



# Coventry Village News

JULY, 1981

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

Vol. VII No. 7

## CITY APPROVES FAIR - PLANNING CONTINUES

The City of Cleveland Heights has formally given Coventry Neighbors, Inc. permission to hold the 1981 Coventry Village Arts Fair on Saturday, July 11 (6 pm - 11 pm) and Sunday, July 12 (noon - 8pm).

This year juried Fine Arts Show, located in the mini-park and the municipal parking lot south of Pick-n-Pay, will feature ceramics, copper enamels, airbrushed fabric, stained glass, handmade kites, leather, paintings, photography, metal sculpture, hand painted silk, wooden toys and silkscreened wearables.

Impromptu street performances will occur at the mouths of Hampshire and Lanca-shire Roads. In addition, scores of participating local merchants and invited vendors will offer a variety of goodies.

Sunday afternoon will feature "Kidstuff" for children and their parents on the library and school grounds. Entertainment will include new games, a puppet show, a Cleveland Heights Fire Engine, plays from the Dobama Kids Play Writing Festival, the Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf, story telling, face painting, a barter booth, a graffiti board, cooperative collage, clowns, jugglers, magicians and mimes. There will be a wide spectrum of informational booths.

Please remember that all laws, including parking regulations and laws prohibiting public consumption of alcohol, remain in effect during the Fair.

The Arts Fair Committee sincerely hopes that you have as much fun at the Fair as we've had putting it together!

--F. David Gill, Chair

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### MUSIC LINE UP

#### SATURDAY

North Stage: Cost, Todd Hart Band, Gair Lindhart, Glass Menagerie  
Windwords

Center Stage: Baby Sirloin, Hollywood Slim Blues Band, John Bassett,  
Kaya

South Stage: Frank Tedford, Chameleon, Alan Leatherwood, Cindy MacKay  
Ken Metz, Norma Troy.

#### SUNDAY

North Stage: J.J. Stephan Band, Ed Mac Echean, Little Willie Moore  
Blues Band, Jumbo and the Crocodiles, Blind Kenneth Lane  
and Drums, Drums, Drums.

Center Stage: Cuyahoga Ltd., Mr. Stress Blues Band, Alex Bevan,  
I-Tal, Oroboros.

South Stage: Marie Schwartz & Bob Moster, Noah Budin, Dick Swain,  
Michael Spiro, Abby Linhart & Bill Drake, Israeli Dancers  
International Folk Dancing, Art Humphries.

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COVENTRY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT PLANS PRESENTED

by  
June C. Wortman

At a meeting on June 24 at Coventry School, the playground development plans were presented by Barbara Brennan and John Aram of Coventry PTA. Despite wide distribution of flyers to all PTA parents and to homes adjacent to the school, the small audience was, with two exceptions, limited to PTA parents and school administrative staff. (Those present hoped that the low attendance indicated a lack of opposition.)

Construction of the playground renovation was halted by the city because no building permit had been obtained for the construction of a small deck and low retaining wall; in addition, a variance was required because the construction extended beyond the set-back line.

Coventry School has the least land per pupil of any school in the system. Much of the play area has been unusable because of the steep slope. The renovation, financed by the PTA, was planned to provide more flat area for the new play equipment and the children's games. The small, low deck was planned for creative use by the class teachers, for graduation ceremonies, and for possible community use, such as concerts sponsored by Coventry Library, or as part of future Coventry Arts Festival activities. Concern has been expressed by city staff about whether the renovated playground will attract "undesireables" from other areas of Coventry. Those at the meeting agreed that the openness to public view and the distance from the source of alcoholic and other supplies would tend to discourage "undesireables" from congregating on the playground.

Plans for the playground will be presented at Coventry Neighbors meeting on July 14. The public hearing of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) for decision on the requested variance will be at 7:30 pm, on Wednesday, July 15, in Council Chambers. If approved by the BZA, the variance will come before City Council on July 19 for confirmation. Citizens wishing to show visible support for the playground renovation plans are welcome to attend both meetings.

