

May/June '96

# COVENTRY

## VILLAGE NEWS

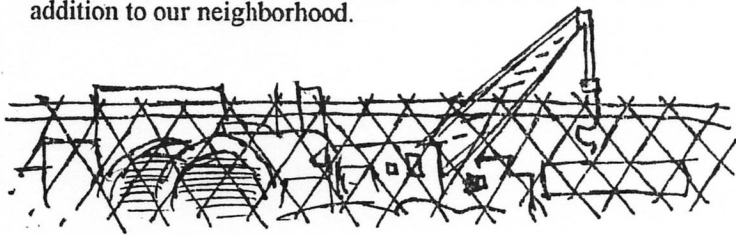
THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

### Interceptor Project Director to Speak

The Northeastern Ohio Regional Sewer District interceptor project is coming to Coventry. If you're not sure what an interceptor is, they want to tell you all about their project and answer any of your questions so we have invited them to our May 14, 1996, meeting.

Basically, the sewer district is installing a huge new underground tunnel. At strategic locations throughout the eastern suburbs access shafts must be dug. In June, a new shaft will be located in the open space in front of the library at the intersection of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard.

Project Director Rick Switalski promises an informative program that will present a 15 minute video about the project, a talk specifically about the Coventry project and finally answers to your questions. Please plan to attend this important meeting so that you can learn more about this two year addition to our neighborhood.



### Rental Rights Information in Cleveland Heights

Landlords and tenants in Cleveland Heights can get free information about their rights and duties under the Ohio Landlord Tenant law every Wednesday evening from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road in Cleveland Heights. Staff of the CTO Rental Information Center will be on hand to provide individual consultation on such issues as getting repairs, terminating rental agreements and returning security deposits.

Rental rights information in Cleveland Heights is supported by a grant from the City of Cleveland Heights, Community Development Block Grant program. For more information, call 621-0540 or the Rental Housing Hotline at 363-5290.



### Hope House Comes To Coventry

The Designer's Hope House is a biennial event for the benefit of the American Cancer Society. Each year, a home or building is selected for renovation. Interior Designers from across the area donate their time and energy to renovate the selection. The home is then made available to visitors whose paid admission becomes a donation.

This years Designer's Hope House is located in Coventry. The Clapp-Curran house located at the corner of Overlook and Coventry Roads was designed by architects Meade and Hamilton in 1922 for William and Jessie Clapp. They later sold the house to the Dr. Paul Curran family. The gardens were originally designed by landscape architects Warren Manning and Ellen Shipman and will also be made available for viewing.

This house has just recently been designated a Cleveland Heights landmark so it will be a wonderful opportunity to see this outstanding example of residential architecture while providing for the benefit of a worthwhile organization.

The Designer's Hope house will be available for viewing April 21 through May 19, 1996, Monday-Thursday 10-4, Friday 10-8, Saturday 10-5, and Sunday 12-5. Tickets are \$14 each. Call 241-1177 for more information.

### You Can Make a Difference

A few years back I stood on top of a landfill. As I watched, trucks full of suburban trash rolled up the dirt road of the sixty acre landfill. When they reached the top they dumped their contents, headed back down, and were replaced by others, dumping more loads. After being dumped, the trash was spread across the site by bulldozers. When the trash layer covered a certain area of square feet and was thick enough -- several feet -- it was covered over with a layer of dirt, to keep light debris, like paper, from blowing away. This dirt cover was also supposed to control the smell generated by all that garbage. Still, it was always windy up there, and stuff blew around. It was smelly too.

On the way back down, the trash trucks were required to go through a spray wash to clean off the caked dirt they'd picked up on the drive to the top. This was to minimize mud on the public approach road outside the landfill. In fair weather this system worked fairly well. In windy or rainy weather this system worked poorly. Then the approach roads for miles around would be streaked with clumps of mud, while downwind odor wafted unmistakably.

My job was to design a concept for the future reuse of this landfill mountain -- alternating layers of garbage and dirt sealed from each other by impermeable rubberized membranes, all this over a hundred feet high. The only viable potential reuse was some sort of recreation... at the top, vistas and baseball fields; at the base were they'd mined the fill dirt, a series of connected fishing ponds; farthest from the mountain, in an existing lake, swimming and picnicking. The sides could be used for hiking.

The problem was... there was just no disguising the mountain's original function. Along the sides, no trees could be planted -- they might puncture the sealed layers. Here there would be pipes protruding from the ground.

Layered garbage under pressure produces methane as it decomposed. When the methane level in a layer grows too high, it has to be extracted. Hence the pipes. These would have to be monitored far into the future. When the landfill's "full" -- a contracted size, so wide, so long, so high, so many layers deep, and no more -- the trash has to go somewhere else. My design for reuse was a condition for expansion, allowing this landfill to double its size... another sixty acres. This would extend the landfill's life a dozen years.

