



# Coventry Village News

MAY, 1980

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC

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## TEMPORARY ON-STREET PARKING

By

David Burwasser

Automobiles carrying permits for two Mayfield Road lots will be given unprecedented permission, for a few weeks this summer, to park overnight on certain portions of Mayfield and Hampshire Roads.

This situation will last while the two Mayfield lots in question are being expanded. No cars will be able to use the lots during construction, and the City has made provision for the users of the two lots by extending permission for overnight parking.

NO OTHER VEHICLES will be permitted to exercise this option. Holders of the permits in question have been notified by the City of the arrangements. The designated portions of Mayfield and Hampshire--areas where daytime parking is permitted but overnight parking normally prohibited--will be clearly marked with temporary signs, "Overnight On-Street Parking By Permit Only." Cars without permits will be ticketed as usual if parked overnight in these areas.

This arrangement is unusual in two regards. The City does not ordinarily permit a parking crunch on one street to impact on another street. And the City has never before regulated on-street parking by permit. Both are strictly temporary measures, to be discontinued as soon as the Mayfield lots are expanded. At that time, total off-street parking in the area will be significantly greater.

Residents of the affected portions of Hampshire and Mayfield can help the situation immensely by placing their own cars as early as possible into their customary off-street, overnight parking places during the period of construction. It is not possible at this time to predict exactly when that period will fall or how long it will be, as the construction project is still in the early bid stages.

Inconvenient as the plan is, it is preferable to all the alternatives. Merely shutting down the lots without making provision for its customary users would have placed the latter at great inconvenience and sent them scrambling in competition for the already scarce legal parking spaces in the area, to the general detriment of the neighborhood. Opening the streets for general overnight parking would have produced an even worse impact on the affected areas, and another dislocation when the overnight ban was restored. The City considered these alternatives and listened to neighborhood input before settling on its plan.

When the lots are completed, permits will be available on the usual first-come basis. Two frame houses, one adjacent to each lot, were demolished for the expansion.

COVENTRY MERCHANT CHALLENGES DRUG PARAPHERNALIA BAN

By

David Burwasser

Merchants in Coventry are not, as a rule, involved in legal battles in the US District Court for Northern Ohio over legislation from the City of Parma. Peter Schlieven, operator of Record Revolution, is an exception; it is he who has challenged the Parma anti-drug-paraphernalia law--and lost-- on behalf of his Parmatown Mall operation, Record Revolution Number 6.

Schlieven explained his situation to this reporter as soon as he had finished washing down the sidewalk in front of his Coventry operation, a daily procedure. He explained, over coffee, that he was planning an appeal of District Judge John Manos' finding that the Parma anti-paraphernalia law is constitutional. His immediate problem is funding this action.

Expenses of the case have been borne so far by the Ohio Boutique Association, Schlieven said, an organization of about 30 wholesalers and retailers of paraphernalia. Costs were \$46,000 higher than anticipated, Schlieven said, because Parma brought in expensive outside legal talent and Record Revolution thought it prudent to do likewise.

Schlieven was surprised at the District Court's decision, because, he said, laws based on this same model have been declared unconstitutional in Michigan, New Jersey and Illinois. The Ohio Association and the national Accessories Trade Assoc. are confident of a victory on appeal, but are stymied by costs. They are therefore going to appeal to the public, whose commercial rights are also at issue, for financial support. Even the record-buying public that does not purchase paraphernalia has a stake in the appeal; the record business has a notoriously low margin, according to Schlieven, and the boutique operation helps make it financially possible for Record Revolution to maintain its well-appreciated record and tape inventory.

Schlieven volunteered that he would have no problem with a law prohibiting sale of paraphernalia to anyone under 18. He could screen paraphernalia customers for IDs, and in any event he believes that this whole area is properly "an adult" activity not appropriate for minors.

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"NO COMMENT" ON CLEVE. HTS. PARAPHERNALIA REGULATION: JACOBELLIS CITED

Neither City Manager Rich Robinson nor Councilman Alan Rapoport had any comment on the possibility of a Cleveland Heights anti drug paraphernalia law in parallel to the Parma ordinance. Rapoport chairs the Public Safety & Health Committee of Council; to which any such legislation would be referred.

There is no anti-paraphernalia law on Cleveland Heights books now. Council has not asked for one, nor has the staff made such a recommendation.

