



PAVING TO START "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE"

by Larry Beam

Work on the paving of Coventry Road between Euclid Heights Boulevard and Mayfield Road may begin as early as the beginning of May. Contracts for the work call for the completion of the Coventry business district portion of the job by July 1. Completion before that date is widely hoped for, and expected by City officials close to the project.

Bids for the entire project—which includes most of Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights—were opened on March 23. Cleveland Trinidad Paving appears to have been the successful bidder. Analysis and tabulations of bid documents remain incomplete as this is written; when that work is done, final agreements for the project will be voted on by City Council, probably at the meeting of April 2.

The City and the successful bidder will meet, before work begins, with Coventry Neighbors, Inc., and the Coventry Merchants Association. Plans for the project and for the handling of traffic for its duration will be discussed. Responsibility for developing a plan for handling traffic resides with the successful bidder. No date has yet been set for that meeting.

An important uncertainty concerns the removal of streetcar tracks, which can now be seen protruding through the surface in the southern portion of the business district. The removal of such tracks is, according to Tony Manzie of the City's Service Department, a very expensive and time-consuming task. The steel tracks themselves must be cut into

sections a few feet long, and a thick bed of concrete on which they lie must be removed. It won't be known until the job is underway just how much of these tracks will have to be removed, and how much can be left behind. The costs and duration of the project therefore depend to some extent on what's found under the road when work begins.

Between Euclid Heights and Mayfield, the road is to be thoroughly rebuilt. Curbs will be replaced, and catch basins and access holes will be repaired.

Less drastic work will be done to the other portions of Coventry, north and south of the business district. For the most part, these areas will receive just resurfacing and new curbing.

Agreements call for the completion of the entire project by October 1.

A large sewer project, once planned for this summer or next, appears now to be delayed for at least a decade.

POSTER CONTEST

The Street Fair Committee of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. is sponsoring a competition to select the publicity poster for the 1984 Fair.

The first prize will be the Committee's gratitude and significant exposure for the artist; the signed poster will be reproduced and distributed widely. The work of the next four runners-up will be prominently displayed at a special exhibit at the Fair.

Contest rules and technical requirements appear on page 9.

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MEETING NOTES

Regular Meeting of March 13

The Environmental Concerns Committee posted copies of a letter describing the City's trash collection policies in the lobbies of apartment buildings on lower Hampshire. The same letter was distributed to two family homes on that street.

The Executive Board voted to make M. A. Swinarski a member of CNI.

The Street Fair Committee has an office, at 1824 Coventry, thanks to William Ross Realty.

Cleveland Heights Municipal Court Judge Sara Hunter and Inspectional Services Commissioner Robert Wilkinson discussed and answered questions about the enforcement of the Housing Code, especially in Coventry's apartment district.

LETTERS TO EDITOR ARE WELCOME

Letters to the Editor help make periodicals good reading. They do much to make a publication an effective, open discussion forum. Letters widen the spectrum of opinion presented to the readership, and help bring fresh ideas to the fore.

The *CVN* welcomes letters to its Editor. We will print all letters which seem of general interest, and which fit into the limited space available.

Letters should be addressed to the Editor, 1811 1/2 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights. In order to be considered for publication, letters must be signed and a phone number must be included.

SEVERANCE PLANS CAUSE CONCERN

On the front page of the April 22 *Sun Press*, City officials are reported praising the proposed \$20 million redevelopment of Severance Center. On the second page was a report of City Council sinking into McCarthy-style politics over the issue of curb-side parking in another commercial area.

While Severance Center certainly is in need of renovation, I wonder if City officials recognize the project's possible effects on the City's other commercial areas. Three council members fail to recognize that areas like Noble Nela—and Coventry—are architecturally and structurally dependent on curb-side parking.

These Councilmembers don't seem to realize that the architecture (which includes curb-side parking), the specialty shops, and the conveniences of these areas are an attractive alternative to mass-market shopping malls. They are an essential element in the special appeal and ambiance of Cleveland Heights.

The competition of a re-developed Severance Center, especially if the City were to continue to ban on-street parking in troubled commercial areas, could kill such areas completely.

Councilman Richard Weigand, and other members of Council and Staff, are far too willing to bend to the wishes of big developers—like the backers of the Top-of-the-Hill project last year, and now of the new Severance.

At the same time they are nit-picking some of the City's most important assets out of existence.

The worst is that they are perfectly willing to turn the governmental process into a distasteful, embarrassing media event in their attempt to do so.

