreys, Robin Rafos, and Ken Armour.

The play can be seen at Dobama through December 19. Showtimes are 9:00 PM on Fridays, 8:30 Saturdays, and 7:30 Sundays. Students and seniors pay \$3 on Fridays and Sundays, and \$5 on Saturdays. Call the box office at 932-6838 for reservations and further information.

Join CNI today

Liquor . . . from page 1

carry the organization's concerns to Diane Javier, who purchased Irv's Deli from Irv Gulko a few months ago.

Hennes and other members of the CVDC expressed concern over exactly who really owns—and controls—the business. Unsubstantiated rumors have held that Gulko might still be involved; Javier vehemently denies that assertion. The CVDC wants an opportunity to meet with all the new owners, and to make recommendations for exterior renovations. Basically, the CVDC wants to be sure that there's no repetition of the old problems with Irv's. The November 17 vote of City Council to file objections to a liquor license for Irv's was unanimous. State law affords municipal governments an opportunity to object to the issuance of new liquor licenses and to the transfer of old ones. Such objections lead to administrative hearings conducted by the Ohio Department of Liquor Control. It was just this sort of hearing process which denied a liquor license sought by Gulko about a year ago.

Phil Hart, chair of City Council's Public Safety and Health Committee, said that the objections were filed because the municipal government "wants to keep its options open." The City expressed willingness to withdraw the objections if its concerns are satisfied.

Javier wants to a "nightclub" liquor license, which would allow the sale of beer, wine, and distilled spirits for on-premises consumption until 2:30 AM. Several other neighborhood establishments, including Turkey Ridge and the Saloon, do business under this class of liquor license.

In addition to the new license that would allow her to operate a bar, Javier seeks to transfer from Gulko's name to her own the license which now allows her business to sell beer and wine for carry-out. The objections filed by the City cover both the issuance of a bar license and transfer of the existing carry-out license.

Javier had hoped to have her bar open for the busy holiday season. Delays introduced by the City's objection will make that impossible. Javier said that she does not have the cash resources necessary to do immediately the exterior improvements sought by the CVDC. She said she had been counting on the bar to generate the revenue to pay for further exterior and interior improvements.

The local option campaign which led to removal of the liquor license from Irv's in 1982 was supported by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. CNI energetically supported the City in the successful effort last year to deny Gulko a

new liquor license. CNI has so far taken no position this most recent license application. The matter will be discussed at the meeting of December 8. —LB

Vice President and Treasurer to leave CNI offices

Charles Owen, Vice President, and Jeff Solomon-Hess, Treasurer, have tendered resignations from their offices with Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Owen cited added responsibilities arising from an apartment building he recently purchased and is now renovating. Solomon-Hess pointed to his recent promotion to senior editor of *Aftermarket Business*, a publication of Harcourt-Brace-Jevonivich.

Both will be sorely missed.

Elections to replace them will be held at the January regular meeting of CNI.

Obermanns receives Bernice Lott Award at HCC Annual Meeting

H. Richard Obermanns, now a senior researcher with the Cuyahoga Plan, was presented the Bernice E. Lott Award for Outstanding Citizen at the annual meeting of the Heights Community Congress (HCC) on November 15. The award, now in its fifth year, honors citizens of Cleveland Heights and University Heights for exceptional contributions to the effort to maintain an open, integrated community of the highest quality.

Obermanns served in 1979 as a Public Service Science Resident at the HCC, and he has served four years as president and ten years as trustee of the Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation. As President of the Heights Interfaith Council, he initiated a housing committee, led team visits to churches in the Hillcrest Area to encourage open housing, and created an interracial photo contest. He played a leadership role in the Interfaith Council's cosponsorship of the Schools Consensus Project, and has chaired the Community Life Council at Fairmount Church.

The keynote speaker was Charles Bromley, Director of the Metropolitan Strategy Group, President of Greater Cleveland Community Shares and National Neighbors, and generous supporter of Coventry Neighbors. Bromley spoke of potent civil rights lessons from the past, and pledged continuation of efforts to eliminate barriers to open housing in Greater Cleveland.