A City Hall source said that the staff is against any such law, stating that  
(Continued on page 3)

CRIMINOLOGIST LINKS "VICE" LAWS TO GROUP CONFLICT

Laws that prohibit nondestructive, private behavior that infringes no property rights--so-called "victimless crime" or "Vice" laws--are passed more to be on the books than to be enforced, says Charles E. Silberman, director of the Study of Law and Justice, a Ford Foundation research project, in his monumental work, "Criminal Violence, Criminal Justice. They are largely the result of changes in the relative power of ethnic, religious or political groups.

(Continued on page 3)

TRUCK GARAGING & STREET FAIR ORDINANCE HEARING

By

Dave Burwasser & F. David Gill

On Monday, May 12, Cleveland Heights City Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance adjusting the current truck-garaging regulations to present State standards. The proposed legislation will classify trucks carrying Ohio non-commercial plates as passenger vehicles, and no special permit will be required to garage these vehicles in a residential area.

At the same hearing, Council will consider Zoning Code changes that could simplify planning for this and future years' Coventry Village Street Fairs.

In the past, organizations like Coventry Neighbors, Inc. were required to appear before the Board of Zoning Appeals at a Public Hearing in order to obtain a required special permit for conducting Fairs. Under the proposed legislation, the City Manager will now have the discretionary authority to grant these permits provided that:

- 1) The sponsoring organization had, in some prior year, obtained such a permit from the B.Z.A.;
- 2) In the opinion of the City Manager, the previous festival had been conducted in compliance with that permit; and,
- 3) No substantial modifications of the nature or scope of the proposed festival are contemplated.

The 1980 Coventry Village Street Fair probably complies with these requirements.

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 \* APPEAL CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT - The  
 \* Ohio Boutique Association and the  
 \* National Accessories Trade Assoc.  
 \* are asking the public for donations  
 \* toward legal expenses of an appeal  
 \* of the Parma decision. Checks  
 \* should be made out to: Ohio Bouti-  
 \* que Association, % Mid America  
 \* Marketing, 1778 E. 40th Street,  
 \* Cleveland, Ohio 44103  
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 \* "NO COMMENT" (Continued from page 2)  
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 \* "This city was burned by Jacobellis."  
 \* The reference is to a landmark obscen-  
 \* ity case that began in Cleveland Heights  
 \* and involved a Coventry commercial est-  
 \* ablishment. The prosecution won a con-  
 \* viction locally in 1960, which was app-  
 \* ealed to the Supreme Court and overturn-  
 \* ed. The "obscene" film in question  
 \* has since been shown on television.  
 \*  
 \* The parallel elements with the Parma  
 \* anti-paraphernalia law are: A "vice"  
 \* type law; a controversial area in which  
 \* social standards are changing; a con-  
 \* servative finding by an Ohio court con-  
 \* trary to the direction of change; and,  
 \* the certainty of appeal.

CRIMINOLOGIST (Continued from page 2)

dominant political or social elites rely on social pressure to get less powerful groups to conform to the elite's definition of virtue. When the power of such an elite begins to slip, however, it often turns to the law. The result is legal definition of gambling, drinking, birth control, prostitution and drug abuse as criminal behavior.

But the primary motive, say the scholars, is to get such a definition formally enacted, and only secondarily to compel

The unofficial City Hall attitude seems to be: Parma picked this issue, so let Parma fight it.

compliance. "To the people concerned," says Silberman, "the fact that the law is on the books overshadows the fact that it is not enforced."

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FIRE ON LANCASTER ROAD

By

Charles J. Owen &amp; F. David Gill

At 12:47 Saturday morning, April 14, Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland fire fighters responded to an apartment building fire at 2764 Lancaster Road. The fire had been burning for about an hour before fire fighters arrived, and was brought under control by 1:45 AM.

The apartment building is owned by Roger M. Ritley and was undergoing partial renovation. Damage was estimated at \$15,000 to the contents and \$40,000 to the building.

Cleveland Heights fire fighter Earl Hanley suffered a broken bone in his foot and was hospitalized. There were no other human injuries; however, five cats perished in the blaze.

The burn pattern of the fire, starting in the southwest corner of the boiler room, "points toward intentional setting," according to Cleveland Heights Fire Warden Lt. Robert F. Maver. "The fire was of an incendiary nature," states Lt. Maver, and started in a pile of stored doors, door frames, old mattresses and an old couch. All findings have been turned over to the Cleveland Heights Police Detective Bureau for investigation of arson.

Mr. Ritley has suggested to the COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS that the City take this opportunity to re-examine a parking plan of Ritley's own devising, involving removal of three apartment buildings, including the one that burned. At this point, according to Ritley, implementation of the plan would involve sacrificing of only 10 additional suites. One of the two buildings in question is also owned by Mr. Ritley.