—Robert A. Shields

SHOPS GET NEW LOOK

Work has begun again on new signs and facade renovation of the Covham building, on the east side of Coventry just south of Hampshire. Difficulties with contractor performance are blamed for delays in the work, which was at first to have been completed early last summer. Several small and quite attractive new signs have been installed on the building. More new signs of similar design, a paint job, and the re-building of building of bulkheads, doorways, and other facade elements are planned.

Across the street, at Heights Hardware, another facade renovation is being planned. And the Coventry Laundromat, at 1805 Coventry, is discussing improvements promised several years ago when the business expanded.

The Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC) will pay a substantial portion of the costs of all of these projects. The LDC offers, on typical facade renovations of this sort, to pay nearly all the costs of facade design and of new signs; additional funding—as much as 50%—is available for other improvements to storefronts.

STREET FAIR OFFICE OPENS

Through the generosity of William Ross Realty, Inc., the Street Fair Committee of CNI has opened an office at 1824 Coventry Road, the former location of Coventry Books.

Beginning immediately, the office will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, for use by the Music Subcommittee.

Booth Information staffers will be there on Wednesdays and Fridays, from 2:00 to 7:00 PM, and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The office phone is 321-2510.

The next meeting of the the full Street Fair Committee will be Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 PM, at the office.

HERITAGE CENTER PLANS HOUSING CLINIC

The first major activity organized by the Cleveland Heights Heritage Center will be a clinic on housing. Experts from the Ohio Historic Preservation Center will lecture and present a slide show. The event is planned for May 17, 7:00 pm, at the new Fire Station Number One, at Mayfield and Taylor Roads.

Further information on this and other activities of the Center may be obtained by calling Charles Owen at 321-1268, or by writing to the Center at 2745 Hampshire Road, Suite 3, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106.

The Heritage Center was established in 1982 to "preserve and promote the

rich and colorful heritage of Cleveland Heights." The Center focuses attention on all neighborhoods and all people of Cleveland Heights.

Plans call for the Center to begin publishing a newsletter covering Center news and views and including photographs and stories on Cleveland Heights history.

Long term plans call for converting the historic Superior School, on the southeast corner of Superior Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard, into an office and museum.

The Center, an Ohio non-profit corporation, seeks through these and other activities to develop greater resident identification and loyalty to Cleveland Heights by increasing public awareness of the City's heritage.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CNI

by Bruce Hennes, President of CNI

As president of CNI, I get a lot of phone calls. People call with problems regarding such things as loitering, window breakage, noise, housing code enforcement. Usually I can deal with these calls with some polite attention and sympathy.

It is easy to be sympathetic with the renters and homeowners who call. If they're not members of CNI, a gentle suggestion usually draws a promise to pay the nominal dues of CNI. Their dues payments represent tacit support of the organization and help it to be an effective force in Coventry.

Dealing with merchants who call is more difficult. I always ask if they are members of the Coventry Merchants Association (CMA). Usually they are not; they say that CMA's dues are too high, that its meetings are at the wrong time, that they don't have the time, or that they just don't believe in organizations.

I wish merchants who are not mem-

bers of CMA would quit calling me. If they aren't willing to help themselves—by membership and participation in CMA—then why should they expect CNI to help?

With the exception of a handful of progressive merchants—it's obvious who they are—Coventry merchants are a pretty sad group, unable to capitalize on the urban renaissance around them. Dirty sidewalks, unappealing window displays, and poor merchandising all contribute to their lack of profits and stability. Their lack of success contributes to other neighborhood problems. Their non-participation in the CMA weakens it as a voice in dealing with City Hall.

CMA can be contacted through its President, Marcia Polevoi, at High Tide/Rock Bottom. Other officers are: Tom Loesch, Vice President, Passport to Peru; Katherine Kearney, Treasurer, Metropolitan Savings; Kathy Overbeck, Secretary, Haagen Dazs.

AROUND COVENTRY . . .

SHOPS MOVE . . . Ascherman Galleries, the photo studio and gallery now at 1785 Coventry Road, will soon be moving to the large second-floor space at 1846 Coventry, where New World Haircuts is now. New World, which changed hands a year or so ago, has lost its lease. Another Coventry merchant, who asked not to be identified as yet, will move into Ascherman's present space.

The Unitarian Society plans to lease the space still occupied by the defunct Jeanne and Lorraine's Food Project, at 1807 Coventry. The Society will use the space for its thrift shop.

Some of the tenants on the lower level of Coventryard intend to move out. They are quite dissatisfied, they say, with the performance of Simon & Company, the mall's new owners. They say that the new management has not promoted the mall as it promised to do, and they allege less-than-adequate handling of a recent flooding problem and other troubles with the building.