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LOTSA LUX  
by  
David R. Burwasser

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. President Charles Owen offered a light moment at a recent City Council meeting, with a donation of light bulbs purchased by CNI for the public light fixture found in the Coventry-Euclid Hts. mini-park (and in the CNI logo). The fixture was a CNI donation some years ago.

Mayor Robert Arnold accepted the gift with an illuminating handshake; a brilliant performance by both men.

A shadow of concern was thrown momentarily by the rumor that the wiring of the fixture, not merely the functioning bulbs needed replacement. But this adumbration of trouble proved a mere specter. The bulbs are installed, and are brightly shining.

Visit the mini-park, and see it in a new light!

### SECTION EIGHT HOUSING EXAMINED by Carol Hamilton

In accepting federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies over the last 7 years, Cleveland Heights has voluntarily obligated itself to provide 75 units of subsidized Section 8 housing for low and moderate income families by May, 1982.

Included in the City's CDBG programs is the "Housing Assistance Plan" which obliges the City to provide a certain number of subsidized housing units for families and the elderly, a number determined by income levels of residents and the age of the local housing. HUD required the City to provide 43% of its calculated housing need for the elderly, which the City has satisfied with 780 units; and 57% of the need for families, which the City has not yet attempted to provide.

Although the City has less than a year to fulfill its obligations it has not exercised its legal option to select sites for subsidized housing neighborhood by neighborhood. This decision was left to any interested developer(s) who participated in the open bidding for rehabilitation (rehab) loan contracts. No local landlords bid; Kenneth Sacks of Harsax, Inc, and his architect, H. David Howe, Jr. developers of 20 similar projects in Cleveland and Toledo, were the sole takers. They propose to rehab 50 units in seven apartment buildings on Hampshire, Lanca-shire and Mayfield.

That decision has caused concern about the concentration of more low income families in an area that has the highest concentration of low income families in Cleveland Heights and holds 240 units of federally subsidized housing for the elderly. Although federal regulation 24 CFR Part 881.206 (c) states that such housing sites must "...avoid undue concentration of assisted persons in areas containing a high proportion of low-income persons," Coventry's 38% of households earning \$8,000 or less is not considered "high."

The Sacks' proposal was discussed at a special meeting of Coventry Neighbors on June 23 by three panelists: Doris Adams, Deputy Supervisor of the Cleveland Service Office of HUD; Richard Snider of the Cleveland Hts. Landlords & Tenants Assoc. and a real estate developer; and John Gustad, Cleveland Hts. Housing Preservation Advisor.

Ms. Adams reviewed the history of the Section 8 program. It is basically a rent supplement plan for low-income households. Qualifying households need pay only 25% of their income toward rent; Section 8 pays the rest, up to a limit. Section 8 housing programs use this supplement as the return on investment to draw private money into low-income housing, an alternative to publicly-owned "housing." Ms. Adams defended the program on the basis of the need for improvement of run-down housing stock, and of the housing needs of low-income Cleveland Hts. residents as estimated in the City's CDBG application. She pointed out that the rehabbed units would not be limited by law to low-income persons, but must remain open to them.

Mr. Snider's fundamental position was that Coventry should have its fair share of Section 8 housing units that will satisfy the City's obligation to HUD, but not all 50. He questioned the desirability of having the management problems of Section 8 units run by an absentee landlord. Snider suggested that Sacks was making an easy profit with minimal investment; when asked why no local landlord had taken advantage of such a lucrative offer, he indicated that some of the government's constraints were burdensome. As a developer, Snider spoke of the desirability of having a mix of incomes in apartment buildings (Section 8 buildings will have 30% of the tenants with very low incomes and 70% with low to moderate incomes), and of the fact that rehabbed buildings must be available to Section 8 tenants for a number of years (the exact number became a matter of dispute).

Mr. Gustad stated that, due to concern about the selection of qualified tenants for the subsidized apartments, his office was compiling a list of prospective qualified tenants residing in Cleveland Hts. He and the developer have agreed in principle to cooperate in tenant selection, but the City cannot compel this. Gustad invited CNI to aid in supplying names of potentially qualifying residents.

