



Coventry Village News

June, 1980

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL. VI No. 6

COVENTRY VILLAGE: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By

Charles J. Owen

At the June 10 meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Philmore Hart, William Collins and Mort Epstein of Neighborhood Design 3 will solicit neighborhood perception of the Coventry Village commercial area. In addition, comments and suggestions on the future restoration and renovation of the commercial area will be welcomed.

Neighborhood Design 3 has been hired by the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corp. (LDC), out of Community Development Block Grant funding, to put together a design plan for the commercial area. This plan will eventually include standards for building restorations and streetscapes. The final design plans will not be a collection of "pie in the sky" ideas, but rather will focus on realistic, do-able projects.

Also at the June 10 meeting, a 20-minute, 16 mm motion picture called "Ohio Preservation: Reflections for the Future" will be shown. The film creatively highlights the excitement of the preservation and restoration of Ohio's residential neighborhoods and commercial areas. The film also provides general information on planning and financing preservation projects. The film was made available by the Ohio Preservation Office and the Ohio Historical Society.

*
* WANTED . . . STREET TREE VOLUNTEERS *
* *
* Coventry volunteers are needed to make the massive sacrifice of one hour *
* of time per month in order to help maintain the new little leaf lindēn *
* trees that are soon to be planted in the Coventry Village Commercial area *
* --a gift of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. *
* *
* Young and old are encouraged to volunteer. Experience is not necessary, *
* only a desire to see Coventry and Cleveland Heights green and beautiful. *
* In a short seminar Cleveland Heights City Forester Emerich Szabo will *
* teach volunteers the correct way to care for the trees. *
* *
* Interested persons should contact Charles Owen at 321-1268, or drop a post- *
* card indicating name, address and telephone number to: *
* *
* Charles Owen *
* 2745 Hampshire Road *
* Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106 *
* *

Charles Owen
2745 Hampshire Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

BOOS & BRAVOS

BRAVO: To Record Revolution for their new stained glass windows and flowers.

BOO: To the decrepit condition of the Municipal parking lot next to Coventry Pizza, Beverage and Superette.

BRAVO: Work has started on the new Mayfield Road parking lots.

SUPER BOO: Aging Euclid Heights Blvd. will not be paved this summer after all.

BRAVO: To the duplex landowners on Coventry, Gelmont, Belmar, Eddington, Hillcrest and Avondale who have cut lawns, trimmed hedges and planted flowers to really spruce up the neighborhood.

BOO: To the ones who haven't; their places now stand out like very sore thumbs!

BRAVO: Congratulations to Taylor Elementary School for being chosen one of Greater Cleveland's better elementary schools by the Cleveland Press.

-- Charles J. Owen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:TURTLE PARK IMPROVEMENTS REQUESTED

(The following letter was sent to Mr Spencer Caress, Director of Parks & Recreation for Cleveland Heights, by Ms. D'Arcy Sillars on behalf of herself, twelve other mothers and their twenty-seven children. Names available on request.)

We members of the Coventry Babysitting Coop have several concerns centering on the neighborhood playground, Turtle Park, at Euclid Heights and Hampshire.

First, we would like "Caution Playground" signs installed on Hampshire, Overlook and Euclid Heights Boulevard. Cars speed by the playground on all three streets, often ignoring the stop sign on Hampshire. These signs, we hope, will increase drivers' awareness of the need for caution. None of us would like to see an accident there.

We understand that the new equipment for Turtle Park was to be in "before the season opened." We are anxious that it be installed as soon as possible as there has been continuous use of the park since the snow melted.

We were also told that the cement tunnels will be removed. I wonder where the city paid teenager will get out of the rain this summer? Until now, the tunnels were her only shelter. Also, one of the swings was removed for repairs last summer and has not yet been returned. As this park is heavily utilized, quicker repair and replacement of broken equipment would be appreciated.

