



Coventry Village News

MARCH, 1980

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL. VI No. 3

COVENTRY VILLAGE REVITALIZATION PROJECT SEEKS \$25,000 FROM HUD

By Charles Owen, President, Coventry Neighbors

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., is submitting an application to the US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) for a "Neighborhood Self-Help" grant of \$25,000. If awarded, the grant will fund a program designated the Coventry Village Revitalization Project.

The Project intends to accomplish two things. First, a rebate program would be established to assist merchants in upgrading storefronts consistent with architectural standards developed by the architectural study now being undertaken by the Coventry Merchants Association (CMA) and the Local Development Corp. Secondly specific activities in the area of urban beautification and conservation would get underway.

An anticipated \$15,000 would be needed to meet with any measurable success in the rebate program. Coventry Neighbors, working cooperatively with CMA and the City, would grant rebates of up to 20%, but not more than a maximum of \$500, toward a commercial property owner's or merchant's direct storefront improvements. Eligible improvements would include painting, restoration, sign improvement, masonry repairs, etc.

The rebate program would provide additional motivation for merchants to remain in Coventry Village, and improve their properties; and attract new businesses. The program would be directed and managed by the membership of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., through its Board of Trustees, working in conjunction with the Architecture Committee of CMA.

The City has its own rebate program for a percentage of such improvements. Unlike the City's arrangements, HUD requires that this portion of the Coventry Village Project money be expended within one year from receipt of the grant.

The second part of the Project seeks to address basic urban beautification needs such as planting programs on the Euclid Heights Boulevard median, and tree lawns on upper and lower Hampshire Roads and Lancashire Road. These commercial-district side streets receive steady abuse from vandals and shoppers. It is hoped that a planting program would help beautify the area and stimulate private investment. Some \$8,000 is intended for this portion of the Project. Funds permitting, street benches and trash containers will also be purchased for the neighborhood.

The remaining \$2,000 would be allocated for costs associated with the Project, e.g., posters, literature, postage, advertising, etc.

The application for this Neighborhood Self-Help grant represents Coventry Neighbors continuing commitment to Coventry Village and Cleveland Heights.

The following persons worked on the grant applications for the Coventry Village Revitalization Project: Larry Beam, Liaison to the City of Cleve. Hts.; F. David Gill, CNI; Joan Jordan, Liaison to CMA; Charles J. Owen, CNI.

* CVN's new look is the work of Jack Nixon, fifth year student in Graphic De- *
 * sign at the Cleveland Institute of Art. Jack, a native of Chicago has re- *
 * cently designed a flier for the Greater Cleveland Growth Assoc. Speakers Bu- *
 * reau, and a new banner for Volunteer Viewpoint, the newsletter of the Volun- *
 * teer Dept. of the Cleveland Society for the Blind. *
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BRANCH LIBRARY NEWS

By

Debbie Graves

Coventry Village Branch Librarian

Coventry Village Library has a new gadget which is the first wave of future computer use in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Libraries. It's called a COM (Computer Output on Microfilm) terminal, and the subject of our computer output is an up-to-date Magazine Index covering articles from 1975 to the month before the current month. It features articles on specific brand name products, lists book reviews by book, as well as giving the traditional author and subject indexing of magazine articles. This is a gift of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Friends of the Library.

At present, County libraries are converting their card catalogs into COM catalogs, listing the holdings of every branch. CH-UH Library is looking into this possibility.

Our Games Program, the suggestion of June Wortman, seems to be taking off. We have a large group learning Dungeons and Dragons (next meeting March 9th, 2-4) with Dragon Master Shaun Miller, and growing groups in GO with Jim Gill (March 16th, 3-4:30) and Chess with Rich Wortman (March 24th, 2-4). We are tentatively planning Backgammon for March 9th with Keith Babin.

Coventry neighbors and friends made our Science and Fiction Convention a great success with Gar Hyler of Coventry Books leading an adult science fiction book talk. Several other neighbors added a great deal with their knowledge of and enthusiasm for the subject.

March 10 will be the date of our third book discussion. Elizabeth Berrie Walker of the Cleveland Wholistic Health Center will be on hand as we discuss the Book Woman's Room, by Marilyn French.