GETTING WIRED IN COVENTRY

Cable television is scheduled to be available to everyone in the Coventry area of Cleveland Heights sometime between July 10 and September 11, Marie Coffey of Viacom has informed the Cleveland Heights Cable TV Advisory Commission.

Viacom's wiring schedule divides Coventry roughly into three areas, whose boundaries converge at the intersection of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Blvd. (EHB). One boundary runs north along Coventry, one runs southeast along Washington Blvd. and one runs southwest along EHB--creating Northeast, Northwest and South sections. Respecting the limits, exceptions and details listed below, the Northeast section should be wired by July 10, the South section during August, and the Northwest section by September 11.

The major limitation is that this applies only to the Coventry area of Cleveland Heights. Nothing stated here is valid south of Cedar, east of Lee or in Forest Hills, East Cleveland or Cleveland.

Exceptions: Both sides of Coventry north of Mayfield are in the Northeast section (July 10). The South section (August) bulges across Washington between Edgemoor and Berkshire. The Northwest section (September 11) includes everything west of Lennox between EHB and Cedar.

Details: Part of the South section should be completed by August 7 and the rest by August 21. This sub-boundary runs roughly southeast from EHB along Overlook to Overlook Lane, and south along the Lane to Cedar--with the eastern subsection wired first. The sub-boundary actually deviates from the mentioned streets in two places, but if you accept what is outlined here a few households will be pleasantly surprised by having cable two weeks early.

As soon as the wiring is completed in any section, households will be solicited for hookup. If you live in rented quarters, your landlord by law cannot prohibit you from hooking up. The Cable Commission exists to advise Council on cable policy, and to encourage residents to take advantage of the free access and leased access channels.

-- David R. Burwasser, Member  
Cleveland Heights Cable Commission

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WORTMAN APPOINTED TO RTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Coventry community activist, June C. Wortman, has been named to the Citizens Participation Advisory Committee of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to serve a one year term. Public transit systems are required to provide a means for citizen concerns to be articulated, and for those concerns to be responded to in a timely manner. The scope of the committee relates to all forms of mass transit in Cuyahoga County, its development and upgrading.

Mrs. Wortman, a resident of Cadwell Ave. has been active for Coventry PTA in seeking establishment of a Coventry Cross-town bus line. Two other Cleveland Hts. residents serving on the CPAC of RTA are Ann Dobelstein of Grandview Ave. and June Harris who lives on Forest Hills Blvd. Citizens wishing to voice concerns about RTA service are welcome to contact these three members.

COMMERCIAL STRIP UNDERGOING CHANGE

by

bobbie littell

You can't tell by looking at Coventry that the nation's economists foresee an economic recession. There are (or will be by the end of summer) six new shops, most of them in the recently restored Coventryard; two new eateries; two businesses have changed hands; one has gone out of business only to have its neighbor expand into the vacated space; one restaurant has changed its name.

In Coventryard Joe Cimino's Coventry Flower Mart in the downstairs lobby adds a nice visual effect to the whole mall. Joe runs a complete florist with cut flowers and plants. Daily specials and discounts on weddings, dinners, etc. are offered. An added attraction is the newsstand where you can pick up local and selected out-of-town papers. Also on the lower level Carol Norwalk's Feel Rite Health Foods opened June 2 with a full line of herbs, health foods, vitamin suppliments and hypo-allergenic cosmetics. Most of the items are discounted and she offers her own line of vitamins. Tropical Delights, next-door, offers some very interesting swim and lounge wear, cosmetics and perfumes for both men and women. Manager Beth Taylor showed me one aftershave with the provocative name "Sexy Afternoon." She will open a "suntan booth" soon. The other shop, open on that level is Jeans, Inc. owned by Morton and Media Rotsky who run a similar shop at Cedar Center. The Coventry shop is managed by son, Jay who stocks jeans of all sizes and shapes for both men and women. He also features tops and jackets (classic and preppy) plus accessories such as belts, socks, hats and backpacks.

