



Coventry Village News

NOVEMBER, 1981

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

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PERMISSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE MEASURE Tabled

by
David R. Surwasser

Fire stations, police stations, recreational facilities, schools and muni parking lots would be permitted in Cleveland Heights residential areas as primary land uses, without specific land-use related public hearings, under a resolution introduced by the Planning & Development Committee of Council.

Land use transfers from government to private usage would be equally facilitated under Ordinance 110-1981, presented for first reading at the October 26 continuation of the regular Council meeting of October 19, 1981. As a zoning change, the measure requires a public hearing, which has been set for Monday, November 30, at 7:30 in Council chambers.

The measure abolishes the "AAA" public land use zoning classification, and incorporates public land uses into the structure of the rest of the code.

Currently, new land use by the City (or the School or Library Boards) requires public hearings and Planning Commission approval for rezoning of such land to "AAA" from its previous classification. Similarly, conversion of land from public to private ownership must go through such processes. Recent examples of such activity, and the public response they can engender, are the proposal to build a fire station at Cedar and Norfolk, and the plans to build condominiums on City parkland on Turkey Ridge, respectively.

Under the new measure, the land-use-related hearings that resulted from those proposals would not have been held. All developments would still be subject to hearings and Zoning Board and Planning Commission approvals for variances from parking, setback and other mechanical standards.

The measure gives the government wider choices of land to use than the Zoning Code affords private owners, who are more severely restricted in the less intense land use classification (e.g., single-family residences with large lots, ditto with small lots, two-family, etc.). The restrictions loosen as one proceeds through the portions of the code governing more intensively used land (differing grades of multi-family, office and commercial).

In sharp contrast, under Ordinance 110-1981, land under government ownership might be put to any of the entire range of common public uses as a matter of course in any residential district, including single-family. Permission for any other public land use not specifically contrary to law, in a residential district, could be granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals or the Planning Commission. The more permissive formula--any public use of public land not otherwise prohibited--would be allowed without special permission (or hearings) in any office or commercial district.

The measure is part of a package introduced as a result of the City's annual review of the Zoning Code.

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BOOS & BRAVOS

- BRAVO: Cleveland Heights High School had more National Merit Semi-finalists (14 students) than eight of the twelve schools recently spotlighted in Money magazine. In fact, Heights High has the second highest number of semi-finalists of all Ohio public schools!
- BRAVO: Congratulations to Thomas J. Ziska and Associates for winning first prize (commercial exterior category) in the 1981 Remodeling Design Awards. The award was for the recently rebuilt Coventryard Mall. They are sponsored by Qualified Remodeler and Commercial Remodeling magazines.
- BRAVO: Special thanks to the Coventry PTA for donating \$1,000 to Coventry School for the purpose of schoolyard landscaping.
- BRAVO: Cleveland Heights City Council has placed a moratorium on electronic game rooms until January 1st.

-- Charles J. Owen

CITY SPREADS \$7800-PLUS AROUND COVENTRY AREA

by

David R. Burwasser

Neighborhoods-in-Action grant applicants in the Coventry area received a total of \$7,879.24 in federal Community Development Block Grant monies, entirely apart from successful grants submitted by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. The largest category, amounting to \$5,190, was granted for shade trees and other amenities on residential streets.

The Cleveland Heights Landlords and Tenants Assn. (CHLTA) received a total of \$4,339.24, including \$1,649.24 for improvements at Turtle Park. Of this \$1,394.24 will purchase a bubbler drinking fountain for the park. An additional \$255 is earmarked for shade trees at the park. Joyce Rajki, secretary of CHLTA, stated that the present shade trees do not really provide adequate shade for the swings or slide during high summer, when use of the park is most intense.

CHLTA also received \$2,690, the largest Coventry grant, for shade trees on Hampshire, Kenilworth, Lancashire, Mayfield and Overlook. Placement of the trees is to be coordinated with the City Forester.

