



Coventry Village News

OCTOBER, 1981

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS INC.

Vol. VII No. 9

COVENTRY CANDIDATES NIGHT ON CABLE

Coventry Neighbors Candidates Night this year will be cablecast. The biennial airing of candidates and issues will be taped at 7 p.m., October 20 at the Unitarian Society on Lancashire Road across from Musicians Tower.

Three candidates for the office of Judge of Cleveland Heights Municipal Court will open the program promptly at 7 p.m., followed by the eight Cleveland Heights City Council candidates. Each will make a brief statement, then the floor will be opened to questions from the audience. Fred Toguchi, local architect and chair of the Cleveland Heights Board of Zoning Appeals will moderate. Admission is free and the public is urged to attend.

The program will be a first for Cleveland Heights on Viacom's Community Access Channel 27. The judicial portion will be aired on October 25 at 8 p.m. and the City Council portion on October 26, also at 8 p.m. The entire program will be re-run on Sunday, November 1 at 12 noon.

Coordinators are CNI's V.P., Bruce Hennes and Sec, David Burwasser.

C.N.I. OFFICER CANDIDATES

CNI officers elections will be held at the October 13 meeting. Nominees to date are:

FOR PRESIDENT;

Charles J. Owen is currently serving his second term as President of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. In addition, Mr. Owen serves as chair of CNI's Environmental Concerns Committee. Mr. Owen has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1963 and has been a Coventry resident for 10 years. He attended Roxboro Junior High and Cleveland Heights High Schools, and has a bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Cleveland State University.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT;

Bruce M. Hennes is a homeowner on Hampshire Road. He is currently the Vice-President of CNI and chair and founder of the Crime Prevention Task Force, in addition to being Public Relations Director. Hennes has also served as Vice-Chairman and Public Relations chair of the Coventry Village Street Fair, and as Cleveland Heights election day coordinator for Congressman Dennis Eckart. In addition to his activities in numerous other political campaigns. He is the Executive Director of the Temple on the Heights and is married to Lonnie. They have a two-year-old son, Benjamin.

(Continued on page)

BOOS & BRAVOS

- BRAVOS:** Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights are planning a joint fire fighting service at a savings of \$60,000 annually for each city as soon as the Cleveland Heights "two fire station concept" becomes a reality.
- BOO:** Due to incessant delays in the building of the Cedar-Norfolk firehouse, the estimated cost of building the planned two fire stations has risen from \$1.5 million to \$2.2 million. These delays are depriving Coventry and all other Cleveland Heights neighborhoods the use of scarce federal Community Development Block Grant monies. Let's think about the needs of all of Cleveland Heights and get this thing built before it drains any more of our resources.
- BRAVO:** Sohio has come up with a design for their new Coventry-Mayfield "self-serve" gas station that should please just about everyone. The landscaping and signage, in particular, are real improvements. Now if Open Pantry and Revco would only work with City Hall to straighten up the southwest corner of the intersection it might look less like an environmental nightmare. Let's get with it!

--Charles Owen

FAIRMOUNT RELOCATES

The Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf, formerly of Coventry Village, has opened its 1981-82 season at its new home in the Brooks Theatre of the Cleveland Play House (86th St. between Euclid and Carnegie Avenues). FTD, America's first professional resident sign language theatre, has scheduled four major productions opening with "Dracula," an original adaptation in American Sign Language by company actor, Donald Bangs and Artistic Director, Robert Tolaro.

The season's schedule of plays, performed in both sign language and voice, is as follows: "Dracula" will run through Oct. 4; "The Odd Couple" from December 2 through December 20; a production to be announced will run from January 6 through January 24 and, closing the season, "Saint Joan" from March 17 through April 4.

Tickets range from \$5.50 to \$7.00 with special discounts for students, senior citizens and deaf citizens. For individual ticket reservations, call the Brooks Theatre at 795-7000 and for subscription tickets, group rates and other information, call FTD at 421-0122.