Our final concern is about dogs. Could the city rules concerning dogs in the parks be posted so people who use the parks will be aware of what they are? Some users are not Cleveland Heights residents so (Continued on page 4)

COVENTRY PARENT TO SCHOOL BOARD: REVIEW PRIORITIES

By
Joan Farragher

June Wortman, Cadwell resident and past Coventry PTA Co-President, urged the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education at its May 12, 1980 meeting to spend its "found money" on education, not athletics. Mrs. Wortman suggested that the money "found" to restore athletics for one year--about \$100,000--be spent in ways more closely related to education. She outlined two proposals, based on published School Board cost figures.

One approach would be to use the money in a way which affects the most children in the CH-UH system:

Restore librarians to full time	\$70,000
Restore elementary school music	<u>24,000</u>
	\$94,000

The other approach would be to restore where the need is greatest.

Restore elementary remedial reading teachers	\$72,000
Restore two special-education teachers.	<u>28,000</u>
	\$100,000

Other speakers urged retention of elementary school music as a non-fee item; expenditure of all the Board's surplus for present needs, borrowing against anticipated income to cover the annual January cash flow problem; and restoration of the New School program at Heights High.

The Board announced the membership and charge of the new Lay Finance Committee. This year the Committee will look at income from non-government sources; expenses of such restorations as lower pupil-teacher ratios, music, elementary assistant principals and librarians; and the net savings of closing another elementary school assuming busing expenses, no change in pupil-teacher ratio and mothballing of the building.

The Board met in the Wiley Junior High auditorium rather than the Board of Education Building because of the size of the audience.

Note: On May 28, 1980, just prior to CVN press time, the Board of Education voted to restore elementary music. Board members spoke definitively of a November 1980 levy, although no formal action on that has been taken.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: CAN WE AFFORD 55¢ PER DAY?

As citizens of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights community, we must look long and hard at the legacy we are leaving our children. The average tax increase of \$200/year that would have resulted from the 14-mill school levy may seem large, considered in a lump sum. It amounts, however, to less than 55 cents a day. Is it really true that most of the households in this community cannot afford 55 cents a day to maintain and improve educational standards for the (Continued on page 4)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: ContinuedCAN WE AFFORD 55¢ PER DAY? (Continued from page 3)

more than 9,000 children whose public education is our collective responsibility? If a family with three children enrolled in the public schools wants to support a full educational program for those children, it will cost them 18 1/2 cents a day per child. That's less than the cost of a 1-ounce chocolate bar at retail--and the results is far more nourishing.

I think that the voters' lack of confidence in the School Board (and I use the phrase in deliberate understatement) played a large part in the recent levy defeat. Having attended several recent Board meetings, I can certainly understand why. The repeated sniping between Mr Byrne and Mr. Feinberg is inappropriate, immature, and can only hinder the efficient accomplishment of the tasks with which the Board has been charged. Clean up your act, fellows, our children have no time to waste --they can't wait around while you grow up in public.

I suggest that as voters, and as responsible adults, we should resist the temptation to let our feelings about the relative competence of individual Board members influence our decisions on the passage of school levies to this extent: that the time to exercise our convictions about the performance of Board members is when they stand for reelection. The time to see that our children wring as much education out of this school system as they possibly can--is now, by attending Board meetings, voicing our concerns over programs, supporting positive efforts by teachers and administrators, helping our children with their studies, and deciding how much we are willing to pay for the only education the children of this community are going to get.

It has been said by many before me that we live in a relentlessly materialistic society. That must be true, if we are willing to sell out our kids' futures for a measly 55 cents a day. We could be revolutionaries and NOT DO IT!

-- Carla R. Fletcher

TURTLE PARK IMPROVEMENTS REQUESTED (Continued from page 2)

assuming that people know the local laws is not necessarily enough. For instance, are dogs on leashes allowed at the park? What can we do if a loose dog is creating a nuisance at the park? East Cleveland has its section of Forest Hills Park posted --"No Dogs Allowed." I feel that a clearly worded, simple rule should be made and posted in our parks as well such as "Dogs Must Be Leashed" or "No Dogs Allowed."

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

COVENTRY VILLAGE STREET FAIR. . . APPROVED!

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. has been granted permission from the City Manager's office to conduct the 1980 Coventry Village Street Fair the weekend of July 12th and 13th. The issuance of this permit is the latest in a series of events which symbolizes a tremendous spirit of cooperation between City Hall and the Street Fair Committee.