Hillcrest Street (HSA) received a total of \$3,540, of which \$2,500 will go for low-maintenance tree lawn treatment on the street, and for a cedar sign. HSA is to maintain the tree lawns and sign, and the latter must pass the standard City approval for signage.

HSA also received \$1,040 for a chain link fence to control litter from the City garage that runs directly behind several Hillcrest residences. Erection of the fence must be coordinated through the City's Service Department, but the labor will not be provided from City Hall staff.

Of three applications made by CNI, two—one from the Crime Prevention Task Force and one from the Coventry Village News—were rejected. An application from CNI's Environmental Concerns Committee was funded.

NASTY CRACKS AND SLOPPY JOURNALISM

A vitriolic and unprofessional article on Cleveland Heights by Plain Dealer reporter James S. Neff, titled "The Nasty Cracks," appeared on October 22 on p. 23-A and has gotten some fols at Cleveland Heights City Hall riled--not without justification.

Neff reports the tribulations of ailing Cleveland Heights resident James Johnson, whom the City has ordered to fill in some quarter-inch cracks in his garage floor. Johnson is reported as considering the damage trivial and the citation hectoring.

Neff also reports a speculation by Johnson that the city building inspectors are in cahoots with the construction industry, currently upon hard times, in forcing residents to contract for unnecessary repairs. No supporting evidence is offered.

In this, Neff stands specifically in violation of journalistic principals. It is unethical for a reporter to print a defamatory quote, even if attributed to a specific source, when there is nothing but the bare statement to back it up. (See, for example, "The Complete Reporter," Harriss et.al., p 67, Item 5c)

Neff also displays a lack of competence to report on building maintenance matters. He seems unaware that quarter-inch cracks in a garage floor are not a trivial defect in the Great Lakes climate. Moisture in the cracks, carried through several freeze-thaw cycles, can expand them until the garage floor is destroyed, which deprives the garage walls of essential support. As this is a gradual process, the possible consequent cost of total replacement is likely to be borne by a subsequent owner--which makes it rightly a matter of public regulation.

Perhaps the most infuriating aspect of Neff's piece is his deplorable choice of targets for criticism. The city Housing Preservation Office is not a construction contractors' cats-paw; it is a city agency where, for example, arrangements might be made to develop a compliance schedule that takes into account Johnson's seasonal illness. Cleveland Heights is not obliged to extend such aid; it does so none the less. Neff appears ignorant of the serious problems that do exist in housing maintenance enforcement--inconsistency of inspections, for example. To develop such a story, of course, Neff would have to interview more than one Cleveland Heights resident.

The editors of the Plain Dealer share responsibility with Neff, for publishing his defective journalism. Plain Dealer coverage of the suburbs has long been typified by sensationalism and superficiality; thanks to Neff one may now add, malice.

Reporters who aspire to notice in the Mike Royko "gut-slammer" school of journalism should observe closely how Mr. Royko pursues his craft: provocatively, to be sure; but factually, competently, and ethically.

-- David R. Burwasser

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other.

IF YOU MISSED THE OCTOBER MEETING. . .CNI CLARIFIES GAME ROOM POSITION

CNI said "no" to game rooms of any kind last month when a majority of members attending the organization's October meeting approved a resolution adopting a position of opposition to coin-operated games as a primary use in commercial areas.

According to the resolution's sponsor, CNI Secretary, David Burwasser its purpose is to give CNI's executive committee greater scope and flexibility in lobbying efforts regarding the game room issue. CNI's usual practice, Mr. Burwasser explained, is to concentrate on specific occurrences, in the way the group voted to oppose the game room planned for the storefront at 2804 Mayfield Rd. and authorized a representative to convey that information to the Board of Zoning appeals. In contrast, an official policy of opposition to game rooms in general will allow the executive committee to voice CNI's disapproval whenever any plans for game rooms are being discussed.

