



Coventry Village News

APRIL, 1980

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL. VI No. 4

COVENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOPS TO MEET IN APRIL, MAY

As Coventry Neighbors, Inc. meeting goes and Coventry Village News readers know, our monthly meetings usually consist of various committee and observer reports, short presentations by private and public lobbying units, and the "new business" portion of the meeting. The meetings are always well punctuated by enthusiastic audience participation, though limited to the above-mentioned agenda topics.

A number of CNI members have expressed to me the desire for CNI to take on new responsibilities and commitments. One obstacle seems to be that the meetings are limited by the desire to end by 10-10:30 PM, attendance and interest begin to lag around 9:15 - during the crucial "new business" section - and a normally massive agenda squeezed into a once-a-month three hour meeting leaves precious little time for free-wheeling discussion.

Since 80% of our present activities occur at the regular monthly meetings and the other 20% are usually conducted between meetings by the trustees, we would like to encourage more neighbors to take an active part in CNI activities.

We are going to begin a series of informal meetings that will be held in each corner of the Coventry neighborhood. These "priority workshops" will be a chance for non-members and non-active members to exchange ideas with one another and with those who are presently active. In other words, a chance for everyone who is interested and concerned about the future of Coventry Village to talk. We will identify problems and potential areas of CNI involvement at these meetings and progress rapidly to deciding our course of action.

The meetings will begin promptly at 7:30 PM and the dates and locations are as follow:

Wednesday, April 16, at the home of Bruce Hennes, 2910 Hampshire Road,
Wednesday, April 23, at the Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road,
Wednesday, April 30, at the home of David Burwasser, 1621 Eddington Road,
Thursday, May 8, at the home of Barbara Orban, 2816 Berkshire Road.

If you can't attend the meeting in your neighborhood, feel free to go to any of the others.

I look forward to meeting with you.

-- Bruce Hennes, Trustee, CNI
Workshop Coordinator

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:REPLY ON THE TURTLE

I would like to respond to David Burwasser's article "Save The Turtle?" There is a tone in the article that suggests there is a monolithic, negative force, known sinisterly as "City Hall," which creates policies and makes decisions which invariably are against the will of the people. Speaking for the Parks and Recreation Department, nothing could be further from the truth.

Resolution 24-1978 is a City Council statement of philosophy, objectives and goals, and policy with regard to the recreational and leisure-time programs of the City of Cleveland Heights. In the policy section, number 3 states, "The highest quality leisure time program possible will be offered. This shall include professional, skilled, responsive staff; safe, attractive, well-planned, and maintained facilities and good grade materials and equipment." When the CDBG funds became available for playgrounds, we viewed it as an opportunity to upgrade the tot lots so as to fit the description above.

The plans were not developed in secrecy nor was our intention to do anything against the will of the people. We wanted to create a well-planned and safe play environment. Please notice that I am not using, nor have we ever used the term "risk free." "Safe" is the word used and I believe we owe it to our children to provide them with facilities that are challenging, fun, and safe.

I do not think the sandbox is as safe as it should be with the concrete turtle in it. However, when it became apparent that there was a great deal of interest in having the turtle remain, we changed our plans. Please note that it did not take residents marching on the playgrounds in protest or angry letters to the editor to accomplish this.

For residents interested in having some in-put into future recreation planning, I suggest that you attend the meetings of the Cleveland Heights Recreation Advisory Board. You are also invited to stop by our office and visit with the "bureaucrats" if you have some questions or reflections on recreation in Cleveland Heights.

-- Spencer Caress, Superintendent
Parks & Recreation,
City of Cleveland Heights.

A HOME FOR THE TURTLE?

I was walking home with my mother and she told me they were talking about taking the turtle out of the park. We stopped and looked at the turtle and I felt sad. I told her if they take it out they could give it to me.

I hope they leave the turtle for the little kids to play on and under it.

I love turtles and have nearly 50 of them. There are candles and jewelry and pewter and stone statues, plaques, embroidered and needlepoint pictures and stuffed turtles.

If the turtle has to leave the park, it can find a home with other turtles at my house.

-- Gwynn Young, Age 11
2504 Kenilworth
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

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COVENTRY STREET FAIR SET FOR JULY 12 & 13

Pending City approval, the 1980 Coventry Street Fair will be held on Saturday, July 12 and Sunday July 13th. The traditional hours for the Fair, 6 PM to 11 PM, Saturday and 1 PM to 7 PM Sunday, will remain the same.