FTD is also making available this year, to civic and professional groups in the Cleveland area, showcase programs including scenes from "Four Poster," Chekov's "The Marriage Proposal" and a full-length production of George Bernard Shaw's "St. Joan." These programs will include songs in sign and voice, a demonstration of how spoken English and sign differ, instruction in the manual alphabet and questions and answers.

-- Carol Hamilton

SEPTEMBER MEETING FOCUSES ON PLANNING AND ZONING ISSUES

by
Lucy Balazek

CNI stayed late and covered a lot of ground--from PCB's to radio antennae--at its last meeting. In addition to holding nominations for next year's officers and voting to ask Council to negotiate with the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. for the removal of PCB bearing capacitors from poles in the neighborhood, members discussed and voted on four items brought to the floor by Planning and Zoning Chair, F. David Gill. These issues are summarized below.

Video Game Room

CNI joined with Coventry Merchants' Association, Coventry School PTA, CH Police Chief Martin Lentz and individual Coventry area residents at the last Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting to head off the opening of a video game room in the Coventry business district.

One of three issues on the BZA agenda on which CNI had taken positions at its September meeting, the request of Robert Chan and Pablo Genty for a conditional use permit to install approximately 30 video games in a storefront at 2804 Mayfield Rd. provoked the most vocal and uniform response. Everyone was against it.

Generally, the opposition's arguments fell into three categories: that as a gathering place for young people, a game room would add to the already difficult problem of controlling the extravagant behavior such groups tend to engage in; that it was exploitative and harmful to children; and that it would contribute to litter problems and sidewalk congestion in the area.

Neither Mr. Genty, Mr. Chan nor their representatives attended the BZA meeting to defend their proposal, and after hearing comments from about 10 residents and a letter from Police Chief Lentz, all opposed to the game room, the board voted to deny the permit request.

Realizing, however, the attractiveness of Coventry Village to video entrepreneurs and the need for a uniform approach to them, CNI is asking Council to consider an ordinance that would link the number of games permitted in a building to the building's floor space. It is hoped that a ratio could be found which would prohibit video games from being the primary business in any building.

Turkey Ridge Condominiums

In the attempt to build something new, obtaining any necessary zoning variances is only one of the first steps, but in the case of what has become known as the Turkey Ridge Project, a group of residents has decided that it's one step too many.

Homeowners on Edgell and Overlook Rds. who oppose the construction of 16 condominiums at the intersection of their streets have launched a campaign to stop the project before it starts by arguing for denial of variances from minimum lot size requirements necessitated by the project's design and the unusual terrain of the site. Their arguments, presented to the BZA on September 23, included fears that the hillside on which the condominiums are to be built contains too much shale to support them, that the resulting increase in traffic at the intersection would make a bad situation worse and that the condominiums were not architecturally compatible with the rest of the neighborhood which is composed predominantly of one- and two-family homes.

CNI considered these arguments at its last meeting along with an observation by Secretary David Burwasser that the plans for Turkey Ridge showed little apparent concern for residents of Fairview Ave. in Little Italy who, almost literally, would be living in the buildings' shadows. CNI voted to oppose the requests for variances.

(Continued on page 6)

CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE REPORT Bruce M. Hennes, Chair

The Coventry Neighbors Crime Prevention Task Force will meet during the 2nd or 3rd week of October. Please join us and help us plan our fall educational campaign. For the exact date, time and location please call me at 321-4670.