A more cautious view was advanced by some members, however. F. David Gill, CNI Planning and Zoning Committee chair, admitted to some ambivalence regarding the resolution pointing out that a heretofore unenvisioned case might arise in which a game room might be approved. Another member suggested CNI use the time provided by the city's moratorium on the issuance of game permits to study fully the entire game room matter before adopting an official position. This concern, that CNI continue to watch developments in the matter closely, was addressed in a motion by CVN co-editor, Bobbie Littell, asking the executive committee to make this monitoring task a special assignment for one of the standing committees. The motion carried, as did the resolution.

ONE MORE TIME. . .

With one exception, CNI's officers were returned to their respective positions for an additional term in an election which saw only one contested seat.

In the contest for the treasurer's spot, Diane Bersnak won a third term but her opponent, Dennis Coughlin, was a winner as well when Bobbie Littell withdrew from the trustees race and nominated Coughlin in her place. Ms. Littell, who was a trustee in 1980-81, cited the desirability of tapping Coughlin's administrative experience and the fact that her position as CVN co-editor guaranteed her access to the board of trustees as reason for her withdrawal.

CNI's officers for 1981-82 are as follows:

President	Charles Owen
Vice President	Bruce Hennes
Secretary	David Burwasser
Treasurer	Diane Bersnak
Trustee	F. David Gill
Trustee	Dennis Coughlin

-- Lucy Balazek

COUNCIL FREEZES COIN-OP GAMES

by

F. David Gill and Lucy Balazek

A moratorium on the issuance of permits for coin-operated games was unanimously approved by CH Council at its October 5 meeting, to give the city an opportunity to develop legislation regulating the operation of such games.

The freeze, which extends to the end of 1981, follows a recent surge of interest among video entrepreneurs in opening game rooms in Cleveland Heights and substantial opposition from residents and merchants in areas where the video ventures were planned. Current zoning codes contain no specific mention of game rooms which, until the moratorium, the city was regulating as a conditional use.

Although CH Law Director, Donald K. Barclay, has pointed to the difficulties in developing a prohibitive ordinance with regard to game rooms which would weather a constitutional challenge, most opponents of game rooms desire a ban on them as a primary use of a storefront. Individual members of CNI have suggested, for instance, that the maximum number of games permitted in a business be a function of the business' floor space. Were this maximum number properly chosen, games would be possible as a secondary use, but never as a primary use. Another CNI member, having noted that most objections to game parlors are youth-related, offered the suggestion that games be restricted to licensed taverns where minors are prohibited in the first place.

CNI will continue to monitor and report on this matter, and to lobby city officials regarding the organization's formal stance in opposition to electronic game parlors as a primary use. (Related story on Page 4)

CITY PONDS VIDEO PARLOR REGS

by

Lucy Balazek

Game room opponents hoping for a ban on the entertainment parlors and looking to forthcoming municipal legislation for such prohibition may be disappointed, according to one city employee involved in writing the new legislation.

Larry Beam, a CH Planning Department staff member, in an interview with CVN shortly after the city adopted its game permit moratorium, said that the city would not risk a costly court battle over legislation it knew would not withstand a legal challenge. Electronic games and game rooms are legal in the U.S. Therefore cities and other public agencies may not prohibit them.

However, Mr. Beam said, while an outright ban is precluded, there is "plenty of precedent" for regulation, even regulation making game rooms unprofitable and unattractive to investors.

The kinds of regulations initially being explored involve both the siting of game rooms as well as their layout and operation. Mr. Beam suggested that the city might allow game rooms in certain areas while prohibiting them in others. He pointed out that a good case could be made against a game room across from the Cedar-Lee Theater, as had been proposed earlier, because of the closeness of the high school, but that the game room at Severance Center has been operating for several years with no substantial complaints.

Regarding the layout of the game rooms, Mr. Beam suggested certain parts of the fire code might be applicable. Of particular interest is the density of the machine: in the room, their distance from each other and from exits, and the amount of aisle-space available. The city also might regulate operating hours, he said.