Sorcerer's Cellar, of Coventryard, plans to open a second shop at 2199 Lee Road, just south of Cedar.

PIZZA . . . Pizza Bazaar has received the blessing of City Council for its planned move to the former location of Coventry Bike and Ski, 1823 Coventry. The City's Board of Architectural Review has also approved plans for the project. Work on the project can begin as soon as review of detailed plans is completed by the City's Division of Building.

SHOES . . . Passport to Peru, the shop at 1806 Coventry, best known for its women's clothing imported from South America, has added a collection of shoes. The shoes, like most of the shop's wares, are for women. Included are Frye shoes and boots, Minnetonka moccasins, and Armadillo shoes.

PARKING . . . Representatives of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. and the Coven-

try Merchants Association have begun work on a plan for parking in the area. A separate group of area apartment building owners, coming together as a subcommittee of the City's Apartment Improvement Program (AIP), has recently produced a draft of a study suggesting sites for residential parking. These two groups hope to work together and with the City towards comprehensive parking plan for Coventry Village.

Meanwhile City Hall is making progress toward the design of a new parking lot, announced by Mayor Rapoport last October, to be built on the point of land formed by the intersection of Lancashire Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. Michael Benza & Associates, an engineering firm, has been retained to work with the City's own designer, Joyce Braverman, on the project. Preliminary talks have been held with the Unitarian Society, whose parking lot to the west of the church at 2728 Lancashire may become part of the new public parking facility. The project is to be paid for with federal Jobs Bill money, and the City is under some pressure to spend those funds in the coming construction season.

MARRIED . . . Herb Ascherman, of Ascherman Galleries, was recently married to Christine Corey, his business partner for seven years.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES . . . When Cleveland Heights authorities forced Gwyn Young to stop selling Girl Scout cookies from a stand on Coventry Road, as she had done for several years, several merchants sold the cookies she'd got for her.

They were: Allen Lock and Key, Sunshine II, Daffy Dan's, High Tide/Rock Bottom, Haagen Dazs, Heights Art Theater, and earth by april.

COMMUNITY WATCH-DOG: What's New at RTA?

The RTA Board's recent granting of pay increases to administrative staff stirs up mixed memories of my efforts to improve bus service in Coventry, and of my two years on the Citizens Advisory Committee to the RTA. I learned a lot.

I learned what a mammoth job it is to provide even poorly-run public transportation. The practical details of scheduling, maintenance, employee relations and security are immense. In the face of declining resources from the state and federal governments, they become overwhelming. All parts of the community apply pressures which must be balanced, but can never be fully met. Laws and the behavior of state and federal bureaucracies change unpredictably, making planning difficult.

I learned that many honest, competent, and dedicated people--like Coventry's own Roger Sillars, now director of Community Responsive Transit--had not received a pay increase in three years.

I also learned what *real* bureaucracy is. It is composed of professional foot-draggers, message-losers, and cleverly obtuse, non-speak stone-wallers. I learned about real politics--rampant nepotism, cover-ups, political muscle, and the perks of power that make low-paying, seemingly-unattractive public service jobs so desirable. I learned about the lack of accountability all the way down the line. I learned about Sarah Vigil who stood out as a gutsy, hard-working, knowledgeable member of a Board many of whose members were lazy, know-nothing political appointees. These other members got paid for *not* doing their homework, seldom rode buses themselves, and their relatives were often employees of the RTA. I saw them rant and rave in self-righteous indignation when top staff repeatedly

failed to provide information--and then do nothing about it and vote in ignorance. Board blamed staff; staff blamed Board. No one was accountable. No one insisted that top administration do more than go from emergency to emergency. Few questioned the cost over-runs, or how the 20% local match for federal funds was to be found. Few questioned the billions planned for expansion of the transit system when we cannot run what we have now.

I learned about the Citizens Committee, composed mostly of hard-working innocents, easily brainwashed and intimidated by staff, Board, and the Committee's old hands who stay on to insure that their friends in the administration and on the Board are not embarrassed. I learned that hard-working, questioning people, motivated by community interest rather than personal gain, can bleed themselves to death with no results.

I learned about members of the local press, afraid to print the truth because their bosses are cozy with members of the Board and administrative staff. Other members of the press use the RTA as sensation. I learned about the poor and elderly who come to public hearings on crutches and are not heard--or who are privately ridiculed by Board members.

I tried in every way I could to get others to attend Board meetings and to join the Citizens Committee. I tried to get the Ohio Public Interest Group involved. I failed. Only the League of Women Voters sends an observer regularly. I concluded that nothing will change unless many citizens become organized for continuous monitoring and action to effect reform. If we aren't willing to do that, we deserve what we get.