A few crime prevention tips for the apartment dwellers in Coventry Village:
1. Keep the outer foyer doors locked at all times and cooperate with other tenants to see that the door is not released unless you are certain who is requesting admittance; 2. Change locks when you move into a new apartment. You never know who may still have a key; 3. If you have double-hung windows that are easily accessible to burglars, drill a hole through each corner of the top of the bottom window, insert a thick nail into each hole and that window will be almost jimmy-proof. Anyone who wants to get in would have to smash the glass and that makes a lot of noise; 4. If any door has a pane of glass near the lock, the glass can be easily smashed during the day while you are away and the burglar can simply reach in and unlock the door. Install a lock inside nearby so you can that is keyed on both sides and has a one inch throw. But be sure to hide a key inside nearby so you can get out fast in an emergency; 5. Remember - a lock is only as good as the door and the door jamb. For \$5.00 you can purchase and install a "high-security strike" on your jamb. Just remove the thin flat metal strike on your door-jamb and replace it with a heavy gauge metal box that screws into the wall stud.

Just remember, burglars don't like noise, lights, or anything that takes more than a few seconds to break into. Use common sense, report suspicious activity to the police, and make Coventry Village a safer place to live.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS REPORT Charles Owen, Chair

SPRUCE DAY: On Saturday, October 10 at 10 a.m. the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) will sponsor its first "Spruce Day" an opportunity for friends and neighbors of Coventry Village to tackle some of the environmental details that blight our streetscape. Spruce Day is also a good way to make new friends while doing something for Coventry.

Spruce Day will focus on Coventry Village's commercial district. Some of the projects we will undertake include the painting of all tree stakes and bicycle post eyebolts. Unsightly, unused signposts and straps will be removed. Spring flower bulbs will be planted in the mini-park and the soil around the street trees will be tilled and weeded. Rain date will be October 17.

POSTAL ADVERTISING: The ECC will recommend that CNI oppose any advertising on the U.S. Postal Service collection boxes. According to the Federal Register, comments are invited on a number of advertising schemes that have been proposed by the Postal Service, including the posting of ads on mailboxes. The ECC feels that mailbox advertising will be a blighting imposition on the urban environment.

FUNDS NEEDED: The ECC needs money to continue planting flowers. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to CNI, 2745 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights 44106. Checks should be made out to Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

MEETING NOTICE: The next meeting of the ECC will be on October 5 at the Coughlin residence, 2759 Hampshire Road, 7:30 p.m. New faces are always welcome! For more information about any of our activities, contact Charles Owen at 321-1268, or send a post card to Coventry Neighbors and you will be contacted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT. Dennis Coughlin, Chair

At the July 1981 general meeting, the Finance Committee was created to help CNI in its financial organization and was specifically charged to form a Statement of Financial Policy. As the organization has grown, so has its complexity and need for financial organization and accountability.

It is hoped that in the future this committee will provide the needed financial stability and support for the Treasurer's office. Any person interested in being a part of this committee is urged to contact the Finance Committee Chair at the October general meeting.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT bobbie littell, Chair

The reconstruction of Euclid Heights Boulevard is nearing completion. The segment between Lee and Taylor was completed and opened to two way traffic on September 9. The segment between Cedar and Coventry will be opened both ways about October 12. Only the segment between Coventry and Superior remains. The Superior/Lee section is not slated for reconstruction since it was done about four years ago.

According to Dominick Tomaro, C.H. Director of Public Works, the finish course will be laid on the Cedar/Coventry section within the next week. The finish will be put on one side, then the other. The cross-overs will be done last. It is very important that motorists follow directions and not try to use the cross-overs during this final stage. It may mean that residents have to go up and around to get into their drives, Tomaro said, but it should be only for a short time, and if instructions are followed it will save a lot of problems.

Work has already begun on the Coventry/Superior section. While the drainage and catchbasin work was being done traffic was maintained. The road is now closed to through traffic for the major reconstruction of the roadway. Traffic is being detoured along Mayfield Road. They hope to be able to finish up to the base before bad weather sets in. It is planned that the finish course will not be applied until spring.

ODDS 'N ENDS

Welcome to Michael Ondak, the new general manager of Coventry Mall. We wish him success in his ventures. . . We understand that the Coventry Mall Merchants have formed their own association, chaired by Carl Jones of Arabica. We hope that the new Mall Merchants, the Coventry Merchants Association and CNI will work cooperatively on many a project in the future.