Mr. Beam warned, however, that while many possibilities for control of game rooms exist, the final legislation would reflect Council's estimate of the need for such control.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS REPORT Charles J. Owen, Chair

SPRUCE DAY WRAP-UP: Our first Spruce Day was a real success. Two hundred spring flower bulbs were planted in Coventry Park, all tree stakes were painted, and a wooden retaining wall was constructed at the tree well in front of Cedar Chest. Also the soil around the trees was tilled and weeded. Mmm. . . volunteers celebrated the end of Spruce Day with a fantastic pot luck dinner that just couldn't be beat!

THANK YOU! Paint and wire brushes used on the tree posts were supplied by the City through the efforts of Lette Sklader and Larry Beam. The "wet paint" signs were printed courtesy of the City's Community Relations Department, thanks to Nancy Hubbard.

MEETING NOTICE: Our next meeting will be on October 12 at Charles Owen's, 2745 Hampshire Road, 7:30 PM. All interested persons are welcome to attend. For more information about any of our activities, contact Charles Owen at 321-1268 or drop a line to Coventry Neighbors and you will be contacted.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT F. David Gill, Chair

ZONING BOARD APPROVES TURKEY RIDGE CONDOS - PROCESS QUESTIONED: On October 21, the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) voted unanimous approval of the Turkey Ridge condominium project planned for the hillside between Edgemoor Road and the Cleveland border. CNI, many Edgemoor and Overlook residents, as well as frightened Murray Hill citizens had opposed the scheme.

The project can now be blocked only by a Council veto of the BZA's decision, or litigation by aggrieved neighbors. Council observers generally regard a veto as unlikely. However, since a representative of the Little Italy Redevelopment Association has publicly promised a lawsuit to halt the project, the matter may yet be decided in the courts.

During the 2 month hearing process on this matter, BZA members expressed grave concerns about the project. BZA Chair Fred Toguchi told project architect Robert Blatchford he was "trying to squeeze too much into the land." Toguchi, himself a respected architect, asked Blatchford what modifications could be made to the plan to prevent the condos from pressing so tightly against neighboring property lines. Negotiation then began between Blatchford and the Board. While the discussions were conducted within the audience's sight, participants' voices were reduced to off-microphone whispers. Apparently satisfied with design compromises not made clear to the public, the Board approved the project.

While the secretive appearance of these negotiations was no doubt unintentional, the public's right to hear this crucial give and take was denied. This reporter raised an objection with the Assistant Law Director, and was told he could approach the Board's table, and stand next to the discussion in order to hear. This invitation was symbolically declined, since it would not have served the needs of other concerned but less aggressive citizens. Furthermore, the prospect of dozens of citizens some day elbowing their way up to the Board during its deliberations would be at best disorderly and undignified, at worst physically intimidating to Board Members.

PLANNING & ZONING NOTES: Board of Zoning Appeals Public Hearing, November, 18, 1981, 7:30 PM, City Hall. A request from the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Public Library, 1925 Coventry Road for a variance for two wall signs, one facing Coventry Road, the other facing Washington Boulevard will be heard. A "monument sign" is also planned for the grassy area in front of the main entrance. (An example of a monument sign is the one in front of Metropolitan Savings, 1865 Coventry Road).

CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE REPORT. Bruce Hennes, Chair

An evening beat patrolman will be assigned to the stretch of Euclid Heights Boulevard that is still under construction, patrolling at irregular hours on irregular days. Police counsel residents to exercise caution in walking around that area by night; it is about equivalent to taking a stroll in Cain Park during the same hours.

EUCLID HEIGHTS BOULEVARD UP-DATE. Bobbie Littell, Chair, Comm. Aff.

The last phase of the Euclid Heights Boulevard reconstruction is almost complete according to Dominic Tomaro, Director of Public Works for the City of Cleveland Heights. The sub-base and binder are in and the curb work and driveway aprons should be finished by November 15, at which time the road will be opened to two-way traffic.

Current plans are to add the finish course in the spring, however if fair, warm weather persists it might get done yet this fall. (The finish course cannot be added in cold weather.) If the work is not completed till spring, ramps must be built up around manhole and catch basin castings to allow for snow plowing. Residents are asked to continue to cooperate with the contractor during the coming weeks, so that they can take advantage of every minute of good weather.

