



Coventry Village News

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS

April/May, 1975

Volume III, No. 4

Business Meeting - Monday, May 12
8:00 P.M.

NEW ORDINANCE AFFECTS ALL BICYCLE OWNERS

AGENDA

- Opening Remarks
- Secretary & Treasurer's Reports
- Routine reports--government, schools, etc.
- Special reports:
 - Square Dance Party
 - Cain Park "event"
 - "Housing Inspection"
 - Truck. Garaging ordinance-Lucille Huston
- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

A newsletter work session will follow the meeting. This will be a brief but important planning session for the next issue of the "News".

GARDENING FOR THE ELDERLY

City Council is arranging with the Board of Education to permit citizens over 60 to maintain their own vegetable gardens in school plots that used to be used for a (since discontinued) student gardening project. Transportation is to be provided. Call the Office on Aging at 321-0100.

SECOND ANNUAL COVENTRY FESTIVAL

The '75 Coventry Festival is coming up on the 21st and 22nd of June. Anyone interested in helping with the planning of Coventry Neighbors particular part of the festival, plan to attend our Monday night meeting. There will be a short work session for those interested after the business meeting is adjourned.

The following advice has been received from the Traffic Bureau of Cleveland Heights:

TO ALL BICYCLE OPERATORS OPERATING WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS. In the interest of furthering Bicycle Safety and reducing bicycle thefts in Cleveland Heights a strict enforcement of the City Bicycle Ordinance will begin on May 1, 1975.

All bicycles must be registered by appearing at the Finance Department, City Hall, Second Floor, 2953 Mayfield Road on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. A \$2.00 registration fee will be charged. This is a Life-Time Registration for as long as the bicycle remains in the owner's name. License registrations are non-transferable to a new owner outside the family.

Starting May 1, 1975, bicycles found in violation of registration (license) regulations will be impounded by the Division of Police until such time as the owner does register same. A \$15.00 Impounding Fee will be charged in addition to the \$2.00 Registration Fee.

Also beginning on May 1, 1975, the traffic rules and regulations will be strictly enforced. All Juvenile Violators will be certified to the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Traffic Court and Adult Violators will be cited for appearance in the Cleveland Heights Municipal Traffic Court.

We urge all cyclists to familiarize themselves with the Traffic Laws pertaining to the operation of bicycles upon City Streets.

The City of Cleveland Heights Bicycle Ordinance states that: "Any bicycle impounded may be sold at Public Auction if unclaimed for a period of 30 days after such bicycle was impounded."

"KEEP ON TRUCKIN'"

The latest version of the truck garaging ordinance goes before the City Planning Commission on Wednesday, May 14. This is a law that would permit panel trucks to be garaged in Cleveland Heights (now forbidden) when the garage completely encloses the truck, when there is a need demonstrated in terms of the owner's job, and when another vehicle is not thereby displaced from the garage.

Support for this is on the basis that there are residents of Cleveland Heights who are in the mechanical trades and need panel trucks for business, and that the outdoor parking lots are unsafe and inconvenient. One such person points out that that his truck holds thousands of dollars worth of specialized tools, just begging to be ripped off if it's left outside overnight. Another says he loses five working hours a week battling traffic between his home and the lot he uses, in addition to the time normally needed to get to a job.

There's an equity question here, too: Plenty of well-to-do Cleveland Heights residents own campers and motor homes. These vehicles are identical in wheelbase and frame to the type in question, or larger; but they are licit, while the trucks are forbidden. And a note of absurdity creeps in: One truck owner has a garage that can hold his truck but cannot close over his car, which is longer and has more chrome gingerbread. But the car is legal, while the truck is not!

To my knowledge there are a few arguments against the change that don't just boil down to not wanting plumbers' or roofers' trucks next door. One is that such trucks are "working vehicles" rather than pure transit, and thus are exposed to rough environments that will deteriorate them faster. Another concern is that a sign on the side of a truck parked in its home driveway circumvents the regulations against signs on homes used as a place of business. All of this is swept together with a lot of less rigorous considerations in the formulation that the proposed change would "lower standards".