Congrats and best wishes to former CNI president, Karen Lind on the birth of her daughter, Mary Katherine; to Bruce Hennes, CNI's VP on his new position as executive director of the Temple on the Heights; and to Chris Leo of Hampshire Road, new kitchen manager at Turkey Ridge.

The poetry contest never materialized. Four poems were submitted and will be published in future issues when space permits. . . Thanks to the Editorial Board of CVN for naming me Co-Editor along with Dave Burwasser. Other changes; Lucy Balazek will edit the Community Calendar & Bulletin Board, summarize proceedings of CNI meetings and write commentary; Carol Gibson will be in charge of scheduling workers on those Sunday afternoons when CVN gets produced. . . CVN's application for a Community Development Neighborhoods In Action Grant to purchase an electric typewriter was denied by the CAC. We are in desperate need - anyone wishing to make a tax deductible donation of an old IBM Selectric or funds to purchase a used or second hand one may do so by contacting one of the editors. (Continued on page)

SEPTEMBER MEETING (Continued from page 3)

Several BZA members also expressed fears about traffic problems which might arise after the condominiums are tenanted and were hesitant to approve the variances until a survey of traffic at the intersection done by the city could be analyzed. The request was tabled so such an analysis could be made.

In Other Business . . .

. . . CNI voted to oppose a request by Standard Oil of Ohio for signage variances that would allow the oil company to convert the Sohio gas station at the corner of Coventry and Mayfield Rds. to a self-serve station. The design for Sohio's self-serve stations calls for more signage than the city allows. CNI Trustee Bobbie Littell, who made the motion, pointed out that with the approaching closing of the Arco station at that intersection (because of Atlantic-Richfield's decision to withdraw from the market in this area), the shift to self-serve-only at Sohio would leave the area with few sources of emergency road service.

. . . CNI agreed to endorse a request by Hampshire resident and CNI member, Tom Lee, for a variance to extend his ham radio antenna tower from 50 feet to 70 feet.

PCB Update

Identifying signs will be appearing soon on all poles in the city where PCB-bearing equipment has been installed. Council passed a variance at a recent meeting to allow the signs to be posted, according to CNI Secretary, David Burwasser, who was at the meeting to present CNI's request for the equipment's removal.

ODDS 'N ENDS (Continued from page 5)

Larry Beam of the Planning Department reports that Pick-N-Pay has submitted plans to the City for a facade renovation. City approval is pending . . . Another game room being proposed at Coventryard is slated for a public hearing in November.

Cleveland Heights elections are supposed to be non-partisan, but are they? On one hand you have a group of candidates running for office. Each candidate and his campaign committee raises their own money, and run their own campaign. Each is endorsed by a major political party. They are opposed by a group of candidates who pool their resources and run as a slate with no political endorsement.

That is the political process--democracy in action--the political "game."

The winners in this game will decide just how \$13 million of Cleveland Heights taxpayers' money will be spent in the next year.

It is up to you the voter to decide which of the candidates best represents your point of view. This can only be done by participating in the political process: Go to the "Candidates Nights," coffees, rallies; Listen to what each candidate says; decide for yourself who best represents your values, your feelings; go to the polls and vote for the one you want to represent you.

Some people consider politics a "dirty" game--but it's the only game in town. A community gets the kind of government it deserves. Politics are seldom dirty in a community where the people are informed and hold their elected officials accountable

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C.N.I. OFFICER CANDIDATES (Continued from page 1)FOR SECRETARY;

David R. Burwasser is the Incumbent Secretary of Coventry Neighbors, a position he has held since 1978. He is Co-Editor of the Coventry Village News, and represents the Coventry neighborhood on the Heights Community Congress Board. His community activities include regular Council-watching and membership on the Cleveland Heights Cable TV Commission and the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corp. He is a past President of the Unitarian Society of Cleveland, and is employed as an editor. He chaired the committee that recently rewrote the CNI Constitution and By-laws.