---June C. Wortman

COUNCIL REWRITES PARKING POLICY

by David R. Burwasser

Angry Councilmembers challenged one another's honesty, consistency, decency and grasp on reality at the March 19 Council meeting, in a hotly-argued debate over restoring to the Noble-Nela shopping area 12 on-street parking meters, removed when Noble was resurfaced with partial County funding.

The measure was supported by Councilmembers Lenny Horowitz, chair of the Planning & Development committee and sponsor of the law; Alan Rapoport, Carol Edwards and Barbara Boyd. Opposed were Richard Weigand, Robert Arnold and Joanne O'Brien.

Before the final 4-3 vote directing the City Manager to seek an arrangement with the County Engineer whereby on-street parking can be restored, Weigand accused Horowitz and Rapoport of selling their votes for merchants' campaign dollars. O'Brien said the Council majority was sending out inconsistent signals, and suggested that recent delays in securing funds for other street jobs were a subtle form of retaliation against Cleveland Heights. Rapoport asserted the right of the legislature to change its mind and, on the basis of his conversations with the County Engineer, labelled O'Brien's forebodings "paranoia."

Horowitz called Weigand's accusations "perfectly outrageous and totally in character," and challenged him to prove his charges or apologize; Weigand did neither. Boyd, Edwards and Rapoport showed anger, contempt and sarcasm in their respective rejections of Weigand's statement.

Behind the evening's spectacle the City crossed, by one thin vote, an important watershed: implicit recognition that the City's accustomed role of enforcer has limited value in the City's own economic development plans. If the City's attitude is, "Shoppers, you'll put your cars where we tell you or shop

someplace else," the folks will shop elsewhere. Council has now taken a step to expand the City's role to include that of that of encourager.

Horowitz and Edwards were clearest in their grasp of this fact of the marketplace, while the opponents have not figured it out at all. Bob Arnold, while staying as always within the bounds of civility and rationality, clearly viewed the merchants and their customers as subjects of regulation, and not as the prime movers who make or break a neighborhood—or municipal—economy.

The opponents are also still wedged in the Unreality Zone regarding on-street parking. The City has always claimed that the County compelled parking removal from streets paved with County aid. In 1983, the Heights Community Congress tried to locate the source of this constraint, and found it to be nobody. City, County and State fingerpointed upward: the Feds took ownership of the standards, but as guidelines, not rules. Yet the delusion (scapegoat?) of a constraint persists.

Horowitz counter-challenged the opponents to demonstrate harm inherent in the change, and outlined problems associated with lack of on-street parking. Shoppers making short trips, as for cigarettes, are unwilling to use a distant or inconvenient lot, he said; likewise those carrying loads (groceries, dry cleaning) some distance. He noted the unique problems of Noble-Nela, split by a city boundary line with different parking laws currently on either side.

By evening's end, Lenny Horowitz had passed two thresholds. He had defended controversial legislation of his sponsorship in a no-quarter debate; and had defended his character against a public smear. He emerged—ironically, from Richard Weigand's perspective—with increased credibility.

COURT, CITY AND CNI DISCUSS ENFORCEMENT

The City and Municipal Court were criticized as being too soft on property owners at the March meeting of CNI.

Municipal Court Judge Sara Hunter and Inspectional Services Commissioner Robert Wilkinson, guest speakers at the meeting, have in the past both faced much criticism for being too harsh on property owners.

Judge Hunter said that the aim of her Court "is to achieve compliance" with the Code; her purpose, she said, is "not punitive, but corrective." She praised improvements in case preparation which have come in Wilkinson's term as Commissioner.

Wilkinson stressed his efforts to improve the performance of inspectors and the public image of his department. He said that a recent survey of citizen opinion showed marked improvements in the public's views of the code-enforcement process.

CNI Trustee Charles Owen said that a building neighboring the one he lives in was still in "quite shabby" condition, despite statements from Wilkinson's office saying that the building was free of violations. Owen said the "consistent application of such weak standards of building maintenance threaten the continued viability of Coventry Village." The building in question is at

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Parents of pre-schoolers (ages 4 and 5) will have an opportunity to meet Coventry Elementary School Principal Larry Peacock and kindergarten teacher Karen Previte on April 11. Everyone will have a chance to see the kindergarten room and the children will do a craft project while the parents ask questions and receive information about the school program. Two sessions are planned: from 1:30 to 3:00 PM and from 7:30 to 9:00 PM.

2741 Hampshire Road, and is owned by Isaac Dinewitz.

Wilkinson responded saying, "That is the City's standard for minimum health and safety." He emphasized that new problems could have developed since inspector's visit.