Lt. Maver has been invited to the May 13 Coventry Neighbors meeting, to inform residents of what is known about this fire.

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RECYCLE YOUR MOTOR OIL IN CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Heights Citizens for Recycling announces 13 locations in or near the Heights that will accept used motor oil for recycling. Used motor oil amounts to 42½ million gallons per year in Ohio alone, according to the EPA. Oil will be accepted at:

A & A Gulf, 2231 Lee Road  
Alex's Mobil, 2925 Mayfield  
David's Texaco, 1789 S. Taylor  
Ed's Sohio, 3983 Mayfield  
Indian Hill Shell, 193rd & Euclid  
Heights Sunoco, 2100 Lee  
Washington & Lee, 2080 Lee

Heights Union Oil, 2610 Noble  
Lusty Wrench 2120 Lee Road  
Mac's Sunoco, S. Taylor & Berkeley  
Quigley's Service Center, 3056 Mayfield  
S & T Arco, 1815 Lee  
Summers Sunoco, 2916 Mayfield

POSTER COMPETITION

The Coventry Neighbors Street Fair Committee is sponsoring a competition to determine the publicity poster for this year's street fair.

The contest is open to all residents of Cleveland Heights or anyone attending school in the City of Cleveland Heights.

First Prize will be our gratitude and the opportunity to see your signed work reproduced as a poster with area-wide distribution. The next four runners-up will have their work prominently displayed at a special exhibit at the Fair.

Technical requirements are as follows:

- 1) Design of winning poster becomes the property of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Actual art for all submissions will be returned to the artists.
- 2) The poster must be in black ink on white colored stock (for high visibility), reproducible by a photo-offset process.
- 3) The poster must be 14" x 19" with a 1" border beyond the cut size marks.
- 4) The poster must contain this information:
  - A. "Coventry Village Street Fair"
  - B. "Saturday (or Sat.) July 12 and Sunday (or Sun.) July 13"
  - C. "(Sat.) 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM and (Sun.) 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM"
  - D. "A production of Coventry Neighbors, Inc."
  - E. The artist's name, address, phone number, and school affiliation (if any) must be printed on the back of the submission
  - F. The location and/or a small map is optional
  - G. The CNI Street Fair Committee reserves the right to make minor alterations as necessary at its discretion

All entries must be delivered to my home at 2910 Hampshire Road. (at Wilton Rd.), Cleveland Heights, no later than 9:00 PM June 1, 1980. You will be notified by phone as when to pick up your entry.

If you have any questions, please call 321-4670

—Bruce M. Hennes, Publicity Chairman  
Coventry Village Street Fair Committee.

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ARCHITECTURAL STUDY OPEN HOUSE

By

Joan Jordan

The commercial architecture study is beginning on Coventry, funded by the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation with Community Development monies. There will be an open house Sunday, May 11, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at the architects' office in the rear of the Cedar Chest building. (Go up the 2nd stairway in the alley between Chester's and Cedar Chest.) There will be a videotaped walk of the street that anyone may watch at regular speed or slow-scan, as one wishes, to see specific details. There will also be several large pieces of paper to record neighbors' impressions.

We are all invited to come and share our experiences of where Coventry's problems are, and dreams and plans of what can be done.

BOOS AND BRAVOS

- BRAVO: Coventry Yard is now under reconstruction. C'mon down and watch the progress.
- BOO: To Pick-N-Pay for not joining their fellow Coventry merchants in promptly removing the political posters that were glued to their building.
- BRAVO: To all the spirited clean-up day volunteers who helped spruce up Coventry on Saturday, May 3rd.
- BRAVO DELUXE: To Ann Mercer of Demington Drive for organizing the Cleveland Heights Litter Lifters that made the City-wide
- BRAVO: To the East Cleveland Fire Department for their prompt assistance in the apartment fire on Lancashire Road (see story, this issue).

--Charles J. Owen

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OPERATION PRIDE FUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS

Operation PRIDE is a mini-grant project of the Heights Community Congress, funded by Community Development monies, for outstanding projects which improve the physical environment of Cleveland Heights neighborhoods and/or change the quality of life in Cleveland Heights. Possible examples are plantings, cooperative home improvements, tool rental, street-visible address numbers and pamphlets informing people of the benefits of a neighborhood.

Eligible projects must relate to one of the Neighborhood Strategy Areas designated by the City. One such is Coventry-Cedar/Fairmount area. Deadline for applications is June 1. Application brochures are available from the Heights Community Congress.

