



# Coventry Village News

September, 1987

The Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Volume 11 No.8

## ***City, schools seek support for their tax issues; meeting September 8 at the Coventry Library***

The City Council has placed a \$12 million bond issue on the November ballot. Should the issue meet with the voters' approval, the proceeds of the sale of these bonds will be used to make numerous and substantial improvements in the parks of this community.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., (CNI) will discuss at the meeting of September 8 whether to support the bond issue. The meeting will be held at 7:30 PM in the meeting room in the Coventry Village Library, at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. Everyone is welcome to attend and speak, but only dues-paid members of CNI will be allowed to vote. Spencer Caress, Director of Community Services, will speak for the City on behalf of the issue.

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights School System, which is also seeking money from the voters this November, plans to send a representative to the meeting.

## ***Officer nominations to open***

Annually, at its October meeting, CNI elects the officers who will guide the organization for the next year. Nominations are accepted at the September meeting, and again in October. There are six offices: President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Trustees. In addition, a representative Trustee of the Heights Community Congress is selected. The Editor of this newsletter is selected by the six officers in their capacity as the Editorial Board of the *Coventry Village News*.

Only persons who have been dues-paid members for 30 days or more are eligible to serve as officers, offer nominations, or vote on matters at CNI meetings. Everyone is welcome to take part in discussions.

## ***Turkey Ridge Tavern gets new ownership; City ends liquor fight***

The City of Cleveland Heights has withdrawn its objections to the renewal of the liquor license at Turkey Ridge Tavern (1852 Coventry Road).

In a letter to the Ohio Department of Liquor Control, the City said that it would withdraw its objections if a contemplated deal for the transfer of ownership of the business were consummated.

On July 13 that deal became official.

The new owner of the Turkey Ridge is Marty Rosenblum. Three other investors are involved. Rosenblum came to Turkey Ridge as a manager last February. His previous experience includes his the ownership of the Olive Tree, in University Circle; The Grapes of Wrath, on Chester at 33rd Street; and J.B.'s, in Kent.

The buyers propose no radical changes to the business. Rosenblum says the whole place will get a thorough cleaning, including new floor coverings. Some remodeling is planned. There will be a few changes to the menu. The popular live musical offerings will continue.

The municipal government cited a large number of police calls to Turkey Ridge in its formal objection to the renewal of the establishment's liquor license. That objection was filed one year ago. Turkey Ridge ownership has lost a first-round hearing; an appeal had been filed.

The late-night character of the bar, and the sidewalk in front, have changed a lot in the past year. A year ago, the violent expulsion of allegedly unruly patrons was a routine occurrence. Several regular patrons report witnessing no such events this summer.

Steele Matheny, the former owner of the Ridge, and Jeff Lindbloom, who managed

*continued on page 2*

## Ridge . . . continued from page 1

the place through most of the time Matheny owned it, argued that problems on the sidewalk in front were not their concern. Their position made negotiation with the City quite impossible.

Marty Rosenblum feels strongly that what happens on the sidewalk is of concern to the business. This difference in attitudes, reflected management policy, explains why there have been so many fewer problems this summer.

CNI opposed the City's efforts to remove the liquor license from Turkey Ridge.

--Larry Beam

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

Editor:  
Larry Beam

Editorial Board:  
Larry Beam, Charles Owen, Jeff Solomon-Hess,  
Marilyn Pryor, Bruce Hennes, and Julie  
Washington

Editorial Staff:  
Bruce Hennes and Marge Lampert

Production Staff:  
Jeff Solomon-Hess, J. Lawn, Marilyn Pryor,  
Charles Owen, Manasses Polaski, Joe Bunda,  
Betty Sennenhoff, and the staff of the Heights  
Community Congress.

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

Circulation: 2,000.

Anyone wishing to submit copy to the *Coventry Village News* may do so by sending it to the Editor, *Coventry Village News*, 2776 Hampshire Road, Apt. 1-B, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44106.

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.*

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

Coventry Neighbors, Inc, has taken a firm position that no City parkland be divested to commercial interests anywhere in Cleveland Heights.

Now Council has taken the first step to put a \$12 million parks and recreation issue on the November ballot. As a prominent neighborhood organization, CNI will very likely be asked to endorse the issue.

As a CNI member, I propose that we withhold endorsement until we get from Council a formal policy supporting our position on parkland retention, at least during the lifetime of the proposed bonds. (Note that this is *not* a proposal that we oppose the issue--nothing has been said against it as a plan--but merely withhold our endorsement conditionally.)

This method has worked in the past, to secure reopening of the Coventry Branch Library from a Library Board unwilling to restore full branch service. In other words, this is how we got the room in which CNI regularly meets!

This matter is the subject of a motion tabled at the July meeting of CNI, in the interests of informing more of the membership, and of getting more information from the City. It will be possible to remove the motion from the table for action at any future CNI meeting.

Other CNI members may wish to seek other concessions in exchange for support of the recreation issue, notably better attention to parklands in Coventry.

Since the City has been invited to address CNI at the September meeting on the subject of the bond issue, that will probably be the most appropriate time to renew discussion of the motion.