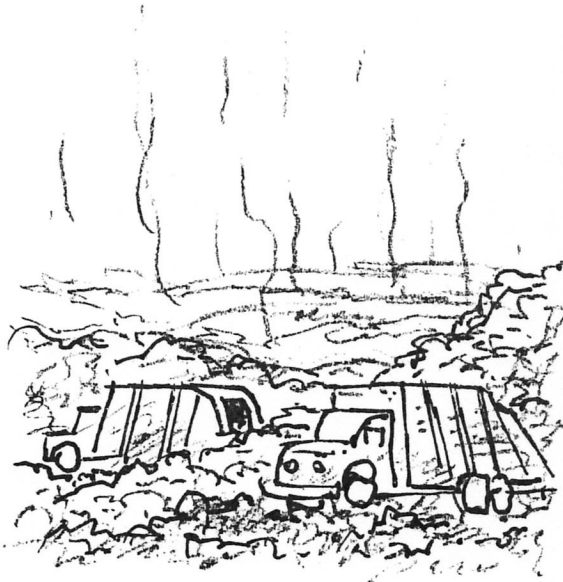
Tons of trash are deposited in landfills like this every day of the year. I know of two landfills just like it -- one in Solon and another just down the road at the north boundary of Twinsburg, right along Tinkers Creek (perhaps you'll want to take a Sunday drive?). This is what happens to your trash. Mine too. It's the major reason I recycle. How about you? I notice a lot of people don't, which I understand, because it takes effort to get into the habit... at least until you find yourself standing on

top of a sixty acre landfill, contemplating, and smelling, tons of trash. Until you do, out of sight, out of mind; but believe me, someone else out there lives downwind of the landfill where our trash goes. We produce the trash. They take the consequences.

I've found a system that makes recycling fairly easy for me: I attached three hooks on the wall going down to the basement. From each hook, I hang one of those blue plastic bags from the grocery store. I use one each for cans, glass, and plastics (the city doesn't require you to separate these, but I find it easier to). At this

point in time the city of Cleveland Heights recycles only a fraction of what can be recycled... not ideal, but a beginning. Yes, I won't kid you... it does involve effort, but as I see it, you and I have a personal responsibility -- to our city, to comply with its request to recycle; to those residents living near landfills, to limit our throw-away habits; and to our planet, to create as few landfills as we possibly can. What you do does make a difference. Please recycle.

Elsa Johnson



# COVENTRY NEIGHBORS WORKS FOR YOU!

**COVENTRY NEIGHBORS** is a community based organization formed to represent the interests of residents of the Coventry Neighborhood.

We meet once a month at the Coventry Library (second Tuesday at 7:45 P.M.).

We publish a newsletter six times a year and... we have *really cool* T-shirts!



**JOIN OUR  
COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORS!**



NEED  
MORE  
INFO  
BEFORE  
YOU  
COMMIT?  
CALL ME:  
JEFF DROSS,  
PRESIDENT,  
COVENTRY  
NEIGHBORS  
321 -0206

**Yes!** I WANT TO BE A COVENTRY NEIGHBOR.

**PLEASE SEND:**

- INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP ..... \$7.50
- FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ..... \$10.00
- SENIORS MEMBERSHIP ..... \$5.00
- THE COOL T-SHIRT ..... \$15.00
- THE COMBO PACK —T-SHIRT & MEMBERSHIP ..... \$20.00

Specify:       Black      or       Gray

All memberships come with a subscription to The Coventry Village News.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

NO! Sorry I can't join. I'm too busy watching "Wings" on Tuesday evenings.

**MEMBERSHIP HAS  
ITS BENEFITS!**

**MAIL YOUR RESPONSE TO : BOB KLEMENC**  
c/o COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, ~~COVENTRY NEIGHBORS~~  
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44118

## From The President's Pen

One of the reasons I hesitated to accept a nomination as president of Coventry Neighbors Inc. was the new demand of my job requiring me to travel to the far east twice a year. I knew I would most likely be traveling and working during the April and October meetings. I didn't want to agree and then disappoint the membership. It was suggested that my absence was not a problem. One of the board members would gladly take over. This may ultimately prove to be a blessing in disguise. As with any group, fresh ideas are the lifeblood for progress.