Upstairs there will soon be two new places to eat, The Inn on Coventry, and the Haagan-Dazs ice cream store. Debbie Durik, owner of The Inn gave me an advanced look at the menu and it features old fashioned, homelike meals: soups, stews, casseroles, corned beef and cabbage, liver & onions, etc. The Haagen-Dazs store will be an ice cream parlor, with twenty different kinds of ice creams and sherberts, and a full line of sodas and sundays to eat there or to go. Owners Ned & Kathy Overbeke say it should open August 1.

There will be two new shops on the strip: Lilia and Victoria Piglet. Lilia at 1864 Coventry, a gift shop run by Don (Carroll Drug) and Lily Horvat will offer wares similar to the drug store's but Don promises the neighbors some pleasant surprises. Victoria Piglet, 1846 Coventry (up the Dobama staircase) is a real find, featuring hand-made baby and children clothes and one of a kind accessories hand crafted by local artists. Laura Horrocks who has created a very unusual shop makes many of the things herself.

Both the Saloon and Coventry Pizza and Beverage have changed hands. The new owners of the Saloon will not be on board till after July 1. On May 21 Bill "Timbers" Swan and Jim Cusick took over the operation of Coventry Pizza and Beverage. We can already see what the change in management has meant. The windows are cleaner, there is much less litter, and the food is better. Cusick is a Cleveland Policeman and more attention is paid to strict adherence to laws controlling the sale of alcoholic beverages. Timbers tells me they are going to start some interior remodeling as soon as they can; a new floor is first. They have been using a novel sales promotion gimmick, they stand a boy on the sidewalk outside giving dollar bills to people who will go in to spend them.

Coventry Art Gallery closed, and Marcia Polevoi of High Tide Rock Bottom has already leased the space and engaged Philmore Hart to redesign it to make room for more of the cards, gifts and other "neat junk" she specializes in.

Daine's on Coventry has become Turkey Ridge (the name of the village that became Cleveland Heights). They have reopened the dining room door and have redecorated. Michel Matheny, manager tells me she is planning live entertainment five nights a week and offers half price drinks during happy hour, daily 4-7 p.m. and on Ladies Nights, Tuesdays.

LETTER: SALE OF TURKEY RIDGE PARKLAND

To the Editor, Coventry Village News.

I question the wisdom of, and strongly oppose, the proposed sale of city owned parkland known as Turkey Ridge to Drs. Berman and Breslau for the purpose of constructing sixteen condominium units. Turkey Ridge is located on Edgehill Rd. near the Overlook Rd. intersection, below Newcomb Park, a dead restricted park.

The ordinance defining the procedure for the sale of city owned property does not require any sort of public hearing. Council has authorized the city manager to enter into a conditional contract for the sale of the property, subject to approval of the various boards and commissions and final approval of council. The only opportunity the public will have for input will be at public hearing(s) required by boards or commissions, or at the public forum section of Council Meetings.

The loss of the Turkey Ridge Park will give Cleveland Heights an entrance from Cleveland, on Edgehill Road, that will consist of a row of almost continuous housing and a view of the backs of the various properties that front on Murray Hill Rd. and East 125 St. In addition, the proposed construction will almost totally cover the site with two large buildings that are six stories high when viewed from the rear (Cleveland side). Little land is set aside for landscaping. The condominium project will be the last landscape for this bit of geologically significant parkland--it is the westernmost escarpment of the Allegheny Plateau.

-- Elsie Finley, 2400 Overlook Rd.  
Clev. Hts., 44160

LETTER: SECTION 8 HOUSING--AN ALTERNATIVE

To the Editor, Coventry Village News.

At the special meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., June 23, 1981, I was struck by the lack of any proposed alternatives to the plans of Harsax to fulfill this community's housing needs and commitments. Harsax, Inc., a real estate development firm from the west side, has proposed to rehabilitate seven dilapidated buildings in the Coventry area to provide 50 units of HUD-assisted housing to low- and middle-income families. Although City Hall has committed itself with HUD to fulfill a need for 75 units of this type of housing, and overtures have been made to area landlords to apply for these federal funds to rehabilitate their buildings, Harsax's has been the only application received in over two years. It has been approved locally, and is up for approval by HUD. This has alarmed many local residents and landlords; and this was the focus of the June 23 special meeting.