Coventry Neighbors Inc., through its Street Fair Committee, has requested a public hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals on the evening of May 21 to seek a required conditional use permit. The issuance of that permit and its ratification by City Council allow CNI to close Coventry Road and conduct the Street Fair.

At the first meeting of the Street Fair Committee, the following group of wizened veterans and eager newcomers volunteered to be responsible for most of the functions described in last month's Coventry Village News:

Booth Allocation: Joan Jordan	Music: Abby Linhart
City Liaison: Larry Beam	Publicity: Bruce Hennes
Crafts: Kathy Cerveny	Sanitation: (open)
Finance: Charles Owen	Technical Support: (open)
Legal Support: Tom Lee	Traffic & Safety: Diane Bersnak
Merchant Liaison: Ellen Strong	

~~The Committee will next meet at 7 PM on April 3rd, at the home of Bruce and Lonnie Hennes, 2910 Hampshire (Hampshire & Wilton), and all are invited.~~

Anyone seeking further information regarding the Fair should call one of the following numbers as appropriate:

General Information: F. David Gill	321-4735
Booth Space: Joan Jordan	371-1232
Crafts: Kathy Cerveny	249-9132
Music: Abby Linhart	921-5404

-- F. David Gill, Chair
Coventry Street Fair Committee

ARCHITECT, LIBRARY OFFICIALS TO SPEAK AT APRIL C.N.I. MEETING

At the invitation of the membership, two key officials of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public library system will address the Coventry Neighbors, Inc. meeting of Tuesday, April 8, 1980. Alice Fredman, a member of the Board of Library Trustees, is chair of the Building and Grounds Committee of that Board. She is also a Past President of the Board. Rachel Nelson, as Library Director, holds a position in the public library system parallel to that of the City Manager and the Superintendent of Schools. They will share with us their hopes and plans for library service in the community.

Architect Philmore Hart will present the Cleveland Heights Community Improvement Award Slide Show, ~~an excellent program that should not be missed. Hart is~~ one of the architect-design team who will be drawing up facade standards for Coventry. He will be accompanied by Terry McGowan, whom we all remember for his presentation on the high pressure sodium street lights at our January meeting.

COVENTRY VILLAGE LIBRARY NEWS

By

Debby Graves, Branch Librarian

The month of April will be very busy at the Coventry Village Library. The New Decade Players will plan, rehearse and perform a play between April 1st and April 12th. Children grades 3 - 7 interested in acting are welcome to join us in a play called "The Runaway Bookmobile."

Young Audiences will present classical guitarist, Andrej Mentschukoff at Coventry Village Library twice on April 13th. The first performance will be at 3:00 and the second at 3:45. The program is intended for children in elementary school. Tickets available April 1.

A Poetry Reading will take place April 13 at 2:00, with David Hall and Tim Cahalan.

Book discussion group topic on April 14, 7:00 PM will be "The Culture of Narcissism," by Christopher Lasch. Copies are available at the Coventry Village Library. We hope some Coventry neighbors will join us.

Let's go fly a kite with Emily and Pat on April 26th, Saturday at 2 PM, for kids of all ages. Pat and Emily McCarty have become highly involved with kite flying since Pat's trip to Florida.

The Coventry Village Library will be closed Easter Sunday, April 6th.

*** h e l p ? ***

The Coventry Village Library's Card Catalogue needs your help. If you have a couple of hours to give for the improvement of the future of Coventry Village Library, we can use your help in pulling shelf-list cards and their catalogue cards. We'll stamp them and refile them. When we are finished, cards without books will be pulled. By the time we move into a renovated Coventry Village Library we hope to have a renovated card catalogue.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BACKS C.N.I. SELF HELP APPLICATION

The Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation has given its backing to the Coventry Neighbors, Inc., Neighborhood Self-Help application now being processed by HUD. At its March 20, 1980 meeting the LDC adopted the following:

RESOLVED: The Local Development Corporation, having been presented with the outline of the Coventry Neighbors, Incorporated, Self-Help Grant application, supports that application and urges the Department of Housing and Urban Development to grant the request.

LIBRARY BOARD SIGNS PURCHASE AGREEMENT
(BUT THE BATTLE IS NOT YET WON)

On Monday, March 17, the CH-UH Library Board signed the purchase agreement to buy back the Coventry Branch building from Fairmount Center. The agreement is conditional on the provision of zoning change, parking variances, and \$72,000 in block grant funds being held by CH City Council for possible use in rehabilitating the historic building. (The block grant funds had been requested by the Library Board in 1979 when a new Coventry Library was being considered in the proposed CoventryYard.)