FOR TREASURER;

Diane Bersnak has served as C.N.I. Treasurer for the past two years, and has been a member for four. Other C.N.I. activities have been Street Fair, newsletter preparation, and provision of refreshments for meetings. Mrs. Bersnak graduated from Mount Union College in 1966, and is in her tenth year of Social work.

Dennis Coughlin has been a Cleveland Heights resident for all of his life and a resident of the Coventry area for six years. As a member of Coventry Neighbors he has been an active member of the Crime Prevention Task Force, the Planning & Zoning Committee, and the Men's auxiliary of the Environmental Concerns Committee, and is Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Coughlin has a Management degree from John Carroll University School of Business. He worked for more than three years as a Business Credit Analyst at Dun & Bradstreet, and has been employed in the Nursing Administration Office at St. Vincent Charity Hospital for the last three years.

FOR TRUSTEE (Two to be elected);

F. David Gill resides at 2572 Kenilworth Road, and is an Incumbent CNI Trustee. He served as CNI Vice President for three terms. He is Chair of the CNI Planning & Zoning Committee, and was Coventry Fair Committee Chair in 1980 and 1981. He is a member of the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corp.

Bobbie Littell is completing her first year as CNI Trustee. She has recently been named Co-Editor of Coventry Village after having been Associate Editor since 1979. She has served as Chairman of the Community Affairs Committee and was a member of the Constitution and By-laws Review Committee. She has been politically active in Cleveland Heights, having been on the campaign committee of a number of council candidates. She is currently editor of Your Schools "Report"; is a member of the Unitarian Society of Cleveland and is a resident of the East Cleveland portion of Coventry.

Further candidates may be nominated from the floor at the October CNI meeting. Only those who have been dues-paid members since September 13, 1981, may vote in this election.

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . . We Watch Out For Each Other

****COMMUNITY CALENDAR****

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

OCTOBER

- 7 Pre-School Story 10:30 am-
Hour, Library 2:30 pm
- 9 Poetry Reading 9:00 pm
Arabica
- 10 "Spruce Day" 10:00 am
Commercial District
- 13 After School Special 2:30-
Library 3:30 pm
CNI GENERAL MEETING 7:30 pm
Unitarian Society
2778 Lancashire
- 14 Pre-School Story 10:30 am-
Hour, Library
CMA Meeting 7:30 pm
New World Haircuts
- 16 Poetry Reading 9:30 pm
Arabica
- 17 "Spruce Day" rain day
- 19 CH Council Meeting 7:30 pm
City Hall
- 20 After School Special 2:30-
Library 3:30 pm
CANDIDATES' NIGHT 7:00 pm
Unitarian Society
2778 Lancashire
- 21 Pre-School Story 10:30 am-
Hour, Library
- 23 Poetry Reading 9:00 pm
Arabica
- 24 First Shower Curtain
Art Show, Cedar
Chest
CVN Workshop 10:00 am
- 25 Cablecast: 8:00 pm
Candidates' Night
judicial, Ch 27
- 26 Cablecast: 8:00 pm
Candidates' Night
council, Ch 27
- 27 After School Special 2:30-
Library 3:30 pm
- 28 Pre-School Story 10:30 am-
Hour, Library 2:30 pm
- 30 Poetry Reading 9:00 pm
Arabica

WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS IS PLANNED

A workshop designed to help black and white parents examine roles they project to their children will be held at Heights High on Oct. 24 from 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Learning, Sharing and Growing Together" will explore what can happen when parents who express a sincere belief in diversity and who generally support the efforts of their school district toward that goal nevertheless refrain from active involvement. The workshop giving parents an opportunity to share perceptions and concerns is sponsored by the Heights Alliance of Black School Educators with the cooperation of the School-Community Relations Program and the Heights Inter-faith Council. Parents can register at any school in the district and at Heights High on the day of the workshop. Additional information can be obtained by calling 371-7238.