Around Coventry . . .

Rescue . . . On Monday, November 16, Cleveland Heights Police officer Montgomery Placica rescued an eleven-year-old girl from a burning apartment in the basement of 2749 Hampshire Road.

Placica, whose recent assignment has been foot patrol of Coventry Village, was near the corner of Hampshire and Coventry Roads about 2:30 PM when he noticed smoke coming from a Hampshire Road apartment building. As he approached the building, he saw flames in a basement suite. When he opened the door to the apartment, he found a child, confused but not seriously hurt. She did not want to leave: her mother, Idalia Gill, had instructed the child not to leave until she returned. Placica pushed the child to safety.

Placica, having alerted fire authorities, then returned to the building, beating on the doors of other suites to warn tenants. Placica said that thick smoke drove him to crawling on hands and knees on the top floor of the building. "I acted on pure instinct," Placica said.

Faulty wiring of a floor lamp was blamed for the fire, according to Fire Warden Robert Maver. Damage to the building was estimated at \$17,000; contents of the basement apartment, with an estimated value of \$7,500, were destroyed. Other suites in the building, which is owned by Mel Fishman, suffered only smoke damage.

A female dog and her litter died in the fire.

Landlord Fishman, whose building is widely-regarded as one of Coventry's most serious eye-sores, has contacted the City's Apartment Renovation Rebate Program to seek governmental assistance with repairs and, apparently, other improvements to the building.

Breakfast and more . . . A cup of coffee, with a bagel, cream cheese and jelly, is available for just \$.79 at Hot-n-Chili in Coventry Yard Mall. That offering, along with submarine and pita sandwiches, salads, fresh donuts, three kinds of chili, and a variety of ice cream treats are all on the small shop's revised menu.

Dayenu Senechaitanyah, the shop's new proprietor, has removed the coin-operated games which once dominated the place. He says he plans to expand the shop's offerings of home-made ice cream in the spring.

No more jazz . . . A sign reading "Closed for repairs" has been posted on a door at the Ribworks, the less-than-a-year-old

restaurant on the lower level of Coventry Yard. The establishment had offered, a few nights each week, some of the finest live jazz performances in the Cleveland area.

Unfortunately, the entertainment was about the only thing that the Ribworks did right. Its menu was dull and ordinary, and its management and some of the other help were incredibly rude. Except on nights when there was entertainment, customers were, understandably, quite scarce.

We understand that Howard K. Friedman, who organized the development of Ribworks, is seeking new management. Friedman's other projects have included the New England Clam House, once located in a building behind Coventry Yard, and the Station One Restaurant, now Rick's Café, on Silsby near Lee.

Dress shop . . . Koffi Agosu, who was born in West Africa and schooled at the Couture Mondaile in Paris, has opened Policouture, a shop at 1856 Coventry Road. The shop space, vacant for years now, was once a cookie shop.

Agosu designs and makes his clothing at the shop. He'll also make clothing to order, based on magazine clips supplied by clients. He'll also perform alterations and will make special items like wedding gowns and tuxedos to order.

Awards . . . Lincoln Boulevard and Overlook Road, from from Euclid Heights Boulevard to Edgemoor, won Street Awards in the annual Community Improvement Awards Program sponsored jointly by the City of Cleveland Heights and the Heights Community Congress.

An award in the multi-residential category went to Mike Montlack for his Duke Apartments at 2589 Overlook. The Lally residence, at 2996 Euclid Heights Boulevard, won in the individual residence category. Special Committee Awards went to Dr. Osmon Mowardi, of Mornington Condominiums, and to Larry Davis, a real estate developer who has been quite active in Coventry Village. —Ed.

Merry Christmas
Happy Chanukah
Happy New Year

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The next regular meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will be held on Tuesday, December 8 at the Coventry Village Library.

The next meeting of the trustees of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will be held on Thursday, January 7, 8:00 PM, at 1641 Hillcrest Road. The meeting is open to all dues-paid members.

Join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. today! You must be a member for at least 30 days to vote at our meetings. Join now. All memberships and newsletter subscriptions expire at the end of each year.

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