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BOO'S AND BRAVO'S

BRAVO: Cleveland Heights has been designated "Tree City U.S.A." by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

BOO: *The Christmas decorations are STILL up on the light poles of the Coventry commercial area.*

BOO: *A vandal with nothing better to do found it necessary to paint over most of the parking meter faces on Coventry with red paint.*

BRAVO: Irv's is now completely open for business.

BRAVO: Special thanks to the City of Cleveland Heights and the Coventry Merchants Association for their support of Coventry Neighbors' Neighborhood Self-Help grant application.

Do you have a particular BOO or BRAVO? Please send them to Coventry Neighbors, 2/3 Charles Owen, 2745 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

--Charles Owens

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., the premier neighborhood association in Cleveland Heights and probably the most active, is justifiably proud of its past and present activities, but a number of CNI members now feel that it is time for the organization to take on new responsibilities and expand its influence. This commitment to action will take three forms.

ONE: A membership drive will start immediately. A large number of articulate, activist-oriented people reside in the Coventry area and we want to draw their aggregate expertise into CNI.

TWO: CNI will commence in April a series of two or three "priority workshops" apart from regular CNI meetings. These open-discussion meetings will be open to all members of the Coventry community, non-CNI people specifically invited. If you are concerned about the revitalization of Coventry Village, or are upset about specific problems you see here, this is your opportunity to join others who feel the same way.

Dates, locations and times will be announced in the next CVN, and at that time a brief letter detailing all of this material will be distributed to EVERY home and apartment in Coventry. If you wish to help with this lit drop, please contact Bruce Hennes at 321-4670.

THREE: We are hoping that more Coventry residents will attend regular CNI monthly meetings; held always on the second Tuesday of every month at the Unitarian Church on Lancashire Road. These meetings typically consist of Committee and observer reports, presentations by private and/or governmental lobbying groups, and new business. All these sections are usually punctuated by enthusiastic "audience participation." The agendas of these meetings are quite full, which is why the priority workshops have been scheduled completely apart from the monthly meetings. But the monthly meetings still need both new faces and steady attendance, and we encourage both.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc, should act instead of react, and anticipate trends and problems before they occur. We have gained tremendous ground in the past decade, and it is now time to accelerate the unique renaissance of Coventry Village.

--Bruce Hennes

Trustee, Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

PARKING DISPLACED DURING LOT EXPANSION

By

Larry Beam, CH Planning Staff

Muni parking lots 3 and 10, on Mayfield just west of Coventry, will be expanded this spring. Their present capacity is 64 spaces; a total of 32 spaces will be added in work that may begin as early as April.

Both lots will be closed while the work is being done. No permits for either lot will be sold for the second quarter, beginning in April. Old permits will be honored until the lots are closed.

For the duration of the construction work, cars bearing stickers for lots 3 and 10 will be allowed to park overnight on Mayfield west of Coventry and on Hampshire, west of Hampshire Lane. No overnight parking is now allowed in those areas.

Only cars bearing stickers for lots 3 and 10 will be allowed to park overnight on those portions of Hampshire and Mayfield. Other cars will be ticketed.

ZONING BOARD GRANTS EXTENSION FOR COVENTRYARD

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"ON THE STREET"

On Wednesday, February 20, the Cleveland Heights Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) granted a parking variance to Lewis Zipkin's Fenton Investment, Inc. City Council's approval of this variance, expected on Monday, March 3, will clear the way for the issuance of a building permit for a new Coventryard.

An agreement--called a judgement entry--obligating Zipkin to a 180-day construction schedule appears to have been the key to the approval of this variance. (Editor's note: *If the schedule is not met the City may either complete construction or demolish the structure, at Zipkin's expense, the same stricture and conditions apply to restoration of the mini-park.*)

This is the third time since the Coventryard fire that the BZA has granted Mr. Zipkin a parking variance for the site. The first of these was granted for a four-story structure--three floors above grade on the Euclid Heights Blvd. side. A variance for a three-story structure was granted last June. Difficulties in obtaining financing, along with rising costs, Zipkin has said, made building to these earlier plans impossible.

Plans now call for two stories--one above grade from the Euclid Heights view. A restaurant is planned for the small building that once housed Rocco's Market.