Phase I from Cedar to Coventry is now complete. Parking will be permitted with the same restrictions as before the reconstruction, according to Tomaro. He stressed, however, that this is a temporary measure until adequate off-street parking can be provided.

Tomaro said that he appreciated the cooperation of the residents in the Cedar-Coventry section.

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 2745 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Oh. 44106.

Check one of the following classes of membership.

* Individual (\$2.50) Family (\$3.50) Seniors (\$1.50)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

I am now receiving COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS by mail, Yes No

*Cost of membership represents yearly membership, pro-rated to reflect the last six months of 1981, until December 31, at which time full membership will be due for all members.

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other

****COMMUNITY CALENDAR** - COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

- | NOVEMBER | SHOWER CURTAINS WIN PRIZES |
|--|---|
| 5 CNI TRUSTEES MEETING 7:30 pm
2910 Hampshire | Leslie Eller's "Oriental Batik" took first prize in "The World's First Shower Curtain Art Show" sponsored by Cedar Chest, 1856 Coventry Rd. "Doll House" (quilt) by Sue Kulsicar took second place, and Betty and Leslie Ann Fortney's "All-American Nude" (quilt) received third place honors. All eight entries, contributed by local textile artists, will be on display at the Cedar Chest through Thanksgiving. |
| 6 "At the Arabica" 9:00 pm
Arabica. Music and poetry reading. | |
| 10 After School Special 2:30 pm-
Library 3:30 pm
CNI GENERAL MEETING 7:30 pm
Unitarian Society
2778 Lancashire | |
| | HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS
HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING |
| 11 Preschool Story Hour 10:30 am-
Library 2:30 pm | The Heights Community Congress will celebrate its ninth anniversary at its annual meeting this month. The agenda includes a president's and director's report, a class and neighborhood caucus, brunch catered by Our Gang, Too! and "The Year of the Nine," billed as "a humorous, nostalgic and somewhat irreverent look" at the Congress' past. The meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15 between 1:30 and 3:45 PM at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church at the corner of Taylor and Northvale Rds. The cost is \$6 per person and reservations must be made by November 10. More information is available from HCC, 2163 Lee Rd., 321-6775. |
| 12 CNI Env. Concerns 7:30 pm
Committee meeting
2745 Hampshire | |
| 13 "At the Arabica" 9:00 pm
Arabica. Music and poetry reading | |
| 15 Magazine Media Center
Grand Opening
Coventry Books
HCC Annual Meeting 1:30 pm-
Hope Evang. Lutheran 3:45 pm
Church. Taylor &
Northvale Rds. | |
| | LIBRARY'S "FRIENDS" OFFER BUYS ON BOOKS |
| 16 CH Council Meeting 7:30 pm
City Hall-Council
Chambers
CH-UH Library Board 7:30 pm
meeting. Main Branch
2345 Lee Rd. | Bargain books on all subjects will be available at the main library later this month when the Friends of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library hold their 1981 Fall Book Sale. Novels, non-fiction, textbooks and records will go for 35¢ or 3 for \$1, children's books for 25¢ and paperbacks for 15¢. "Friends" memberships also will be available at the door. The sale will be held at 2345 Lee Rd. on Friday, and Saturday, November 20 and 21, opening both days at 10:00 AM and running until 9:00 PM on Friday and 5:00 PM on Saturday. |
| 17 After School Special 2:30 pm-
Coventry Library 3:30 pm
Architectural Board 4:00 pm
of Review Meeting
City Hall-Comm. Rel.
Conf. Rm.
Citizens Advisory 7:30 pm
Committee Meeting
Main Library-2345 Lee | |
| 18 Preschool Story Hour 10:30 am-
Coventry Library 2:30 pm | |

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COVENTRY VILLAGE . . .

We Watch Out For Each Other

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

YARD CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

The Grand Opening of Coventryard will finally take place from Thursday, November 12 through Sunday November 15, according to Susan Spitz, the new Marketing Coordinator for Law Zipkin and Michael Hennenberg, the mall developers.