The opposition to the Harsax plan was based on three perceived problems: (1) the plan would be administered by "an outsider," with no apparent commitment to the community (i.e., a carpetbagging gouger); (2) the plan concentrates the subsidized housing in a small area of this city, and the "burden" should be shared; and (3) the plan will subject our community to an "unknown element," and displace current residents. These fears were not dispelled during the meeting; but neither were alternative solutions offered which would meet our housing needs and fulfill our commitment to HUD.

There are solutions, if this community is willing to try. HUD's Community Development Block Grant funds may be used to provide low-income households with homeownership opportunities. In other words, HUD will help low- and moderate-income families buy these run-down buildings, rehabilitate them, (continued on Page 7)

LETTER: SECTION 8 HOUSING--AN ALTERNATIVE (Continued from Page 6)

with the tenants providing "sweat equity," and the tenants are then the owners of their own apartment buildings--as either cooperatives or condominiums.

Currently, HUD is managing two demonstrations in New York City to promote this innovative program. The Multi-Family Sweat Equity Homestead demonstration uses Section 312 funds to substantially rehabilitate abandoned buildings owned by the city. The buildings are then turned into cooperatives for low-income households. The second demonstration, "Co-Op for Neighborhoods," combines Section 8 Housing Assistance and local private funding with CDBG funds to finance the rehabilitation of apartment buildings and their conversion to cooperatives.

A program like this could work in Cleveland Heights if the local government wants to make it work. City Hall should use some of its CDBG funds to advertise and promote the opportunities available to low- and middle-income families under these programs. The City should recruit 50 or 75 such families who plan to make Cleveland Heights their long-term home, and work with these people to obtain the federal assistance needed to buy and convert these deteriorated buildings. These families of carpenters, plumbers, carpet-layers, roofers, window washers, cleaners, vacuumers, et.al., could then take over these buildings that so badly need them. The City should also launch an energetic campaign to force current owners of dilapidated buildings to either make the necessary repairs to bring their buildings up to code or sell the building to these cooperative groups who will make the needed repairs.

This solution, I believe, addresses the concerns that were raised against the Harsax plan. First, this plan would not be administered by outsiders, it would be administered by people already in the community, and who plan to stay here. Secondly, the plan burdens no one, but rather betters us all. The buildings around us that need repair will get repair. The neighbors around us who, for economic reasons, may be living in substandard housing, will be given a chance to help themselves, while helping the community. Thirdly, the fear of the "unknown element" will be defused. When we think of subsidized family housing, we tend to think of bratty children, vandalism, and dirty laundry hanging on rotten clotheslines. But when a family lives in a home which they own, they have the highest incentive to keep their community safe, clean and secure, for their children as well as from their children. The tenants will be the ones paying for code violations, for broken windows, and for the general upkeep of their investment. It should also be noted that the increased tax revenue generated by major rehabilitation and conversion of these properties will likely offset any increased demand on city services.

It is imperative that concerned citizens act now to stimulate our elective representatives into action. The HUD money that is available to this community should be neither ignored nor squandered. But every avenue should be explored to make the best use of our housing resources.

-- David Rodney, 2768 Lancashire #5  
Clev. Hts., 44106

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . . We Watch Out For Each Other

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS REPORT . . . . . Charles Owen, Chair

FLOWER PLANTING PROJECT: On June 22, committee members planted three varieties of geraniums around the trees in the new municipal park in front of Coventryard Mall. Included in the project is a brick border for the tree located at the north end of the park near Bill Jones and Cedar Chest. Neighborhood residents involved in this project were Dennis and Beverly Coughlin (lower Hampshire), Debbie Heller (upper Hampshire), Barbara Berger (Glenmont) Charles Owen (lower Hampshire), Carol Gibson (Wilton), Jessie Watson (upper Hampshire) and Nancy Hubbert (So. Overlook). Special thanks to all the Flower Fund donors and especially to George Fitzpatrick of the Heights Theater. Thanks also to Lew Zipkin for providing the bricks and to City Forester Emerick Szabo for his guidance.