David R. Burwasser  
Coventry Village

## The place for trash

The Cleveland Heights City Council recently expressed a strong will to enforce a law that's been ignored for years.

That law forbids placing trash from one's household or business in the receptacles on the street, which are intended for use by pedestrians only.

Several shops in the area are chronic offenders. The result is trash barrels that are frequently overflowing early in the day. Their crass (and illegal) behavior contributes immensely to the large amount of paper and other trash that accumulates on Coventry Road each day.

## *The price goes up for parking expansion*

The City of Cleveland Heights has retained the engineering firm of Colpetzer-Thomas to develop final working drawings for proposed changes to the municipal parking lot across from Tommy's Restaurant, between Coventry Beverage and Pizza, and the Bistrot des Artistes.

According to Planning Director Mark Majewski, Colpetzer-Thomas now estimates that the proposed modifications to the lot will cost about \$180,000. At the present time, City Council has budgeted just \$70,000 for the project. The \$180,000 price tag is close to cost estimates made by his staff, Majewski said.

Majewski expressed confidence that the necessary additional funding could be found, and that construction could be completed this season.

The proposed changes involve the addition of no new land to the parking facility. Preliminary plans indicated that about twenty-four parking spaces could be added just by reorganizing the place.

A new row of nose-in parking spaces would be added along the south wall of the Coventry Beverage building. The entrance to the lot would be moved over and made more narrow.

Very preliminary plans for the project were shared with Coventry Neighbors and Coventry Merchants last year. More recent, more detailed plans have not yet been shared with the public. --LB

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

## *Heights Heritage Tour focuses on North Park*

"North Park Places" is the theme of the 1987 Heights Heritage Tour. Eight diverse homes on beautiful North Park Boulevard will be open to participants. The historic Baldwin Purification Plant, on Fairhill Road, is also on the tour.

The tour, a fund-raising effort of the Heights Community Congress, will be held on Sunday, September 27, from noon to 6:00 PM. A complimentary afternoon tea and audio-visual show will be offered from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at Beaumont School, 3301 North Park Boulevard.

The eight homes selected for the tour represent the diversity of North Park architecture, with construction dates ranging from the 1920s to the 1970s. Highlights include a beautifully-decorated 1921 Georgian Revival, a memorable Pennsylvania Colonial, an English Tudor, a 1950s ranch, and a contemporary with strong Frank Lloyd Wright influence.

A special patrons's preview party will precede the event Saturday evening, September 26. The party includes cocktails beginning at 4:30 PM at the Austin Company, a preview of selected homes, and dinner and dancing, beginning at 9:00, at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church. Tickets are \$25 per person for cocktails and tour, or \$50 for the whole evening.

Tickets for the Sunday tour are \$7 (\$5 for seniors). Tickets are available at various locations in Cleveland Heights. Call the Heights Community Congress at 321-6775 for further information.

### *Help with the Heritage Tour*

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., has been asked to find people who will be willing to act as guides in some of the houses on this year's Heritage Tour.

The task is fun, and provides an excellent opportunity to meet others who share an interest in the wonderful homes of Cleveland Heights.

Folks who contribute time in this way are offered tickets for the tour at reduced prices.

### *Contributions*

Without the generous help of our supporters who responded to a appeal for contributions, Coventry Neighbors could never have made it through this summer without financial disaster.

Thanks to these generous folks, we were able to raise more than \$4,500.

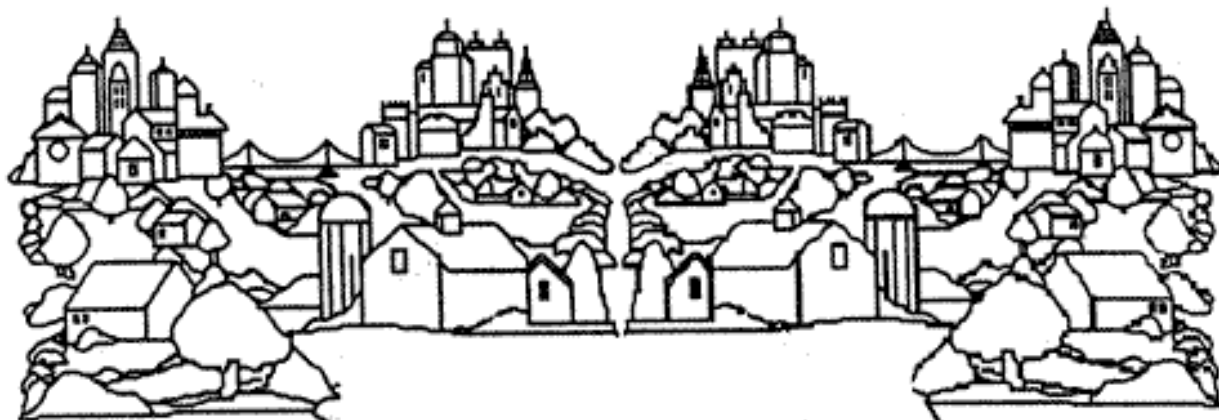
Here is the honor list of folks whose contributions were received too late for inclusion in the list we published in July:

Francis Chiappa and Dorene Davis  
Susan and Rick Taft  
Pick-n-Pay  
Joe and Jane Ruijell  
Beth and Mark Majewski  
Lewis A. Zipkin  
Representative Jane Campbell  
Mayor Alan Rapoport

\$3.00  
&  
\$6.00

# Coventry Tours

Sept. 12  
&  
Oct. 10



### On Saturday, Sept. 12

*Take a Walking Tour of the Southeast Coventry area with tour guide Ken Goldberg... Edgehill, Lamberton, Woodward, E. Derbyshire ... originally developed as part of the Rockefeller 'Forest Hill' allotment ...*

### On Saturday, Oct. 10

*Take a Trolley Tour of Historic Lakeview Cemetery ... Victorian gardens ... the Garfield Monument... turn-of-the-century Italian stonemasonry...*



Tour tickets can be purchased at the Coventry Village Library just before the tours begin. Sept. 12, \$3; Oct. 10, \$6. Better yet, for reservations or for more information, call 321-1268.

Productions of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

## Around Coventry . . .

**Bistrot on a budget . . .** Bistrot des Artistes, the elegant restaurant at 1825 Coventry Road, has a new menu. It is more extensive, and less expensive, than the old one. Bar prices, too, have been reduced. The aim is to market the establishment to a less monied and somewhat younger clientele. Little else has changed; valet parking continues.

One recent evening, we made a delightful light dinner of a half-order of a pasta jambalya, on the menu as an appetizer for \$4.50. A companion enjoyed cajun pizza, a surprisingly different and pleasant offering for \$6.95.

With the new menu came new management. Alton Doody, the marketing consultant and restaurateur who opened the Bistrot in January, 1986, has turned control of the business over to his sons, Chris and Rick. Both have extensive restaurant experience. The senior Doody has closed the office he had for a year on Coventry Road, and moved his residence from Hunting Valley to a small Michigan community.

**Siam . . .** Thongchai Changlongbutra, who does business as Hunan on Coventry, and prefers to be called simply TC, still plans to open a Thai restaurant in the former garage that once housed his Hunan restaurant. He says now that the new place should be open in October. TC told us that he has delayed work on the new place, tentatively to be called Siam, because he feared that acting more swiftly might compromise the quality of one of these restaurants.

**Junk yard . . .** Several months ago, owners of the Citgo station on the northwest corner of Coventry and Mayfield Roads sought and received the support of Coventry Neighbors for a zoning variance. That variance, later granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals, allowed the gas station to use a strip of land along the east edge of Mayfield Cemetery as a storage area for customers' vehicles.

The approved plan called for paving and landscaping that have not been done. Yet the gas station is using the site for the storage of vehicles; the cars appear to have sat there unmoved for several weeks at least. The rear area is a serious eye-sore; and problems with parking in front have not been alleviated, as the gas stations' proprietor promised they would be.

We hope that the City acts swiftly in

persuading the Citgo ownership to bring the site into compliance with the standards of this community.

**Mr. Hero . . .** Mr. Hero, the sandwich chain, has been talking to several Coventry landlords about leasing space. It would be this neighborhood's first mass-market, fast-food operation.

One usually reliable source says that the fast-food operator is looking hard at the building that caps the southeast corner of Mayfield and Coventry Roads. That building houses the long-defunct Coventry Cafe, which was once called Taj Mahal. It is owned by Raj Mathur, who operated the failed restaurants and still runs a sparsely-stocked food and beverage retail operation on that corner.

It is possible that a business like Mr. Hero could simply move into the space. It is more likely that such a proposal would require a zoning variance. The process by which zoning variances are obtained in this community affords good opportunity for public contribution to the decision process.

No portion of Coventry Village suffers more from the neighborhood's parking shortage than the north end of the business district, near Mayfield Road. The parking lot in front of Revco is private, and sometimes jealously guarded. The on-street parking supply is hardly adequate for the merchants themselves and their employees.

Food operations, especially ones that do a lot of carry-out trade, demand a lot of parking. We hope that the folks at Mr. Hero recognize that the shortage of parking will make financial success extremely difficult at that site.

**Thanks . . .** The small events Coventry Neighbors sponsored this summer, in lieu of the Street Fair, consumed a great deal of volunteer energy. Special thanks is due to Nancy Miller, who headed the August 2 Arts Fest, and Buddy Zelman and Julie Washington who helped her.

Barbara Valis did the lion's share of work on the summer's six tours. Our thanks to her, and to Charles Owen and Jeff Solomon-Hess, who helped.

--Ed.

**Join CNI today**

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

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Permit No. 1441

ADDRESS  
CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL--PLEASE DELIVER BEFORE SEPTEMBER 4

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

The next meeting of the trustees of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will be held on Thursday, October 8, 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.

Please indicate the class of membership you want:

Individual (\$3.50)       Family (\$5.00)       Senior (\$1.50)

Just a subscription to the *Coventry Village News* (\$2.50)

I would like to make an additional, tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Are you now receiving the CVN by mail? \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check to:  
Coventry Neighbors, Inc.  
2776 Hampshire Road, #1-B  
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106