Because of a delay in the Fairmount Center Board's signing of the purchase agreement, the original schedule of hearings before the various boards and councils had to be rescheduled as follows:

- April 9 - City Planning Commission discussion and decision on re-zoning the land to AAA public use category.
- April 16 - Board of Zoning Appeals preliminary discussion of parking variance.
- April 21 - City Council decides on approval of re-zoning - to be effective in 30 days.
- May 21 - Board of Zoning Appeals public hearing and decision on parking variance.
- June 2 - City Council decides to approve or not approve parking variance decision.

No date has been set for City Council's discussion or decision about the Block Grant Funds. The closing date on the purchase agreement is June 1, 1980. Mrs. Butler, Library Board president, hoped that an extension of the deadline would not be necessary.

When the purchase agreement was signed, carnations were presented to each Board member by the "Citizens for a Full Service Library at Coventry." Rumor has it that champagne will be on hand if and when the purchase is actually closed. Any citizen interested in partaking in the champagne celebration are advised to start writing letters to the above mentioned boards and city council members urging a speedy and successful conclusion of all decisions necessary for the completion of the purchase.

-- June C. Wortman

UPPER HAMPSHIRE STENETT ASSOCIATION TO MEET

On Tuesday, March 4th, a large number of Upper Hampshire residents enthusiastically endorsed the forming of a street association. The three basic reasons for forming the group are:

- 1) To get to know the neighbors better;
- 2) To make Upper Hampshire a more attractive place to live; and
- 3) To work as a group on street problems.

The Next Meeting is Tuesday, April 15th, at 2910 Hampshire Road at 7:30 PM.

FLYER BUSES TO STOP IN COVENTRY

At the initiative of F. David Gill, Vice President of CNI, a letter was sent to the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) by Mr. Gill with the backing of CNI, asking that Flyer buses stop at Coventry and Mayfield.

On March 3, 1980, Leonard Ronis, RTA General Manager, sent the following letter to F. David Gill:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 11th requesting that the bust stop at Coventry and Mayfield Roads be made into a Flyer stop.

Please excuse the delay in replying -- I wanted to insure that a very thorough investigation was conducted into this situation.

Following your request, passenger surveys and traffic checks were conducted for the area in question, to determine the feasibility of establishing a Flyer stop at the intersection of Coventry and Mayfield. I am very pleased to report that these studies indicate sufficient potential ridership, in keeping with RTA's criteria for Flyer stops.

As a result, beginning today, March -rd, all Flyer buses will allow passengers to board and alight at Coventry and Mayfield as a regular Flyer stop.

Since RTA is dedicated to providing public transportation that is economical, enjoyable and convenient for all residents of Cuyahoga County, we are very pleased to have been able to comply with the request of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

We appreciate your constructive interest in improving the transit system and welcome your comments and suggestions.

If I may ever be of any service to you, or any of the members of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., please do not hesitate to contact me.

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CLEVELAND EXPRESS REPORTS "OHIO'S ACID RAIN"

The March 1980 issue of THE CLEVELAND EXPRESS, edited by Lee Batdorff, a Coventry resident, and Cindy Barber, carries a front-cover story by Chris Caro on "Ohio's Acid Rain." Acid rain is a form of industrial air pollution deriving from high-sulfer coal and extending far down-wind from the source--across state and national boundaries in the present instance. In my professional capacity I have read quite a bit on Ohio acid rain from national pollution-control and waste-disposal trade journals, but I have never seen so comprehensive a wrap-up in the local media as the EXPRESS story. In my opinion, the CLEVELAND EXPRESS and its long-time alternative-journalist editors deserve praise for this coverage; and the current issue of the EXPRESS deserves your close attention.

-- David Burwasser

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION CHARGED

On January 1, 1980, the Open Housing Task Force of the Heights Community Congress filed an administrative complaint with HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) against Dolores C. Knowlton, Inc., Realtors for housing discrimination. In that complaint it was alleged that Knowlton, Inc., Realtors, between 1976 and 1979, treated blacks and whites who were purchasing a home differently. It was further alleged that the different treatment occurred solely on the basis of race.

It was alleged that Knowlton, Inc., Realtors steered both blacks and whites, made racial remarks, and made negative references to certain neighborhoods.

HUD is sending a team to investigate these allegations. For questions or more information call Heights Community Congress 321-6775.