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COVENTRY HOUSE TOUR

Unique Coventry Area residences will be featured in the Coventry House Tour, sponsored by the Coventry PTA. The tour will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 18, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

Tickets are \$2.00 in advance and may be purchased at Coventry Books, Coventry Elementary School, or at the Heights Housing Service, Cleveland Heights City Hall Annex on Mayfield at Superior.

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REHAB OR DEMOLISH -- CITY

By

Charles J. Owen

The vacant and vandalized houses at 1843 and 1859 Rock Court (approximate house numbers, actual numbers not posted) have been cited by the City of Cleveland Heights. According to City Manager Richard V. Robinson, the property owners have been ordered to rehabilitate the houses or they will be demolished. Mr. Robinson stated that the demolition would take place in a "short period of time."



NATALIE CROUTER, W.W. II P.O.W., TO BE FETED

Cleveland Heights resident Natalie Crouter, author of Forbidden Diary, will be toasted at two events in the community in the month of May. Mrs. Crouter and her family, including daughter June Wortman, were imprisoned by the Japanese in the Philippines during the Second World War. At the potential risk of her life Mrs. Crouter kept a diary, in violation of prison rules, on scraps of paper. This diary has finally been published and will be on sale.

Sunday, May 18: A tea at Coventry Village Library, 3 PM, courtesy of the Coventry Community Library Advisory Committee. Books will not be available for sale at the Library, but may be purchased at Coventry Books, just down the strip, between noon and 6 PM.

Saturday, May 24: Refreshments and book-signing at Judson Park, 2181 Ambleside Road, Wick Party Room. Parking on Ambleside just across from Judson Park 4 PM. Books available for sale courtesy of Coventry Books.

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UPPER HAMPSHIRE MEETS

On April 15, the second meeting of the Upper Hampshire Association was held at the home of Lonnie and Bruce Hennes. Separate committees were formed to deal with the various concerns and problems on the street.

A campaign has been started to meet our neighbors and get them involved with our association. This will be accomplished by going door to door, and inviting them to a street party to be held sometime in June.

On April 20, we had our first of many planned street clean-ups. Approximately 25 neighbors and their children picked up trash, raked tree lawns, and generally helped improve the beautification of our street. Afterwards there were refreshments for everybody where we all shared our good feelings of making Upper Hampshire a nicer place to live.

--Lonnie Hennes

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LIBRARY COUNTDOWN

City Council passed, on April 21, the rezoning of the Fairmount Center parcel of land back to Public Use, in preparation for transfer of ownership back to the public library system. Future key dates:

- May 10: Library Board and its architects detail preliminary plans for the restored Coventry Branch to staff and citizens. Coventry Branch Library, 9:30 AM (Saturday).
- May 21: Board of Zoning Appeals public hearing on the Library Board's request for a 57-space parking variance at the Coventry Branch site. City Hall, 7:30 PM (Wednesday).
- June 2: Council reviews Zoning Board decision for final determination. Council ALSO should be voting at this time on the Library Board's request for \$72,000 ub CDBG funds to renovate the historic Coventry Library building. City Hall, 7:30 PM (Tuesday).

At the April 21 Library Board meeting, Trustee Annette Butler announced that the Board and the Fairmount Center has both signed the purchase agreement; only the signature of the Cleveland Foundation president was lacking.

--Rich Wortman

FAIRMOUNT THEATRE CLOSSES SEASON

*The Half-Baked Bride*, a world premier production, written especially for the Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf by Fairmount designer, Richard Jaris, and actor, Jonathan Bank, opens May 8 for a four week run. It is being directed by Cleveland Play House actor and director William Rhys.

The action of the play takes place in the space of a single evening, the apparent marriage eve for two of the characters. It begins with the bride's father's formal blessing of the next day's nuptials - a betrothal that, like the world is imperfect. It is the betrothal of a long-time bachelor candlestickmaker (whose chief interest is to complete himself per 18th-century religious dogma, i.e. to get a wife and dowry), to a butcher's daughter (whose chief interest is to flee her father with his taciturn servant - whose chief interest lies in not speaking). He is, of course, the archetypal silent butler. Curiously, while he does not speak for himself he voices everything said by his employer. The father of the bride-to-be, a butcher, is a near-sighted old widower who only wants to be rid of the responsibility of being a daughter's father; the wedding-cake-baker is more intent on sleeping than confecting; and his wife, more than anything else, wants a child - so much so that she is ready and willing to "embrace the needs" of other men. There's also a blacksmith's apprentice deeply engrossed in a search for life's fundamental meaning and determined to rid himself of his pesky, sarcastic conscience with whom he shares a single voice. Completing the field of entrants in this frantic steeplechase is a woman of great mystery; a witch, or at the least, a woman of questionable character, whose ambition seems to be to get a piece of the wedding cake.