The Street Fair will feature some of the foremost musical and artistic talents in the Midwest, along with a superb variety of edibles. We'll list the specific attractions in forthcoming issues of the Coventry Village News.

Street Fair child care will be managed by Coventry Librarian Debbie Graves, assisted by Kathryn Young; they can use any help available.

If you would like to purchase booth space, or want to perform at the Fair, please call one of the folks listed below. Don't waste any time, though - this is a popular event, and the amount of available space is not infinite.

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
Street Fair Committee Chairman

COVENTRY LIBRARY PLANS SHARED

By

A CVH Staff Reporter

Draft plans for the resurrected Coventry Village Branch Library include two major reading rooms and a front desk area on the first floor, a handicapped ramp leading to an elevator on the ground floor, 22,000 items in the branch collection (including books, records, framed art, films and periodicals) by 1985-88, and a reconstruction budget of \$294,800 including an anticipated \$74,650 of Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) from the City.

These plans were shared with the public at Coventry library on May 10 by members of the Library Board of Trustees, Library Director Rachel Nelson and personnel and members of the Coventry community. Confrontation appears to have faded into common pursuit of shared goals.

At the May 5 session of City Council, a resolution authorizing agreement between the City and the Library Board for use and/or distribution of Fifth Year CDBG funds was put on the table by Councilmember Marjorie Wright, Planning & Development Chair. That resolution (44-1980) is still pending.

Friends of the Library, a citizen support group, has committed a \$25,000 contribution to renovation of the Coventry Branch. Membership in Friends of the Library is open to the general public, and the Coventry area is under-represented in the organization. Details about the organization can be obtained via the Coventry Branch or Main.

Coventry Branch Librarian, Debbie Graves stated at the May 10 meeting that the branch would like to move into its new quarters with a completely validated card catalogue. She is asking for volunteers to help update the cards.

FIRE SAFETY REVIEWED FOR C.N.I.

Lt. Robert Maver of the Cleveland Heights Fire Dept. addressed the May 13 meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. on the subject of the April 14 apartment fire at 2764 Lancashire Road. In response to questions from residents, Lt. Maver reviewed some main points of residential fire safety.

The Building Code requires one smoke detector per dwelling unit (single-family home, duplex suite or apartment unit). This one detector may be less than what's needed, and in any event must be placed strategically for the best effect. Optimally, there should be a detector at the top of every stairwell; both flame and fire move most rapidly from floor to floor via the stairwells. Another consideration is that the detector is a warning device for the occupant, rather than the fire fighters, and should be sited where its warning will be most effective. Hence there should be a detector in each bedroom, as a major threat to life is being overcome by smoke in one's sleep. No detector should be placed in a kitchen; it will be triggered continuously by cooking fumes. Every detector should be of a type that begins to sound intermittantly and uninterruptably when its batteries run low; this makes the household aware that it is no longer protected by smoke detection.

For kitchen fires, a pound of baking soda (NOT baking powder!) in a large coffee can is a handy precaution. More security can be had from a fire extinguisher. Lt. Maver recommended an "ABC Dry Chemical All-Purpose" extinguisher of five to 10 lbs capacity. ABC refers to three categories of fire typical of households. The device should bear the qualifying mark of the Underwriters' Laboratory (UL), Underwriters' Lab of Canada (ULC) or Factory Mutual (FM); the latter two, though less well known than UL, are no less reliable. Capacity of under 5 lbs demands too much precision in placing the chemical before it runs out; more than 10 lbs capacity means a total device weight that may be too much for the less muscular members of a household.

Fighting the Lancashire fire was hampered by difficulty in locating the outside gas valve. If you can't find yours, East Ohio Gas will come out and locate it for you upon request.

Visible house numbers in a contrasting color can save firefighters precious seconds in responding to a call.

For any fire, Lt. Maver recommended use of "your \$1.5 million fire extinguisher: the Cleveland Heights Fire Department." Even if you think you have gotten the fire out yourself, it's wise to get a second--professional--option.