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RECYCLING ENTHUSIASTS SOUGHT

Heights Citizens for Recycling (HCR), which brought Cleveland Heights a plan for city-wide curbside collection of newspapers for recycling, is planning another year of conservation projects and is seeking new members to help turn plans into action. Building on two years of research by members and outside consultants, HCR worked with the city last year to secure a Gund Foundation Grant to cover start-up costs of the city's model newspaper recycling program. Among the projects being considered for the upcoming year are design of a program in the public schools on conservation and recycling, pursuit of glass and aluminum recycling and development of jobs in recycling for retarded adults. Persons interested in participating in these or other recycling projects are invited to contact HCR's president, Norman Robbins, 2936 Washington Blvd.

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MORE ODDS 'N ENDS (Continued from page 6)

Things are really hopping on the merchant strip. "At the Arabica" the folk music and poetry reading produced by WCLV on Friday evenings is bringing some new people onto the street. So far the tapings have been SRO, another coup for Carl Jones. (Continued on page 9)

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . .

WE WATCH OUT
FOR EACH OTHER

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THE SHOWER CURTAIN AS ART

NOVEMBER

A \$100 prize will go to the contributor of the first place entry in the World's First Shower Curtain Art Show on October 24 at the Cedar Chest, 1856 Coventry Rd. when the show opens.

According to Christine Patronik, owner of the Cedar Chest, eight to ten entries are expected, five of which will be contributed by May Show participants. Entries are 6' x 6' and have 12 holes for hanging with or without a liner.

Artists had their choice of medium: fabric printing, silk screen, batik, weaving, macrame, acrylic paints, and even quilting and soft sculpture on vinyl or fabric.

Diana Tittle, editor-in-chief of Northern Ohio Live, Robert Conrad, vice president and program manager for WCLV-FM radio, and Ray Farragher, president of Saturday Knight Ltd., manufacturers of see-through vinyl and fabric shower curtains, will judge the show which was open to all textile artists whether professional, semi-professional or amateur.

The show will run through Thanksgiving, and may be the subject of a segment on Channel 8's P.M. Magazine although arrangements for taping have yet to be finalized.

- 1 Grand Opening: Magazine Multi-Media Center, Coventry Books
Cablecast: noon
- Candidates' Night
- 2 CH Council Meeting 7:30 pm
City Hall
- 3 After School Special 2:30-
Library 3:30 pm
- 4 Pre-School Story 10:30 am-
Hour, Library 2:30 pm
- 5 CNI TRUSTEES MEETING 7:30 pm
2910 Hampshire

****ADDRESS CHANGE****

Bulletin Board and Calendar listings are open to all local groups as space is available.

Materials to be used in a particular issue must be received on or before the third Friday of the preceding month.

Send all materials to: CVN, c/o Lucy Balazek, 1689 Eddington #4, Cleve. Hts., OH 44118.

STILL MORE ODDS 'N ENDS

High Tide/Rock Bottom will open its third expansion in eight years sometime late in October. Marcia will be planning another one of her Gamblers' Sales for those people on her mailing list. If you are not on it, you still have time to get into the store and add your name. It's well worth it. . . Ellie Strong of Coventry Books will be adding to the excitement with the Grand Opening of her new Magazine/Media Center on November 1. She plans to increase her magazine stock about fourfold with hundreds of different and rare art and literature journals available no other place in the Greater Cleveland area. . . It is amazing to me how quickly the Inn on Coventry has become a habit to street people. . . Rumors are that there will be a Grand Opening of Coventryard sometime, we can't say when just now.

Halloween will be on Saturday, October 31, in Cleveland Heights this year, according to Info-Pack. Be ready. I heard that there will be an extra bonus for workers on Spruce Day, October 10. Check it out with Chuck.