Ribbon-cutting will be at noon on Thursday and municipal and state dignitaries have been invited to participate in the ceremonies. Festivities will continue throughout the weekend with musical events, marching bands, magic acts, martial arts demonstrations and display automobiles. In addition, there will be drawings for gift certificates galore with a Grand Prize drawing for a trip to New York slated for Sunday evening. Planning for the party will be coordinated by Phil Fink & Company.

WHERE TO FIND THOSE HARD-TO-FIND MAGAZINES

Coventry Books opens its new Magazine Media Center on November 15 making available over 100 specialty magazines and journals few newsstands stock because of the periodicals' limited readerships. Among the titles in the collection, Astronomy, Antiques, Fiberarts, Fine Woodworking, Film Quarterly and The Harvard Business Review.

- 18 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 7:30 pm
City Hall-Council Chambers
- 20 Fall Book Sale 10:00 am-
Main Library 9:00 pm
2345 Lee Rd.
"At the Arabica" 9:00 pm
Arabica. Music and poetry reading
- 21 Fall Book Sale 10:00 am-
Main Library 5:00 pm
2345 Lee Rd.
- 24 After School Special 2:30 pm-
Coventry Library 3:30 pm
- 25 Preschool Story Hour 10:30 am-
Coventry Library 2:30 pm
- 27 "At the Arabica" 9:00 pm
Arabica. Music and poetry reading
- 30 CH Council Meeting 7:30 pm
City Hall-Council

DECEMBER

- 8 CNI GENERAL MEETING 7:30 pm
Unitarian Society

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

The following neighborhood groups and residents have won Community Improvement Awards this year.

Coventry Merchants Association, for its role in development of the minipark in front of Coventryard;

Cadwell, running parallel to Coventry between Hampshire and EHB, received a street award;

Petry Residence, 3061 E. Derbyshire

Wagner Residence, 2456 Kenilworth

ODDS-N-ENDS/STREETWALKING

It's still fun to STREETWALK on Coventry - It's looking good - not perfect yet but a whole lot better. It's cleaner and seems brighter. The work of CNI's Environmental Committee shows. I love to see the geraniums being gradually replaced by mums in the Record Revolution flower boxes. . . Coventry is one of the few places where, the week before Halloween people can be seen giving their costumes a dry run. The fall windows in the stores are bright and colorful. Did you see High Tide's new window? That really is Marcia in the poster. . . Students from Coventry School painted on the windows of The Inn. . . and student art work is displayed on the inside of the Yard. It's relatively quiet in the mini-park - not as many people are soaking up the sun as there were in the summer - there has been some impromptu music to be heard in the late fall sunshine.

Lilla has been making an impression with it's windows. . . her masks are something to behold. . . After two and a half years of planning Central National Bank hopes to have their Ready Bank in operation the first week in November, according to J.J. Barnoski, Coventry Branch Manager. It is hoped that this convenience will help attract CNB customers to Coventry and that they will like what they see. The installation will handle usual banking services: checking, savings, mortgage and utility payments 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It will be closed for a short period each day around 2:30 for the transactions to be processed. The terminal is well lighted and there is a built-in heating unit and trash receptacle. . . To get your card you must be an account holder and make application for a Ready Bank Card.

I spend a lot of time on the street and frequently leave my car in the muni-parking lot. I have been impressed by the operation of the Coventry Poultry Mart. All during the hot summer months when smells of decay can become particularly offensive, the only smell I noticed was an occasional strong smell of disinfectant, a remarkable feat for an operation where live poultry is brought in daily and prepared for market. I commend them for their obviously clean operation.

The F & T Deli at 2879 Mayfield (also known as Katies) has changed hands again. The new owner, Manny Tuffuor has cleaned up and re-arranged the interior. It's a handy spot for people living north of Mayfield to pick up bread, milk, beer, etc., without having to deal with the traffic on "the street." They still feature ribs, chicken, sandwiches and deli items. Hours are from 9:30 AM - 10 PM on week days, 10 AM - 11 PM week-ends.