FINE ARTS QUILT TO BE RAFFLED

One of the unusual highlights of the Coventry Fair this year will be the Fine Arts Quilt made and raffled for the benefit of the Dance Center. The quilt will consist of thirty motifs representing as many different aspects of performing and visual arts. It is being constructed by between 40-50 volunteers who have participated in the planning and construction under the direction of Joan Lemson of Quilts, Etc. A Marathon quilting bee will be held June 13,14,15 - it is estimated that when complete, more than six hundred hours of work will have been expended. Pippa Kiraly coordinator of the project invites volunteers to participate, "You don't have to be a wonderful sewer to join in the fun." Call Mrs. Kiraly at 932-8750 if you would like to participate. On completion the quilt will be on display at the Cleveland Heights Main Library, and at the Dance Center. Raffle tickets will be sold at \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The quilt will be raffled during the Fair.

It was at last years Coventry Street Fair that this reporter first heard that the Fairmount Center for the Performing Arts (FCPA) planned to close the doors on its Coventry Branch. In this and recent issues plans for the reconversion of the building back to a full service library have been discussed. What will happen to the cultural programs?

The DANCE CENTER was formed with a grant from the Ohio Arts Council, by John Begg and teachers from the ECPA. They are now in the process of incorporating as a Non-profit organization and will offer a full six week summer schedule of dance classes including fundamentals, ballet, Jazz and modern, starting June 23. You may register by calling 932-4714. The DC has been renting space in the building since FCPA closed and plans to continue to do so after it has been remodeled.

The FAIRMOUNT THEATRE OF THE DEAF has just closed the 1979-80 season and has started to promote its 1980-81 season which will open in the fall with an adaptation for the stage of Rod Serling's TV drama "Requiem for a Heavyweight." They have obtained performance rights for the controversial drama "Elephant Man" by Bernard Pomerance. Subscriptions for the coming season are available now at special discounts if purchased before the end of June. The FTD was originally conceived by the dramatics staff at FCPA and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in March 1979. They had a rental contract with FCPA running through the 1980-81 season, which Library officials plan to honor. Reports that FTD is looking for a location with a larger seating capacity has been confirmed by theatre staff.

The HEIGHTS GUILD OF ARTISTS AND ARTISANS, a private non-profit corp. which has been renting space in the basement of the Center plans to continue in that location and will be giving Pottery Classes for six weeks--June 23 - Aug.1. Their offerings will include Handbuilding for children ages 8-12 with Tamara Unger; Young adults, 12 and up with Johanna VandenBrock; Adult Handbuilding/wheel with Honey Meir-Levi. Registration closes June 9. For exact times please call 371-2757. The Guild Pottery Cooperative has space for new members. The payment of dues and a monthly rental fee will provide open studio, electric wheels and a gas Kiln. Clay and firing is extra.

-- Bobbie Littell

MERCHANT STUFF: HEIGHTS VIDEO CENTER has lent its video tape technology to the Coventry Library and Heights Community Congress for their booths at the Home Show; and to the architecture team hired by the City for an architectural study of the Coventry Commercial strip. . . COVENTRY PTA thanks three Coventry Merchants for their contributions to the Coventry Carnival; Tommy Fello (Tommy's) and Don Horvat (Carroll Drug) for candy and Carl Jones (Arabica) for a coffee grinder to be auctioned. . . COVENTRY YARD has gotten floor and ceiling plates in place. A new design has been proposed for the minipark in front of Coventryyard; the owners of the Yard are obligated to restore the minipark to its state before (Continued on page 8)

COVENTRY VILLAGE LIBRARY NOTES

By

Debbie Graves, Branch Librarian

Coventry Village Library will be presenting a series of programs for children this summer. On June 12 from 2-5, children may register for the Summer Reading Program called School for Detectives. Each child will observe and inspect (i.e., read) the inner workings of ten books this summer. In their own special notebooks, they will record these observations and the titles of the books. The Super Sleuths will then have weekly meetings on Thursdays at 2 pm, with special events such as stories with Mrs. Sicherman and small zoo animals with Mr. Don Altemus. All are invited.

On Wednesdays, from June 18 - Aug. 20, the Out to Lunch Bunch will bring its own lunches and discuss a book that all have read the week before. This group will be made up of students who have completed grades 4-6.