A year ago I made my first business trip to China. My job is to guide this burgeoning manufacturing group toward the product excellence Americans expect. For the last eight years, my boss had taken these trips,

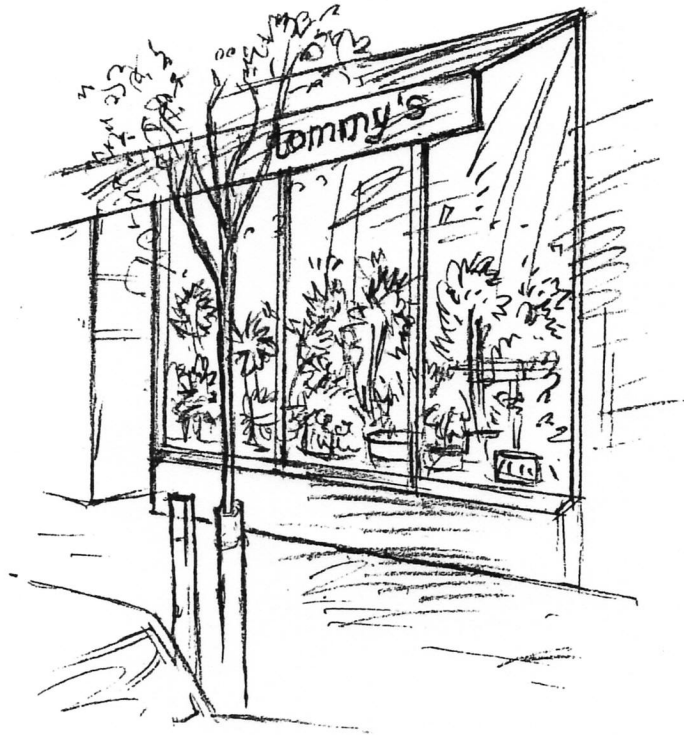
now it was time for a new approach. I had a very successful trip. I was able to accomplish much of what I hoped. As I prepare for subsequent visits, my expectations are decidedly lower. The realities of my first trip have taken effect. I know first-hand what can realistically be achieved. But what would be the impact if I did not go? What would happen if I (or one of my colleagues) did not shepherd these factories along a right path? What is the impact when personal involvement disappears?

Continually attending meetings of Coventry Neighbors may bring the same feelings of anxiety. Nothing gets accomplished, what's the point, all we ever do is... In fact there is value, perhaps not whistle blowing announcements, but value nonetheless. Coventry is a vibrant area and has remained as such for a long period of time because citizens have continually been involved in this organization for over twenty-five years. Some meetings have had only six attendees, others are well attended with good dialogues bouncing around the room. The level of attendance often dictates the path of discussion. Most of the neighborhood's problems and solutions are not going to start a war. Usually answers are the result of a few heads working together.

For the last few months, during the Coventry library renovation our meetings have been held in the upper loft room at Tommy's Restaurant. Because of the change of venue along with the harsh winter, attendance has been somewhat low. This has resulted in a more intimate atmosphere for discussions. It has allowed us to review the charter of our organization, its mission statement and boundaries. We have been able to plan for a series of fundraising projects and we've discussed the future of "Coventry Gardens" (the nice place renovation at the corner of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard) in light of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's interceptor project. From the outside, these do not sound like the do-or-die issues with which Coventry Neighbors has previously been involved. They are simply the by-product of people doing their best, not breaking ground, but doing the bull work of community involvement.

In April, I went back to China and visited our suppliers in the Philippines. I answered questions, made suggestions, listened and taught their anxious vendors how to do the best work they can. When I returned, there was no parade, the president of the company did not call with congratulatory comments. The satisfaction is in a well done job. In May, I'll again join you at the Coventry library for our monthly meeting. Perhaps some of you will return after having missed the winter's sessions. We'll work together in our small way to make Coventry a better community. The Sun Newspaper or Newscenter 8 will not report on our success. The satisfaction must be in the doing.

Jeffrey R. Dross



## Thank You Tommy

Coventry Neighbors has almost always held their meeting in the conference room at the Coventry Library, so when the library told us we could not use that space while it undergoes renovation we were at a loss what to do. The city offered a room at city hall but we eventually decided that that was too far from our neighborhood. Tommy's came to our rescue. They allowed us to use their loft space at the restaurant (and in the neighborhood). The library has informed us that we can return there in May, so we held our last meeting in Tommy's cozy loft in April.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. surely appreciates Tommy Fello's gracious hospitality as most everyone appreciates his commitment to our neighborhood. Why not stop by and thank him for his community concern -- and have a milk shake and broccoli risso while you're there!

## Anniversary Parade

Cleveland Heights is 75 years old and they're throwing a year long party culminating in an anniversary parade and picnic Sunday, September 8, 1996. At the March meeting of Coventry Neighbors Inc. we agreed to participate in the parade, and we now need to know if anyone is interested in helping. If enough people volunteer we will build a float. If a smaller group is interested, we will still participate, most likely with a banner(s).

If you have any interest in lending a hand, please call Jerry Friedman at 371-5557.



## News from the Street

A new look is in the planning stage for the little "park" in front of Arabica. The plastic tables and chairs will be replaced with non-stealable wooden ones. Some of the tables will incorporate game boards.