Mayor Alan Rapoport said that it had been the intent of Council, in its recent revisions of the Housing code, that fewer, generally more serious cases should go to Court. He said that Council had sought an end to circumstances under which it was easier and cheaper to pay a fine--or to avoid the Court completely--than to repair buildings.

Judge Hunter pointed out that the preparation of arrest warrants is a quite complex, time-consuming process. She said that her court never follows up on contempt of court citation issued to property owners who don't show up in Housing Court.

— Larry Beam

C.Y.C. BACKS KEG LAW

The Coventry Youth Center (C.Y.C.) Board of Trustees endorsed the "keg law" passed at the March 19th Council meeting. The regulation increases and clarifies the responsibility of host parents for illegal consumption of alcohol by minors in the host's home. The goal is to inhibit "keg parties" among teenagers by affixing responsibility more firmly.

The measure also received backing of the CH-UH PTA Council and of Community Aware, a group focused on youth chemical dependency and working with the CH-UH Board of Education. Matching legislation in University Heights assures district-wide uniformity. Shaker Heights has a keg law on its books and has already had one successful prosecution. Shaker Heights city hall has received numerous inquiries from parents as to what their liabilities are under the measure.

POSTER CONTEST

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

(1.) The contest is open to all residents of Cleveland Heights or anyone attending school in Cleveland Heights.

(2.) The Street Fair Committee will be the final authority in deciding the winner. Judging will be "blind" (only the contest chair will know the identities of the artists).

(3.) The design of the winning poster becomes the property of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Actual art for all submissions will be returned to the artists.

(4.) The poster must be in black ink on white or colored stock, reproducible by a photo offset process.

(5.) The poster must be 14" by 19" with a 1" border beyond the out size marks.

(6.) The poster must contain the following information:

- a. "11th Annual Coventry Village Street Fair"
- b. "Saturday [or Sat.] August 4 and Sunday [or Sun.] August 5"
- c. "Sat. 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM and Sun. Noon to 7:00 PM"
- d. "A production of Coventry Neighbors, Inc."
- e. "Copyright 1984 Coventry Neighbors, Inc." This must appear in tiny type on the lower left corner of the poster within the out size marks.

(7.) The artist's name, address, phone number and school affiliation, if any, must be printed on the back of the submission.

(8.) The location and/or a small map are optional.

(9.) The Street Fair Committee reserves the right to make minor alterations as necessary at its discretion.

(10.) Only finished art work is acceptable; roughed-in concepts will not be considered.

LIBRARY GOINGS-ON

April 8 through April 14 is National Library Week. All branches of the Cleveland Heights University Heights Libraries will be sponsoring special programs.

The Coventry Village Library will hold its Fourth Annual Book and Author Reception on April 8 from 3:00 to 4:30 PM. Authors will be introduced, and their BOOKS displayed. Refreshments will be served. We hope that Coventry residents will turn out to meet their local authors.

On April 10, at 2:30 PM, folks from the Metroparks Zoo will bring small animals and discuss their habits and idiosyncrasies with school-age children.

The Singles Forum will meet on Monday April 9, 7:30 PM. The topic will be "Fun things to do in Cleveland"; everyone should bring along their ideas about favorite places and events.

The Search and Share discussion group on serving the aged will meet on April 23 at 7:30 PM.

Films made during the animation Workshop will premiere on April 28 at 4:00 PM.

Poetry readings will be held on the first Saturdays of April and May at 2:30 PM.

(11.) The winning poster also becomes the design for the official Street Fair t-shirt. Please keep in mind that thin lines will not transfer to the t-shirts; therefore, they should be kept to a minimum or not used at all.

(12.) All entries must be delivered to 3020 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, no later than 9:00 PM on June 1, 1984.

If there are any questions, please call 932-1805, evenings only.

Coventry Village News
Heights Community Congress
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Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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TIME VALUE -- PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1984

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General Meeting, Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Library. The public is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, May 10, 7:30 PM at 2910 Hampshire Road. Committee Chairpersons are asked to attend. The Trustees meeting is open to all dues-paid members of CNI.

NOW is the time to join COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Membership includes a subscription to the *Coventry Village News*. All memberships expire on December 31 of each year. The form below may be used for renewals.

Please check one of the following:

Class of membership: _____ Individual (\$5.00) _____ Family (\$7.00) _____ Senior (\$3.00)
_____ Just a subscription to the *Coventry Village News*—no membership.
(\$5 for 11 months; the *CVN* is not published in August.)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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I am now receiving the *Coventry Village News*: YES _____ NO _____

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