DISCOUNT PAINT PROGRAM: The Environmental Concerns Committee would like to remind Coventry residents that the Cleveland Heights Housing Preservation Office has federal money available to pay 50% of the cost of paint used to paint the exterior of qualified homes. Details: 321-0100 Ext. 297.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT . . . . . F. David Gill, Chair

ZONING BOARD DENIES ABC APPLIANCE SIGN REQUEST. ABC Appliance was denied its request to retain the projecting sign at its Coventry Road store. At its June 17 public meeting the Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously and swiftly ordered that the sign be removed. The Board agreed with Coventry Neighbors, Inc.'s position that the sign was a visual nuisance in the public right-of-way, and was possibly installed unlawfully in the first place. Barring appeal through the courts on ABC's part, the sign should vanish soon.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE . . . . . David R. Burwasser, Chair

BRING YOUR COPY of the present and proposed CNI Constitution and Bylaws to the July meeting, if you are a member. The special meeting did not draw a quorum, so the matter has been referred to a regular meeting by action of the membership. The Constitution will be taken up at the July meeting.

CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE REPORT . . . . . Bruce M. Hennes, Chair

The Task Force will sponsor a Crime Prevention Booth at the Coventry Village Arts Fair. Located in front of Pick-n-Pay, and in cooperation with the Cleveland Heights Police Department, the Task Force will have available literature and emergency phone number stickers.

Residents of Cleveland Heights will also be able to sign up for a free on-site home or apartment security analysis, a service of the Police Department. A police officer will also be stationed at the booth to answer any questions you might have about crime or security.

We need folks who can give us 1-2 hours to help staff the booth. If interested, please call Rachel Beam (371-6095) or Bruce Hennes (321-4670).

The Task Force also passed the following motion at its June meeting: "We strongly encourage the elimination of all 'seating' on the outside of Irv's Delicatessen and also encourage the elimination of anti-social behavior associated with the establishment." This motion will be brought to the general membership at the July 14 meeting of CNI. If it is ratified, members of the Task force (Continued on Page 9)



CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE REPORT (Continued from page 8)

will work with City Hall, the Police Department, and Irv's to those ends.

Our next Crive Prevention Task Force meeting will be on July 27 at 7:s0 p.m. at 2910 Hampshire Road.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

EUCLID HEIGHTS BLVD. UPDATE. . . . .bobbie littell

On July 1, City Manager Richard V. Robinson signed an executive order banning parking in the westbound lane of Euclid Heights Blvd. on week days from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. where work is in progress.

During the reconstruction the contractors have allowed residents to park on the torn up roadway, whenever possible. Increasingly, residents have not removed their cars by the time the work crews are ready to go. This has caused costly delays, and resulted in Robinson's order. After that date, cars blocking work crews will be towed.

The westbound lane is almost complete, according to Dominic Tomaro, Director of Public Works. There is about a weeks work to do on curbing, driveway aprons, man-holes and catch basins. Then the sub-base will be striped and opened to two-way traffic; the eastbound lane will be closed, and the process will be reversed. That should take eight to ten weeks. The last step will be applying the finishing course which will be done simultaneously on both sides. Residents will be notified when there will be limited access to their homes.

It must be noted that these are estimated time tables, Tomoro said. Since this is a federal project, any changes in specifications because of unexpected conditions, although anticipated in the budget, must be approved by both state and federal au<sup>t</sup>horities. This can take as long as thirty days, he said.

LANDLORD & TENANT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS RESIGN. . . . .Carol Hamilton

New officers were elected for the Heights Landlord and Tenant Association at their June 9 meeting. Officers elected in May resigned because, although they own property in Cleveland Heights, they themselves werenot residents and felt it inappropriate that they serve as officers. The new officers are: Stephan Rajke, president; Dan Timman, vice-president; Charlotte Hustak, secretary; and, Pete Menczer, treasurer. In addition three directors-at-large were elected. They are: Rick Snider, Stan Meirson and Al Lobo.