It came out at the BZA hearing on this matter that Mr. Zipkin is suing the City of Cleveland Heights, East Ohio Gas and others for alleged negligence regarding a gas shut-off valve which, the suit alleges, contributed to the fire that destroyed Coventryard on February 5, 1978.

SAVE THE TURTLE?

By

David R. Burwasser

A unique concrete turtle about three feet high at the carapace, the distinguishing feature of the municipal tot playground know as "Turtle Park," may be in jeopardy. Located at Euclid Heights Blvd. and Overlook Road, the Turtle is both sentimental and functional. However, it is made of concrete, which does present theoretical hazards to the very young children who play on, around and under the beast. The City has developed tentative plans, now being held in abeyance, to remove this alleged hazard.

The plans came to neighbors' attention as a result of Councilman Alon Rapoport's reflections on a routine piece of legislation authorizing upgrading of recreational equipment at "the intersection of Euclid Heights Blvd. and Kenilworth Road." Councilman Rapoport soon discerned that there is no intersection of Euclid Heights and Kenilworth. A personal investigation led him to both the correct intersection and the plans for the Turtle.

Discussion of the plans (which were never closely defined) at Coventry Neighbors meetings and other gatherings of citizens have given rise to a small but determined "Save the turtle" faction. Some parents are openly skeptical as to whether a totally risk-free environment is either possible or desireable for their children. Meanwhile, the City has shelved its plans to do anything to the Turtle.

Some citizens, recalling the City's plans for the Cleveland Heights Rapid Transit and the Pick-N-Pay/UDAG Project, assume that, having met resistance, city Hall will turn to more attainable goals. Others, mindful of the Two Fire Station Concept and the Russo's Municipal Parking Lot, give (Continued on Page 5)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

CHALLENGES SCHOOL LEVY

On Tuesday, March 25th the voters of Cleveland Hts.-University Hts., are being asked by the Board of Education to vote on a 14mill levy for additional school funding. I urge that we carefully consider what is happening and what has happened in our schools before we allocate such a large sum of money.

During the recent school strike many unfavorable remarks and actions were witnessed by our youngsters on the part of their teachers. The younger children were afraid during this time and put in the middle of the disagreement between the board and the striking teachers.

The primary purpose of the schools is to educate you youngsters for the years ahead. Yet they have seen many negative attitudes and actions. Our children are required to attend school, and are not at home but in the care of others for approximately six hours (or more) each day. The teacher who is responsible for my child during this time should care about him or her and help them to achieve success. This is not always the case.

The Board wanted to institute an in-service training program which the union fought. There may have been some details that needed to be worked on in regards to such a program but in theory this is needed in our schools today. Many teachers have not gone back to school since their graduation and are not currently kept up to date as to the changes that are taking place.

Changes have taken place in the family structure, roles in parenting, economics, social environment and attitudes, to name a few, and some educators are still living in the past and unable to recognize the changes and unwilling to change with the times. Many professions hold that continuing education is a requirement for employment, and I feel that it is just as important for teachers and administrators.

In our present school system we have some excellent teachers, some good and some extremely poor. Those who are poor need to be weeded out and not kept year after year continuing to damage more and more youngsters.

I realize that by not passing this levy we may be punishing those who are excellent or good and also our youngsters. Until some policing is done in our schools, however, not only by administration but also by the teachers themselves, I cannot support the passage of such a sizeable levy. I urge parents and other citizens to become involved and find out what is happening with our youngsters before they cast their votes on March 25th.

--Kathryn J. Young
2504 Kenilworth Road
(Parent of five children)

NOTE: *The Coventry Neighbors meeting of March 11, 1980 will feature a speaker on behalf of the 14mill school levy to be placed on the ballot later in March. All are invited to attend, listen and question.*

SAVE THE TURTLE? (Continued from page 4)

the government more credit for tenacity and remain unmollified.

By a fortunate coincidence, Coventry Neighbors, Inc. has invited Ms. Letty Sklader of the City Staff to the March CNI meeting to discuss the state of City properties. Further information may be forthcoming at that time.

LIBRARY REPURCHASE POSTPONED: HEARINGS SCHEDULED

By
June Wortman

Revisions in the draft repurchase agreement have caused postponement of the planned February 25th meeting of the boards of trustees of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library and the Fairmount Center for Creative and Performing Arts. The original draft has met with agreement by both boards, but some revision by the Library has not been approved by the Fairmount Center as of February 21, and the meeting planned to sign the agreement for the 25th was put off.