Taking the second item first, you don't have to garage a truck overnight in order to use its panel lettering to circumvent the sign law. Permission to garage might facilitate a truck owner somewhat in pulling this number, but prohibiting garaging wouldn't prevent the caper. (The editor's interpretation of garaging is "in the garage", and who sees the lettering there. I assume it would still be just as illegal to park the truck in the driveway as it now is. ed.)

To take the first notion (deterioration) seriously, you have to assume that the worst abuses possible within the letter of the law will occur with trucks, in a way that you don't assume it for other vehicles. What keeps the average resident from letting a car deteriorate beyond the community standard of decrepitude? Pride. Convenience. Gas bills. Peer opinion. All the social and economic pressures that are the real regulators of society, in that without them all the Divisions of the City of Cleveland Heights wouldn't mean diddly-bump toward "maintaining standards". On what basis do we assume that truck owners are immune to those regulators? In fact, they are subject to one more: a scruffy truck does not invite repeat business.

Sufficient deterioration of a vehicle eventually comes up against the law, as does violation of any of the conditions of garaging. It's been suggested that the enforcement staff would find it difficult to proceed on that basis. The logic of this doesn't mesh: it claims greater difficulty in policing overt breaches of public order--like a noisy muffler, or a car parked overnight in the drive of a home registered to garage a truck--than in policing arbitrary prohibitions whose enforcement requires you to snoop into people's garages. Maybe the City just demands too much of the (present) staff.

NEIGHTS MULTI-MEDIA SHOWCASE

FRIDAY
APRIL 11

ART



INVITATIONAL SHOW
Continuous display of works from Cleveland area artists. Painting, sculpture, weaving, pottery.

PHOTO



CAMERA STUDIES
Continuous display of works from selected area photographers. On sale all weekend.

7:30 P.M.



CHAMBER OPERAS
Gustav Holst's *Savitri* stars Anna Speck, soprano, in a folk tale of India; also Alice Wilder's family fun opera *Sunday Excursion*. Opus 1 conducted by E. Higgins; staged by Tim Tawcer.

9:30 P.M.



B.I.T.E.
Bezeke Improvisational Theater Ensemble, Cleveland's zany new improv group uses audience suggestions in their comedy routines.

SATURDAY
APRIL 12

2:00 P.M.



SNOW WHITE
Kathy Piper's Puppets present fully staged production of the fairy tale with half size six marionettes. Fun for children of all ages.

4:00 P.M.



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7:30 P.M.



LEGGIERO BAROQUE ENSEMBLE
Baroque music featuring George Leggett, recorder player (member of Cleveland Baroque Soloists).

9:30 P.M.



ENOGAME
Samuel Beckett's one act play about the end of the world. Stars Tim Tawcer and Pat Solomon. Produced by Elliott Higgins and Tim Tawcer. Neo-Maoist/centric Ensemble.

SUNDAY
APRIL 13

2:00 P.M.



THE DANCING RHYMES
Cleveland Modern Dance Association and Ohio Arts Council present pantomime at its best. Show features snake charmer at the Bazaar. Directed by Miriam McCollom.

4:00 P.M.



L'HISTOIRE DU SOLDAT
Stravinsky's multi-media work about a soldier, a princess and the devil. Narrated by Tim Tawcer and WCLV's Albert Petrak. Opus 1 Chamber Orchestra directed by Elliott Higgins.

7:30 P.M.



CLEVELAND JAZZ WORKSHOP
That Big Band sound that everyone loves. Full stage band directed by Norm Davis.

9:30 P.M.



FILMS OF RICHARD MYERS
Art films by international award-winner, Richard Myers. *Deathdyes*, filmed in Cleveland, and *37-73*, a Cleveland premiere. For mature audiences.