At their July 1 meeting they agreed to hire attorney Lowell Gettman, at an initial cost of \$2,000, and agreed to assess members on the basis of number of units owned to cover fees. They are also planning other fund raising activities.

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ODDS-N-ENDS

Last month in this column I ran a comic bit by a marvelously "punny" fellow, Gar Hyler, treasurer of Coventry Books. When I had the page printed, Tues., I took it to him. He was delighted. I'm glad I did because on the following Saturday, Gar had a heart attack and died. He was such fun. He delighted in words and loved to play with them, with humor and elan. I will miss him. His plan for the summer was to put a new roof on his home. Ellie Strong at Coventry Books is collecting a fund to accomplish this.

A note from Walter "Ozzie"Oswald, from City Hall received by CVN served to intro duce our new constable (beat cop). His name is Gerald Grimm. I spoke to him while "streetwalking" and he is happy to be in Coventry. He finds the residents and the merchants all very friendly. Stop and welcome him (Continued on page 11)

-- COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD --

PLANNING & ZONING NOTES. . . . . . F. David Gill, P/Z, Chair

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING, JULY, 15, 1981, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

BZA CALENDAR NO. 1481: Request of the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Board of Education to continue to construct a playground facility at Coventry School. The Playground is located closer to Euclid Heights Blvd. than the zoning code allows, thus a variance in yard regulation is required.

At CNI's July 14 meeting, its Planning and Zoning Committee will recommend that the organization as a whole support the Board of Education on this request.

BIKE AND HIKE TOUR PLANNED BY CIA (sic)

The Cleveland Heights Community Improvement Awards Committee (CIA), marking its seventh summer of scouting the city to recognize major residential improvements, invites everyone to join in a Bike and Hike tour Saturday and Sunday, July 18-19, to view past award winners.

Seventeen residential winners from CIA competition since 1975 have been selected for the tour. The homes, representing the varied architecture of housing stock in the community, all have exterior improvements readily visible from the street so that tourgoers may see them as they bike, hike or drive by during the weekend.

Each award-winning residence will be clearly designated by a sign posted on the front lawn. The names and addresses of the winners whose homes will be part of the tour will be available.

These award-winning improvements also will serve as an example of what the CIA will be seeking as it begins its summer search for creative exterior residential improvements. Nominations for these annual awards are being accepted now through September 1. Brief written entries describing single or multi-family residential improvements (exterior only) that have had a positive impact on a street or neighborhood may be sent to Barbara Lind at the Heights Community Congress, 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Hts., 44118. The CIA is co-sponsored by the City of Cleveland Hts. and the Heights Community Congress.

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MORE ODDS-N-ENDS (Continued from page 9)

I have heard that some feel it inappropriate that I use the Bucky Fuller quote, "God is a verb," on the community page. I do so because to me, it is a polite way of saying "put your money where your mouth is." The issue is not religious but rather refer to how things get done in a community. I believe that "good" (the religious call it God's work) gets done through the action (verb) of people. I feel that more good gets done by people working together for common goals. That to me is what Coventry Neighbors is all about.

CNI regrets running notice of the mini-park party scheduled for July 6 & 7. The party was canceled after CVN was published. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused anyone. . . It's too bad that there are some in our community who care so little about the efforts of others to improve the appearance of our street that they steal plants from around the trees and/or in the flower boxes by individual merchants. . . In that same vane - some "bozo" placed the new flower boxes on the corners, obstructing the pathways designated by the cross walks. Let's get with it, boys.

I have it on good authority that Central National Bank will soon appear before the Architectural Board of Review requesting a permit to (Continued on page 12)

BOOS & BRAVOS

**BRAVO:** The decorative lamp standard gracing the new mini-park at Coventry and Euclid Heights shines brightly once again after the City of Cleveland Heights installed new bulbs that were recently donated by Coventry Neighbors.

**BRAVO:** The new crosswalk signs with flashing lights recently installed on Coventry in the commercial area by the City will add an extra margin of safety for pedestrians.

**BRAVO:** The new owners of Coventry Beverage and Pizza have made quite a dent in the litter and trash that used to accumulate around this popular source of eats.