Library Director, Rachel Nelson anticipated that a new date will be set soon. She is certain that the hitch in the signing will not interfere with the City's intention to rezone the land for public use. The Library is offering \$80,000. Renovation will cost about \$200,000, and will be completed by late 1981 according to Library business manager.

A public hearing of the Planning Commission and City Council on February 25 brought out a modest crowd of Coventry residents to support the rezoning of the building back to AAA Public Use category. The remodeled historical building is planned to house an expanded Coventry Village Branch Library; remaining space would be rented to non-profit, cultural/artistic organizations to help the library meet costs of operation.

The schedule calls for the Planning Commission to render its decision on March 12. City Council will vote to uphold or reject the commission's decision on March 17. If upheld, the change takes effect 30 days later.

Assuming the rezoning is settled favorable, the parking variance is the next question: this goes before the Board of Zoning Appeals on March 19 for preliminary discussion. A public hearing on the matter and a decision by the BZA are expected on April 16, and the parking question then goes back to Council for review on May 5. The Fairmount Center presently operates under variances, and has signed a payment agreement with the City for funding future parking in the Coventry area. The Library Board has agreed to sign a similar contract.

If these issues are settled, the final question is the \$72,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds originally requested by the Library Board for its once-planned relocation of the Coventry Branch to a projected reconstruction of Coventry-Yard (since abandoned). Council refused, but noted that CD monies for restoration of the historic Coventry Library building might, under some circumstances, be forthcoming. The purchase agreement between the Library Board and Fairmount Center is conditioned on receipt of such funds. This reporter's crystal ball does not provide a schedule for Council's voting on this matter.

CHALLENGE FUND OPEN TO OWNER OCCUPIED DOUBLES

The Challenge Fund home maintenance loan guarantee program is a housing revitalization resource available to owner-occupants of doubles, as well as single homes, needing to respond to City code citations or wishing to undertake repairs voluntarily. Applicants will be considered if they have been unsuccessful in obtaining conventional financing. Depending on household income, the homeowner may also be eligible for a cost-cutting interest incentive payment under the CLIP program.

Interested persons may make inquiry about the Challenge Fund at the Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation office, 3101 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, 44118 (321-3920)

--Richard Obermans, President
Forest Hill Church Housing Corp.
(Non-profit)

STREETWALKING . . .

When I wrote the first STREETWALKING column a year ago I did so with a purpose. That was to demonstrate to the "powers that be" that CVN needed not only to reflect upon things that concern Coventry Village but also to reflect the life of the Village. Now we have BOO'S & BRAVO'S, MERCHANT ASSOCIATION NEWS, LIBRARY NOTES, COVENTRY COMMERCE and it becomes harder each time to find material for STREETWALKING which is not reported in greater depth elsewhere in the same issue. STREETWALKING has served its purpose.

As so often happens the acheiving of a goal has led to a greater commitment and shifting responsibility. Your correspondent now finds herself part of the "powers that be" with direct responsibility for the production of CVN, therefore a different focus.

There are many things that do not get included in CVN because they come in too late; are not directly related to Coventry Village; are interesting but do not warrent full coverage; or, are gossipy. These items go into an odds and ends file and sometimes never get to see the light of "ink". Henceforth these will appear in a new odds 'n ends column which will not be limited to "the street" but might interest street people."

Before I write -30-, however, I would like to thank all of you whose comments on "STREETWALKING helped to prove my point; those who have given me material and encouraged my efforts.

--The Streetwalker
Bobbie Littell

odds 'n ends

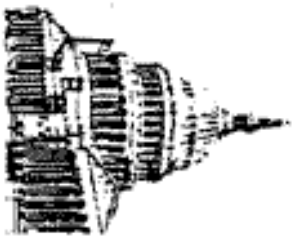
In February we ran an item soliciting crossing guards and lunch room aids in the CH-UH schools. Coventry Neighbor, Al Lustig responded and is now employed as lunch room aid at Coventry School. . . Gossip has been circulating regarding the demise of "Chesters". . . we have no confirmation of that but City Hall sources report that it is "For Sale". . . Brunati's seemed to have slipped away. Another CoventryYard victim?