An entire weekend of exciting and different creative events by rising professional talent on the Cleveland cultural scene. All at the Unitarian Society of Cleveland, 2728 Lancashire Rd. in the heart of Cleveland Heights' Coventry Village. Ten shows, plus continuous displays of art and photography. Snack bar open all weekend. Elliott Higgins, Artistic Director and Producer.

As primary Showcase sponsor, The Unitarian Society of Cleveland seeks community involvement and growth through use of its convenient building as a center for educational, religious and arts activities.

TICKETS: Weekend Ticket - 10 admissions in any combination (purchased before the event) weekend ticket \$10

Single Admissions - at the door 15 min. before the event

adults	\$2
children	\$1

ON SALE AT: Unitarian Society of Cleveland, 2728 Lancashire Rd.
MWF - 9 to 1
Cleveland Modern Dance Association, 3736 Lee Rd.
M-S - 10 to 5

PHONE ORDERS: Call 932-1898 or 333-2686

To be sure, the garaging prohibition may prevent some abuses, but it does so quite ineffectively and only by outlawing a much wider scope of activity. It's like applying the roomer permit law to apartments: By making a whole arbitrary range of activity illegal, you outlaw a small, equally arbitrary fraction of the abuses you claim to be going after. Not unlike a drug that has a hideous side effect and only occasionally cures the illness.

That's not regulation; that's voodoo!

dave burwasser

ORCHESTRA COMMITTEE SPONSORS FUND RAISER

On Saturday & Sunday, May 31 and June 1, the Junior Committee of the Cleveland Orchestra will host "ART & ANTIQUES II" at the Cleveland Heights Pavillion at Superior and Mayfield Roads. An outstanding collection of fine art and antiques will be offered for sale. Donation is \$1.50 (children under 12 free). A special Preview will be held on Friday, May 30 from 6 to 10 P.M. Donation for the preview is \$7.50 per person. Hours on Saturday and Sunday will be 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

LIBRARY BOARD RESPONDS

Coventry Neighbors has received a reply to its letter to the C.H./U.H Library Board of Trustees. It said, in brief,

- 1) our concern is important
- 2) the Board has repeatedly emphasized their (sic) commitment to continue library service
- 3) "completion" of the main library was envisioned long before changes were planned at Coventry
- 4) while alternatives are being considered regarding the future location of Coventry Library service, no decision will be made about this in 1975.

COUNCILMANIC DEPRESSIVE

dave burwasser

The roomer-permit protest resulted, on April 28, in a public meeting of the Planning & Development Committee of Council. (For those of you who joined us late, the roomer permit law of the Zoning Code provides that if more than one unrelated person live together, one is the "family" and the other(s) "roomer(s)". There is a requirement that a roomer permit be obtained at \$10 per year, and a limit of no more than two roomers--that is, no more than three unrelated persons--live in any household.) The hearing was on the definition of "family" rather than on the permit law itself, because that is the direction from which the committee chose to approach the question. The definition is rather narrow, and provides that one individual may be regarded as a "family". The hearing itself was well reported in the succeeding issue of the Sun Press, from which you may get details and an overall recap of events.

The most(perhaps only) creative suggestion of the evening came from Al Yanda, the City Planner. He proposed that the family definition be expanded to include two unrelated persons living together, and to include all blood relatives. This would allow two-person households from being bothered by the permit hassle, and allow four-person households to exist (although they would have to get permits) on the basis of two of them as "family" and the other as "roomers".

This is not what the Council was asked to do by the folks who raised the issue in first place; they asked for a specific rewrite of the permit law, or alternately, of the family definition, as applied to multi-family (apartment) districts only. This

Councilmanic depressive--continued

the committee declined to do with the backing of the Law Director, because it would constitute discrimination against people in single-family areas to treat multi-family specially

At the cost of disputing people whose election I supported (and expect to do again) I must say that this logic is coo-coo. Lu Huston (chair) began her deliberations by citing the ruling Supreme Court decision, Belle Terre, to the effect that discrimination against single persons and households of the unrelated (issues raised in the protest and in a lawsuit filed against the city) is Constitutional, as long as it singles out no subset of the community. If the one is permissible discrimination, why not the other? Especially since the Zoning Code contains whole chapters that do nothing but discriminate among different types of housing districts of which there are about six!