**BOO:** It's a shame that the grass of the municipal parking lot next to Coventry Pizza has not been cut by the City in recent memory. This mini-field is a civic disgrace.

**BOO:** While the Spartacus Youth League has the freedom to think as they like, it's too bad that they have to insult the Coventry community (one long known for tolerance of different views) by gluing their advertisements to walls and telephone poles. As Coventry residents strive to improve their neighborhoods, the above gratuitous acts of vandalism only serve to alienate the community.

-- Charles Owen

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SOME MORE ODDS-N-ENDS

install a "Ready Bank" box at Coventry and Lancashire... HOORAY!

It's nice to see two Coventry Councilmen at CNI meetings. It's too bad that one of them is only concerned about what is going on in his own neighborhood when he is running for office. . . Nina Ezarti tells me that plans are now being formalized for a senior citizen craft program in the fall at Coventry Library. It will be sponsored jointly by Cuyahoga Community College and the Heights Guild of Artists and Artisans. For further information call her at 371-2757. . . Thanks to Herb Ascherman for his generous donation for the Coventry Village News.

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You may become a member of COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. simply by filling out this tear slip and returning it with your check, made payable to Coventry Neighbors, Inc., to 2747 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

Check one of the following classes of membership.

Individual (\$5.00)     Family (\$7.00)     Senior (\$3.00)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

I am now receiving COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS By mail.  Yes  No

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . . We Watch Out For Each Other

COMMUNITY WATCH DOG: ACTION ON LONG NEGLECTED HOUSING - PART II

Last month we described how dealing with neglected housing or absentee landlords may involve four agencies. Lack of follow-through usually involves a "falling between the stools." Two gaps have been identified; that between police and inspectional services when a warrant is issued but never served; and when the court has insufficient background information about the neglected house and its effect on the neighborhood. Here are suggestions for citizen action. Next month we will report the results of one action, by Upper Hampshire Street Association.

Call Inspectional Services, 321-0100. Obtain the name of the person you talk to. Report house address, and specific complaints. Request advance notification of any court hearing. Summarise your complaint and request in a letter to the person you talked to. Get your neighbors to do the same.

If you hear nothing - call again in a week. Keep calling weekly until you are informed about action. Get your neighbors to do the same.

Before court hearing call the prosecutor's office, 321-0100. Ask for Rick Mendelson. Tell him you want to be a witness concerning the house set for trial. Get your neighbors to do the same.

If landlord does not appear at the hearing, a warrant will be issued. Call the police department in a week to see what has been done. Call inspections likewise. Call weekly until the warrant is served. Get your neighbors. . .

Attend re-scheduled court hearing after warrant is served. Testify. Keep close track until housing violations are corrected. Then write to thank the judge, inspections and police. Then have a neighborhood party.

CAUTION: Save yourselves for the really serious neighborhood "slum." Too much energy is required, both from you and from the limited staffs in CHS, police and Court to waste it on small violations. Get your neighbors. . .

TO TENANTS LIVING IN NEGLECTED, DETERIORATED HOUSING: Go through the process described above. Get your fellow tenants and neighbors. . . Tenants are protected by law from retaliation for making legitimate complaints.

Call the LANDLORD-TENANTS ORGANIZATION, 621-0542. Ask about the process by which tenants can legally deposit their rent money with the court, in escrow, until the landlord makes repairs. It is a complex process. You should have an attorney. Get your fellow tenants to do the same.

PLACES TO CALL FOR LEGAL HELP:

Legal Aid Society - 771-1313  
Cuyahoga Bar Assoc. - 621-5112  
Black Women Lawyers - 861-5830

CSU Legal Clinic - 687-2527  
Bar Assoc. of Greater Cleve. - 696-3525  
Norman S. Minor Bar Assoc. - 696-3833  
Cleve. Women Lawyers Assoc. Referral Service - 696-0385

Why do I keep repeating: Get your neighbors to do the same? Because rule #1 for social action directed toward any bureaucracy is DO NOT DO IT ALONE. Eating, loving, and social action are more fun and effective when not done alone. Bon Appetit!

--June C. Wortman