Included in this issue is a flier explaining procedures for the 1980 census. CVN urges you to read this flier. If you have any questions follow up on them. The importance of this census cannot be overemphasized. Not only do our legislative districts and revenue sharing, community development and other federal aid programs depend on census data but census data are used to prepare community profiles upon which all planning revolve. On these Census Tract profiles rest the ultimate decision as to who will be able to apply for what kind of assistance. The accuracy of these data is important to inner ring suburbs like Cleveland Heights to help preserve the vitality of our life style. . .

Another bit of information to come out of a recent Council Meeting is that maintainence of the trees purchased with funds granted by CNI, to be planted by the City will be the responsibility of CNI and the merchants. Once they are planted it will be up to us to see to it that they are kept alive. . . At a recent Heights Community Congress workshop on Community Newsletters your CVN was held up as a prime example of what not to do in producing newsletters. Our language is too formal, our articles are too controversial and our graphics are bad. The only thing everyone agreed upon was that CVN is read by more people in the Greater Cleveland area than any other heights newsletter. . . In regard to our graphics we have run across a problem reproducing the new banner--we will be trying some new procedures in the next months. Let us know your reaction.(Continued on page 9)

HERE'S HOW CENSUS RESULTS HELP OUR COMMUNITY

1



APPORTIONMENT OF CONGRESS

The U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 2) requires the apportioning of seats in the House of Representatives based on the population of each State. If everyone in our community is not counted in the 1980 census, we could have reduced Congressional representation in the Congresses to be elected in 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, and 1990.

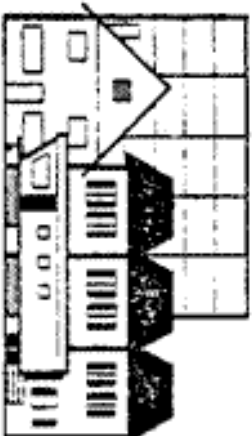
3



FEDERAL AND STATE AID PROGRAMS

A significant part of our local government's budget is based on revenues received from the State and Federal Governments. Many of these aid programs use census statistics as a fair way to distribute funds. Examples: Revenue sharing, community development, health, education, highways, job training, school lunch program, economic development.

5



HOUSING FACTS

The 1980 census also will measure the status of our housing. The number of rooms, types of heating and cooking fuels, value of the property or rent paid, plumbing facilities, utility and other costs—all these census facts will give us a statistical snapshot of our living quarters and help our community plan for future housing needs.

2



STATE LEGISLATURE REDISTRICTING

Our State legislative districts also are dependent on census population totals to assure fair representation. Other election and administrative boundary lines often are based on census statistics. It's the fair way to make sure that your vote carries the same relative weight as every other vote in the State.

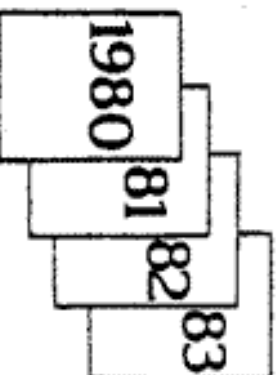
4



POPULATION FACTS

Each population question on the census questionnaire produces statistical totals which will help us better understand how our residents are doing. Age, race, sex, marital status, educational level, ethnic background, occupation, employment status, income, veteran status—these are important facts we need to have to draw a statistical profile of our community.

6



PLANNING AHEAD

Without accurate information, no one in government, private business, or a civic organization can plan ahead with confidence. The 1980 census will give our community solid facts on which to base our future actions in many activities during the years to come. Answering the census is an investment in our future.

REMEMBER!