The word is that the "No Left Turn" sign at the foot of upper Hampshire is to be removed for the duration of the reconstruction EHB, making it easier on the residents of the area. We hope that complaints forwarded by CVN to Dominick Tomero contributed to this decision. . . Dobama will open it's season October 15 with Edward Albee's "Lady from Dubuque" directed by Don Bianchi. Curtain is at 8:30 Thursdays, Saturdays, 9 on Fridays and 7:30 on Sundays. It will run until November 7.

-- bobble littell

CVN MAILING LIST TO BE PRUNED

In September, the cost of bulk mailing went up. It is now costing CNI about double what it used to mail CVN. We mail out over 800 copies. Many of the names on our list are names of people who once said they were interested in receiving CVN, yet have never joined CNI. Although we increased our dues last year we are finding it difficult to meet the cost of mailing CVN.

Coventry School has agreed to pass out CVN to the school children to take home in addition, CVN is now available at Carroll Drug, Corkscrew, Arabica, Coventry Laundromat, High Tide/Rock Bottom, Grum's, Coventry Books and the Coventry Library, during the first week of each month. We would like to reach everyone in the community but we can no longer mail copies to non-members.

During October we will be going through our mailing list and removing the names of all persons who live in the Coventry area and are not dues-paying members. If you would like to continue receiving CVN and you are no longer a member, please fill out the membership application form below.

-- bobbie littell, Co-Editor.

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, Ohio 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.

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . . WE WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER

COMMUNITY WATCH DOG:CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT - It does more than punish

I'll bet you think a court is just for trial and punishment. Most of us go to court only when we have to; and we aren't eager to file against others. Did you know that the court helps many people who could not get help any other way? Did you know that the court might help you, if you know more about it?

Step #1 in the court's helping process is the pre-sentence evaluation. The Judge, Sarah Hunter, relies heavily on court social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists in deciding whether an offender has the potential and desire to change the behavior that brought him/her into court. If there is some hope, alternatives to jail or fines are offered. Young offenders who accept referral for counseling at Rap-Art Center, Catholic Counseling Center, or the Center for Human Services receive a suspended sentence. A young driver who speeds through a school zone may be sentenced to spend time helping a school crossing guard, an experience that could produce lasting change.

Alcoholism and related problems often come before the court. Many Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) offenders are referred to the Alcohol Education and Assessment Program, given at Circle Inn. A self-help program costing \$100, it is paid for by the offender. Occasional scholarships are available in financial hardship cases. Other offenders with alcohol problems are referred to the Alcoholic Municipal Offenders Project at Metropolitan General Hospital, where they are screened, evaluated, treated and followed-up.

Families with multiple problems come to the court often because of violence in the home or delinquency of family members. They may be given a suspended sentence if they accept referral to the Family Violence Program at the Justice Center, financed by the county, or to the Center for Human Services for family counseling. Judge Hunter vividly recalls being thanked later by a woman who had rejected all previous suggestions of counseling, and who had accepted the court's referral only to get her sentence suspended. To her surprise, she and her family benefited greatly.

An interesting and surprising group comes to the court's attention through shoplifting and also through alcohol-related offenses: the displaced homemaker. These women can often be helped by referral to the Tri-C Displaced Homemakers Program. The counseling, personal evaluation, employment counseling, and emotional support from the other participants help them to solve life problems more constructively.

The court is just as interested in helping the victims of crimes as in helping the offenders. Many referrals have been made to the Witness-Victim Service Center at the Justice Center. There, help and support are provided to victims new at, or in fear of, testifying. Baby-sitter service is provided free for those who need it.

Judge Hunter wanted people to know about other court services. For example, in small claims (under \$500) citizens do not need an attorney in order to file. The Clerk of Court's office is required to help. The Clerk's office can also help with collection of money awarded in the judgement. If you win the case but can't collect, ask for help.

A final word about the public's right to know. If a person has been cited in court, it is on public record. The status and disposition of the case are also public record. Anyone has the right to call the court and ask about the case, or to go to court and read the journal entry personally.

NEXT MONTH: How the Community Worker from City Hall can help you!

-- June C Wortman