I think the problem is lack of precedent, not propriety. If nobody else can be found to have done it this way, Cleveland Heights ain't gonna be first. Not without reason, it's very nice to have your viewpoint upheld by the Supreme Court but even nicer when somebody else shells out the legal fees to go that route

(OK--if we are going to treat all of Cleveland Heights the same way, let's make an obvious deduction: There is NO basis for opposing single-family interior housing inspection on "privacy" grounds as long as the interiors of apartments are being inspected!)

The City staff made two points about the family definition that must be grasped in order to understand those reluctant to change in this area. They both relate to the assertion--made in connection with this issue--that the City already has a population density control in the Housing Code, and that the family restriction is a mere social control.

Point one: If the entire city were populated up to the limit set in the Housing Code its population would be doubled. The family definition is defended on people-density grounds. (However, some nuclear families are at the limit and upping the pure density standard would evict them.) Point two: Any given situation can under law be appealed to the Board of Zoning Appeals, which is represented as giving reasonable allowances where there is no actual problem with overcrowding. (Note that parking space is a criterion the Board must look at.) Whether you buy these points depends on whether you share the staff's view of (1) population facts and (2) what is reasonable in a zoning decision. To doubt them is a personal choice; to dispute them takes more homework.

So there it stands for now. The limits on what we can expect in the way of relief are clear, and I believe that Al Yanda's suggestion is the best we can hope for within those limits. I sent off a draft revision of the statute to Council and staff on my own hook, and so did at least one other citizen. We'll see what happens.

db

MEETING SCHEDULES - ALL ARE WELCOME

Coventry Neighbors regular monthly business meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road, at 8:00 P.M. All Coventry area residents and anyone else interested in our activities are welcome to attend and to participate. We are always eager to have new input and to learn of concerns of area residents. Frequently we also have Program Meetings at which we have an invited speaker or discussion leader, film or panel bringing information of interest to our members and community residents. These are scheduled at various times and are publicized through our newsletter. Remember business meetings are always on the second Monday of the month. Hope to see you there.

RENT-A-KID

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Tired of carrying those groceries up three flights of stairs after you have walked five blocks to the store? RENT-A-KID to do your grocery shopping and bring them home.

Spring housecleaning is here - need someone to vacuum your draperies, or take them down for cleaning? Want long arms to reach those cobwebs, climb up on ladders, clean and repaper those top shelves? Is there wax buildup in your corners? Maybe the floor needs a new coat of paste wax and polishing? Wherever you need an extra pair of arms and youthful energy and elasticity - RENT-A-KID.

Do you need to get the winter salt off your car? Do you need to repot your houseplants? Do you need your dog walked or his mess cleaned off the lawn? Need painting done in your apartment or house? Tired of that high grass, stubborn hedges, tuff trimming, or funny flowers?

We're out of questions so what do you think you need help with around your apartment or house?

RENT-A-KID from the Roxboro and Wiley Junior High School districts can get those spring and summer chores done. Get to know the junior high students in our area and see what really good workers they are. They can help you and you will be helping the economic situation of the kids in this area.

CALL RENT-A-KID (SOUTH) -- CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2420 SOUTH TAYLOR ROAD
371-9287 (WEEK DAYS ONLY)

PROGRAM BEGINS APRIL 17: 1 - 3:00 PM Adults call or stop by for help
3- 4:30 PM Kids call or stop by for jobs.

RENT-A-KID is sponsored by the HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS with the cooperation of CANTERBURY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, FAIRFAX COMMUNITY COUNCIL, TAYLOR NEIGHBORS, COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, ROXBORO AND WILEY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS, HUMAN RELATIONS PROGRAM (TITLE VII), CLEVELAND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.