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A new park is being developed on the land at the north-east corner of Kenilworth and Euclid Heights Boulevard.

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Captain Tony will have a take-out pizzeria where Condomnation used to be.

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Chubby's, a mostly takeout place for cornedbeef sandwiches is new on the corner of Mayfield and Coventry.

## First Family Concert

Our first Family Concert will be held Sunday afternoon June 9 at 2:30. Co-Sponsored, this first time, by St. Albans/Ner Tamid, the concert is to raise funds to make landscape improvements to the public end of the school grounds ("A Nice Place"; as part of the school grounds master plan). The first of a series, the concert will be a cross cultural mix of music, story telling, dancing, and performance, of interest for all age groups, interests, and cultural communities. Cost will be kept reasonable, so a whole family can attend. Refreshments will be sold during intermission. Mark this on your calendar. Look for posters and announcements as we get closer to the event. Bring grandparents and kids. It's going to be fun.

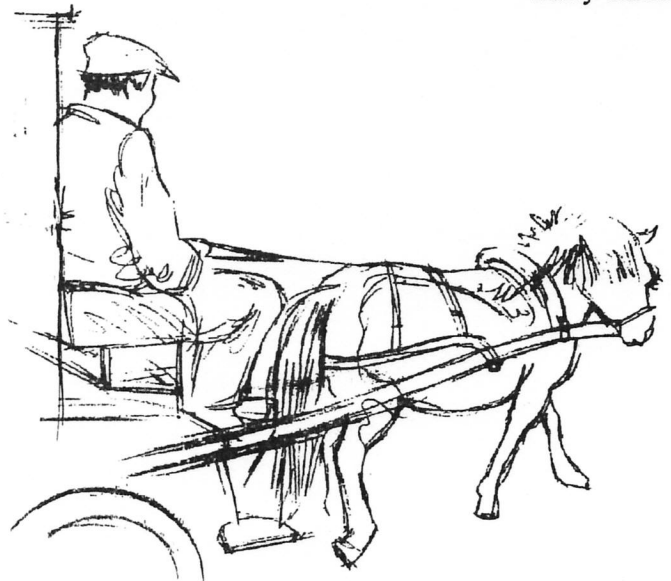
## Meet a Coventry Neighbor

Meet Harold Smith to whom I deliver Meals on Wheels every Monday at noon. He will be 98 years old come June 30th and he is always in good cheer. I asked him to write his own story, which he did in very clear handwriting:

"I was born June 30th 1898 in Joplin Mo. There were no sewer connections, and the water man came by twice a week to fill two 100 gallon wooden barrels, I thin it was 25 cents a barrel. Also twice a week a man would come and cut ice off Turkey Creek and store it in his ice house. He made ice deliveries in the summer and I worked on the ice wagon. I graduated in 1918 right after World War I. I went to night school for two years and studied accounting. I then went to work at the Newman Dry Good Store. Shoes were \$2.50 to \$5.00. Later, in the twenties I was assistant bookkeeper at the Old Thomas Fruit Company. Then I sold life insurance for 36 years. I was married June 1, 1930. We had a son, who is now a doctor at Metro General Hospital. I have four grandchildren, two of whom are now serving their residency, and I also have two great grandchildren. My darling wife died in 1989 after 58 years of marriage bliss."

Harold Smith came to Cleveland in 1986. Life is quieter now. His son Dr. Dennis Smith and another Edgehill neighbor, Dr. Douglas Caston meet at his house nearly every morning to have coffee with him. "It helps" he said, "I am not what I used to be." Well, who is?

Harry Cameron



Coventry Village News is published by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. The newsletter is distributed free throughout Coventry Village. Mailed subscriptions are available. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:40 p.m. at the Coventry Village Library, Euclid Heights Blvd. & Coventry Rd.

When you join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. you can be sure of having a voice in shaping your neighborhood's future. Membership includes a subscription to the Coventry Village News.

**Editor:** Bruce Biddle

**Editorial Board:** Jeff Dross, Elsa Johnson, Bob Klemenc

**How to reach us:** You may contact us by mail at:

Coventry Neighbors Inc. or Coventry Village News  
c/o Jeff Dross, President c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor

Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118 Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

Individual \$7.50  Family \$10  Senior Citizen \$5

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

CNI needs street representatives to communicate with the local neighborhoods and assist with the delivery of the newsletter.  YES, I would like to assist CNI by becoming a CNI representative for my street.

Please return this form with your check to:

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.  
C/O Bob Klemenc  
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118

Mark Your Calendar...

- \* **May 14, 1996**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, at the Coventry Library.  
NEORSD Information session  
**June 9, 1996**  
CNI Family Concert at St. Albans/Ner Tamid  
**June 11, 1996**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Coventry Library
- \* *Newsletter Publication Month*

## Coventry Village News

c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor

Cleveland Heights, OH 44118