-- Mary Kay Wojtylak

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: (Continued from page 2)

MORE ON TURTLE PARK

We want to state our opposition to the proposed removal of the turtle from Turtle Park . . . The turtle is a landmark in this neighborhood much beloved by children and adults and in our collective experience (which totals hundreds of hours spent in that park) there has been no serious injury inflicted by the turtle. . . . Although most of the children playing in the park are preschoolers they play under the close supervision of parents, grandparents, babysitters or other adults.

The turtle provides a wonderful opportunity for imaginative play, often evolving from turtle to fort to cave to house to mountain in the course of a single day. It is also frequently the only cool place in the park on a hot July or August day and children often dig out the sand under the turtle and play there. It also provides a rite of passage from babyhood to childhood when a child no longer needs help from an adult to climb to the turtle's back.

We strongly suggest that the turtle remain where it is and that time, energy, money and creative thinking be applied toward maintaining and upgrading the park.

Some specific suggestions include:

- A. Routine trash pick up of the park, not just emptying of the barrel.
- B. Routing checks of equipment.
- C. Prompt repair of equipment (one swing removed for repairs in mid-summer 1979 still has not been returned).
- D. New sand for the sandbox more often than once a year.
- E. Repair, sanding and painting of the benches and swings on an annual basis.
- F. Replacement of the present climbing equipment with well-designed, heavy duty wooden climbing equipment.
- G. Removal of present asphalt surface, especially under the climbing equipment and the slide, and replacement with woodshavings or rubberized playground surface.

Thank you for your consideration.

--Coventry Babysitting Cooperative  
(13 families including 28 children,  
names available upon request)

**NEED HELP  
OBTAINING A  
LOAN TO MAKE**

Check these 3 programs  
for Cleveland Heights  
homeowners...

**HOME  
REPAIRS?**

**CHALLENGE FUND**

LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS  
UNABLE TO OBTAIN CONVENTIONAL FINANCING



**C.L.I.P.**

CHALLENGE FUND LOAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM  
(for low/moderate income residents)  
A LOW COST LOAN PROGRAM

**SHAKER SAVINGS**

LONG TERM LOAN PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS  
62 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

PROGRAMS SPONSORED OR ADMINISTERED BY THE FOREST HILL CHURCH HOUSING CORPORATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PHONE

Diana Woodbridge

**321-3920**

Joanne Bailis

**321-8839**

office located at **3101 Mayfield Road** (at Lee)

please call for appointment



300'S AND BRAVO'S

BRAVO: The Local Development Corporation has joined the Coventry Merchant Association in supporting Coventry Neighbors' Self-Help application (story, p4).

BOO: To commercial landlord LSK Realty for not cleaning up the debris left on the sidewalk after a motorist attempted to create a drive-in window at Coronet Cleaners (Hampshire at Coventry) over a month ago.

BRAVO: To RTA (story, p6).

BRAVO: Conversion of Coventry Village street lamps to a warmer peach color begins on or about April 17th.

BOO: The ambience, food and service is just great at Irv's new restaurant and bar, but all the litter outside is the same Irv's of old.

BRAVO: To Mark Levin, Assistant to the City Manager of Cleveland Heights, for getting CEI to repair a noisy street lamp ballast next to Carroll Drug on lower Hampshire.

BOO: To CEI for ignoring a citizen complaint for two months relative to the abovementioned street lamp ballast.

BRAVO: To the City of Cleveland Heights for making census information available in Russian.

-- Charles Owen

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ODDS 'N ENDS (Continued from page 8)

variance was approved on Ash Wednesday; and, the request for permission to use the mini-park was presented to Council by Boyle on St. Patrick's Day. Councilperson Rapoport observed he had it on good authority that delivery of the structural steel was anticipated by April 1.

It has been reported, many times that the "Generation Gap" is going out of business. Now the signs confirm it. Can it be true?

I'm no artist but I like to "fool around" with charactatures. The other night, at Council meeting I attempted to do a charactature of Councilperson Wright. Strangely enough it came out looking more like Councilperson Blakely.

The next Dobama offering will be "Augustin" a musical based on the life of St. Augustine, by John and Mary Petrone of Cleveland Heights. It will open April 17 and run until May 10. This is the last of the offerings for this year and if it is anywhere as good as the rest of their shows this year it will be a dandy.

Augustin will be followed by the "Kids Playwriting Festival" in June. I understand the judges are already reading scripts for the plays which will take the place of Dobama's traditional "free theater". The winners will play to a benefit on opening night, June 4, then run four more performances which will be open to the public, without charge.

Cleveland Heights LDC has taken over the City's program of paying for removal of commercial projecting signs that owners want taken down. The City is contemplating legislation that would mandate removal of such signs by mid-decade.

-- Bobbie Littell