Prior to the inevitable, if not altogether happy conclusion; there are attempted bride-snatchings, a rendezvous or two to cuckold the baker, an anonymous billet-doux, mushroom hunts, temporary disguises, and even a few long term mistaken identities that are at least unraveled.

The fast-paced *Half-Baked Bride* is performed simultaneously in American Sign Language and spoken English and is staged for deaf and hearing audiences of all ages. It plays through June 1 at FTD, in the Library Building at 1925 Coventry Road. Thursday through Saturday performances are at 8 PM, with informal after-performance discussions with the cast offered to Friday night audiences. Sunday performances are at 2:00 PM throughout the run, and also at 7:30 PM May 25 and June 1. Tickets are \$5.00 Thursday and Sunday, \$6.00 Friday and Saturday and \$3.50 at all times for students and Senior Citizens. Group rates are available. For further information call 932-2573 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mondays through Fridays, or two hours before performance time.

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odds 'n ends

THE COVENTRY INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK has recently been published by the Coventry School PTA. The book containing recepies collected by the PTA group is available at the school office at a cost of \$2.00.

A FANTASY MINI-CONVENTION is being planned tentatively, at the library, similar to the successful Science Fiction convention held recently.

— Bobbie Littell



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:EDUCATION IS SURVIVAL

I must speak out, having viewed the movie, "Tomorrow Came Much Later," so movingly done by students from Heights High School. My recent reading of my mother's diary, soon to be published, revived memories of our family's three years in a concentration camp, under the Japanese, during WW II. Then I read about the large crowds protesting the cutting of athletics from our school program, with the result that almost all extra-curricular activities have been restored. Only education has been cut since the levy failed.

In mankind's history, transmission of culture has been given primary importance. Education was thought necessary to prepare children for more than youth with its health, strength, and energy. It prepared them to become productive adults, good parents, intelligent participants in governmental processes. It prepared them to endure adversity, and live through years of declining health and energy, when the mind had more strength and vitality than the body.

If people could salvage only what they could carry, what did they choose? What have they risked their lives for? What makes deprivation and suffering bearable? For the Jews it was, first, a book, the Torah, and secondly, their music. For us in concentration camp it was our school, our music that we kept going, no matter what. For my mother, it was her diary, the creation of which helped keep her sane. When we had energy, health and food, we had a ball game. But at rock bottom, we read, sang songs together, created beauty out of nothing. Literature, art, music, creations of man's mind, live long after his body dies, the inner resources to survive when there is nothing left to eat, when the body is crippled. Culture is not a luxury. It is a survival tool.

I have a son, age 10, who adores ice hockey. Despite his present love for it, he can survive without it. But for his future life he requires music, art, literature, fluency in foreign languages, mathematics. All children require our cultural heritage unless they are to become rabble. For many it is available only through the public schools.

Children have always created their own amusement and sport, in empty lots, using whatever is at hand. But children can not provide their own education. Only from adults comes the knowledge, skills, teachers, libraries, cultural resources, extra help to the less gifted, and challenge to the talented. Adults provide the time, close attention, and the atmosphere and attitudes in the family and community to enhance education's value in children's eyes.

I am appalled to hear so little outcry from the community about the discharging of 82 teachers, larger classes, reduction of library personnel and time, reduction of remedial teaching staff, elimination of art, foreign language instruction, and now 5th and 6th grade instrumental music in our schools. Any community too poor to provide \$200 more per year per average taxpayer for education is too poor to provide money for sports, especially when the city recreation and community service departments already do this. The job of the public schools is to provide education for all children. No other governmental body has this charge. If the schools do not do it, no one else will. The voters defeated the levy. The School Board is legally responsible to provide education within the limits of money available.

I am wearing a black arm band as a symbol of my grief over the death of education as a value in our community. I hope many citizens, especially parents, will wear them. I see it as a symbol to rally those concerned into a pressure group demanding education as a first priority. If you don't want to wear a band, don't. But do start coming to School Board meetings, and speak up. If we don't fight for our children's education, who will? The School Board? Look in the mirror. They reflect us. Few of us demand education. Even fewer are willing to pay for it. After us, the edluge.

--June C. Wortman