-- bobble littell

PICK-N-PAY PLANS NEW COVENTRY FACADE

by

David R. Burwasser

A new facade for the Coventry Pick-N-Pay supermarket has received approval, in part, from the Cleveland Heights Architectural Board of Review (ABR). The new design will include a complete repainting of the surface, removal of the metal canopy roller above the windows, and covering of the upper half of the facade with sawn wood supporting a flat sign. As of CVN press time, the sign design has been submitted but not approved.

Absent from the plans are any attempt to restore a "human scale" to the facade, that is, to soften the imposing size of the vertical surface (by Coventry standards) situated so close to the sidewalk. Such "scale humanization" features were part of the Coventry commercial design guide prepared under auspices of the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC). However, since Pick-N-Pay did not seek LDC aid in the project, it was not subject to LDC standards, absent an insistence the ABR chose not to impose such a requirement.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH DOG: HOW THE COMMUNITY WORKER HELPS YOU

Nancy Hubbert is one of the staff of 8 Community Workers (CW) who work out of the Cleveland Heights Community Relations Department. When I say out, I mean out where the people are. If you don't reach her at 371-8822 on Monday or Tuesday you should try her at home, 791-9595. What might you call her about? Perhaps you have a neighbor who destroys your property; or you want to start a street club. Perhaps your street has many speeding cars and small children; or you know an elderly person who lives alone and lacks both food and medical care.

Nancy is assigned to the Coventry Area. She explains that each CW has different talents and personality; each community has different needs and styles. She stresses that she is not "the community organization" but a facilitator - the citizens have to solve their own problems. Her role is to help them to define and examine alternative solutions. The presence of a neighborhood organization or street club is a great help because the structure for getting things done is already there.

Problems she encounters most often are "neighbor to neighbor" - local and limited - where a third party can be a mediator, can re-interpret the problem, or make suggestions about solutions. An example involves an elderly couple who lived next to a new resident, a single black man. When his lawnmower scratched their new concrete drive racial feelings and suspicions about single men, the young, and newcomers became full-blown. The man was constantly harassed. The upset couple attempted to draw other neighbors into the dispute. Nancy provided support and sympathy to the single man under such unjustified attack. She also brought in the help of the Office on Aging, who provided outside activities and interests for the couple. This brought about some emotional distance for them. As a result the situation cooled. Sounds simple - but it requires tact, ingenuity, and persistence by the CW.

When neighbors have problems on a larger scale, such as speeding traffic on a street full of children, the CW provides information about what avenues for action are open, what specific City departments and personnel to approach. She helps reaffirm the timid citizen's right to make complaint, and may have to encourage them through the whole process, which sometimes is not easy or comfortable. She may arrange a strategy conference involving neighbors and representatives of several City departments whose efforts need to be coordinated.

The CW's sphere is much larger than just helping solve local problems, important as that is. She attends many group meetings, such as the PTA's, neighborhood associations, and merchant groups. She brings to them information about things happening or about to happen at City Hall and in the community. She listens to the concerns expressed in each group and brings these back, so that City Hall can keep in touch with the people, and, if they choose, address these concerns. She also shares information with other CW's about community concerns, and about new solutions that have been tried. If she finds that certain complaints are repeating and not being dealt with, she can alert the City departments involved, and can endorse the legitimacy of the complaints and the complainer. This is a long way of saying that if City departments view the complaint as small, or the complainer as a trouble-maker or kook, she can defend you and your position because she usually knows you personally.

Nancy feels that an essential quality for doing the job is to have a real stake in the City. Feeling personally involved and committed is an asset, but can also produce great personal stress. CW's have to be able to believe that they can do something to change things and make a contribution. She cares enough to put in a great deal of time and effort. Each of us can be sure that if we call her, or any CW, we will talk with a caring, involved person - not a bureaucratic cog in a machine. If she doesn't know where help is available, she will do her best to find out - and she will hang in with you all the way.