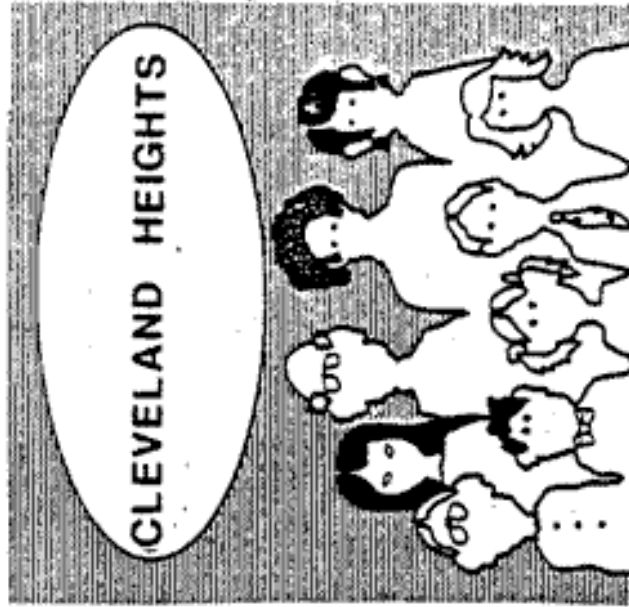
- **CENSUS DAY IS APRIL 1, 1980**
Your questionnaire will arrive in the mail on Friday, March 28, 1980.
- **PLEASE ANSWER ALL CENSUS QUESTIONS THAT APPLY TO YOUR HOUSEHOLD**
- **PLEASE MAIL BACK YOUR CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE ON APRIL 1 IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED!**
If you don't get a brown return mail envelope, hold your completed questionnaire for a census worker to pick up.
- **YOUR PERSONAL ANSWERS ARE CONFIDENTIAL BY LAW**
No one outside the U.S. Census Bureau can see or use your personal answers for 72 years. Only statistical totals are ever published.
- **IF YOU NEED HELP ANSWERING SOME QUESTIONS**
There's a telephone number on the mailing labels on the census questionnaires. Please call for any assistance you may need.
- **SPANISH-LANGUAGE QUESTIONNAIRES ARE AVAILABLE**
If you or a friend or relative prefer a questionnaire in Spanish, just call the telephone number which appears on census questionnaire mailing labels.

We're counting on you. Answer the census.

CENSUS'80

KAREN LIND - CHAIRMAN
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CARL CAMPBELL
REV. DOUGLAS DENTON
LARRY ELLERT
JOEL FOX
RAY HENDRICKS
BERNICE LOTT
DON MORRIS
MINA SAIDEL
LU YOUNG
EDRIC WELD
STEPHEN D. WOOD

**WHY
THE 1980 CENSUS
IS
SO IMPORTANT
TO ALL OF US
IN**



A message from the

**CITY OF
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS**

COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

CENSUS '80

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

odds 'n ends (Continued from page 8)

I heard Abby Linhart at Aribica Thursday. Karl Jones has to be commended for the top talent he come up with. Abby is finding herself in the center of a lot of interesting goings on, like the recent Farm Workers and Genesis benefits. Abby performs at Genesis on Mondays. . .

ERRATA: In the last month's CVN we inadvertently reported councilmember Joanne O'Brien as serving on the Municipal Services Committee. That committee consists of Councilmember Weigand (chair), Boyle and Rapoport. In infringement on the Mayor's prerogative of appointing council committees was intended. . .

Congratulations to CVN editor Dave Burwasser, who was elected a Trustee of the Cleveland Heights Local Development Council at its annual meeting in February. David has been Secretary of the LDC, an office he also holds in CWI.

Dobama is opening another show this week, Edward Albee's A Delicate Balance. Their first three shows this year have been great and tickets hard to come by. The show will run Thursdays through Sundays, curtain Thurs. & Sat at 8:30, Fridays 9:00 and Sundays at 7:30 PM. Call 932-6838 for reservations. The George Gund Foundation has offered to match up to \$3,000 in gifts to Dobama. Now is the time-- if we want to keep this great little theatre on the street, to make a donation it will be matched 100%.

Speaking of show's -- you really ought to catch the one held on the first and third Monday's at City Hall at 7:30PM. Stage manager Mayor Robert Arnold always manages to come up with a final "show stopper". You might just as well go you have already paid for the ticket.

--Bobbie Littell

If you wish to join COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. you may do so by filling out the following form and sending it and your check to Charles J. Owen, 2745 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106. Make checks payable to COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

Enclosed please find my check for:

_____ Individual membership(s)	@ \$5.00_____
_____ Senior membership(s)	@ \$3.00_____
_____ Family membership	@ \$7.00_____

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Are you now getting the COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS by mail? _____