Preschoolers may come to one of two storytimes this summer. Wednesdays at 10:30 will be our regular preschool storytime, with a special evening story-time on Thursdays at 6:30.

Mrs. Sicherman and Ms. Graves will be in the parks this summer. On Tuesdays Mrs. Sicherman will tell stories at Kenilworth Park at 11:00 and Ms. Graves will be at Turtle Park at 10:00. . . The Library will remain open Sundays during the summer, as has been its past practice (uniquely among the CH-UH branches). . . Dial-a-story service had 2,616 calls in the first 20 days, nearly 40% between 9 pm and 9 am.

Thanks to the Coventry Neighbors for all their support of the Library at the various City board and Council meetings.

MAYFIELD, EHB WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED

By

David Burwasser

Authorization for a study of water line improvements to Mayfield Road was given to City Manager Richard Robinson at the May 5 meeting of Council. The study is to cover the line from Kenilworth to Coventry Roads.

Responding to questions by Councilmember Alan Rapoport, Mr. Robinson said that the study should require four or five weeks; the bid process another four weeks; and the work itself 60 to 80 workdays. Starting from the date of the meeting, this schedule would put the beginning of construction around the last week of June or the first week of July. As noted by Rapoport, this would have construction going on during the Coventry Village Street Fair--a possibility that the City Manager acknowledged.

Bids are out on the new Euclid Hts. Blvd. waterline and construction should take place some time this summer. . . possibly at the same time as Mayfield.

The City has received much lower bids on construction jobs than it was getting for equivalent jobs in 1979--a fact attributed by one City Hall source to the fall off in the housing market exacerbated by the more recent credit squeeze. For whatever reason, the low bids give the City the opportunity to proceed with projects that have been on the "back burner" for some time.

MORE MERCHANTS STUFF (Continued from page 7) construction began, and City Manager Rich Robinson has stated publicly that elements of variation from the original design are "negotiable". . . The plant boxes at IRV's are devoid of plants.

A QUESTION OF CONSISTENCY

City Council members should realize what they sound like when they gripe and grumble about "overregulated" Federal grant programs or "impositions" by the State government.

They sound exactly like a property owner who just got a sizable citation from the Department of Inspectional Services. They sound precisely like a driver who just got a ticket from a Cleveland Heights policeman for parking a car in the wrong place by three inches or three seconds.

Cleveland Heights City Council sounds, in fact, exactly like the same kind of "bad citizenship" that Council deplors when found in residents of Cleveland Heights. Nobody sitting at the head of a government whose attitude is, "Obey the law and you'll stay out of trouble," should sound like that.

Of course, if all Cleveland Heights ordinances were clear, rational, plainly related to a compelling public interest, and no more intrusive than necessary--but let's be serious. Most people who know me, know my pet examples to the contrary: the increasingly Byzantine "Definition of Family" and the bizarre zoning of nearly half of Coventry business strip not as a commercial district but as an "S-2 Special Development District," whatever that is. You probably have some favorites of your own.

A city that makes foster parents jump through extra bureaucratic hoops, including a public hearing, while not contributing one nickel to foster care; a city that needs to be told that a commercial structure built in 1923 does not have offstreet parking adequate to 1980, and needs to be told it every time the building changes use; a city with such practices should be a little more sympathetic with the strange stuff that can come down from Columbus or Washington.

Such a city, and its Council, should realize that it and the State and the Feds are in the same thankless business: Government. Anyone so anxious to govern should, in her or his own self-interest, give the public a better example of how to be governed gracefully.

-- David R. Burwasser

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SET

Fairmount Presbyterian Church and Grace Lutheran Church are again combining their Vacation Bible Schools this summer: June 16 - 20 at Grace Lutheran Church, 13001 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights from 9:30 AM until 12 Noon. This program is free and available to children ages 3 to 12 years old.

There will be music, crafts, bible stories, refreshments and lots of fun for everyone. Register at Grace Lutheran Church on Saturday, June 14th from 9 AM until 12 Noon. For further information, please call Grace Lutheran Church, 321-2790, or Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 321-5800.

-- Helen Friel and Ruthann Pierce
Directors

