



Coventry Village News

DECEMBER, 1984 NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. VOL 8, NO. 11

NEW PARKING LOT WILL OPEN SOON

Cal Caminati, Assistant Planning Director for the City of Cleveland Heights, expects the new Municipal Lot Number 30, at the corner of Lancashire Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard, to open the first week in December. The lot has forty-five parking spaces, and cost nearly \$98,000. Its landscaping will be done in the spring.

For the present, all spaces in the lot will have 24-hour meters. Eventually, as other lots in the area are opened, many of these will become permit-only spaces.

In the spring, Municipal Lot Number 4, on Lancashire a few doors to the east of the new lot, will be expanded. That lot now has 34 spaces; it will have 55.

When work on Lot 4 begins, people with permits to park there will be allowed to park in Lot 30—without paying the quarter for three hours that the meters usually require. Caminati is available to answer questions about this plan; his number is 371-6543.

An eminent domain proceeding to acquire land for another lot just to the north, at 2722 Hampshire Road, is lumbering through the courts. That house, and apparently another at 2753 Lancashire, will become parts of expanded parking lots in 1986, according to plans shown to CNI members at the organization's November meeting. These houses are just east of Musicians Towers, Coventry's largest building.

SEASONS GREETINGS
HAPPY CHANUKAH
MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE STREET FAIR: YES OR NO IN 85?

Should there be a Street Fair next summer? For the first time in the Fair's eleven-year history, there is significant opposition to it.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will make a decision—yes or no for Street Fair 85—at its next regular meeting, on Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 PM, at the Coventry Village Library.

Several among CNI's leadership—Street Fair old-timers—have burned out on the event. They feel that the it has lost its purpose, that it has become too large, too commercial. More, they feel that it's just no damn fun anymore. Since most of the huge amount of work that organizing the Fair requires is volunteer time, they don't want to do it any more.

Others feel that the Fair is an essential element in CNI's constant effort to promote and improve Coventry Village. They feel that it is fun, and worth the effort.

You can participate in CNI's decision. Just come to this important meeting.

GIRL SCOUTS WILL GIFT-WRAP

Members of Girl Scout Senior Troop 25 will provide gift-wrapping services at Daffy Dan's T-shirt Shop (1812 Coventry).

They'll be there, starting on December 10, from 5 to 9 PM on weekdays, on Saturdays from 10 AM to 9 PM, on Sunday December 23 from noon to 6 PM, and on Christmas Eve from 10 AM to 6 PM.

Prices will vary with size.

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ALL opinions and statements are strictly those of the respective writers, except when clearly identified as formal positions of CNI, CVN, or HCC. Circulation: 2000.

PERSONS wishing to submit copy for the January issue may do so by sending it to the Editor, *Coventry Village News*, 1811 1/2 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118, no later than December 16. While no unsigned items will be published, your name may be withheld on request. Phone 371-6095.

TIME TO RENEW

All CNI memberships, which include a subscription to the *CVN*, will expire in December 31. All separate *CVN* subscriptions will also expire then.

We hope you share our belief that CNI serves a valuable purpose in Coventry and all of Cleveland Heights. We hope you enjoy reading the *CVN*.

Old and new members and subscribers can use the form provided on the last page of this newsletter to ensure prompt credit.

Regular memberships cost \$5.00; family memberships are \$7.00; and senior citizens pay just \$3.00. We welcome larger contributions, and promise that they will be used productively. All contributions are tax-deductable.

MEETING NOTES

NOVEMBER REGULAR MEETING

The Halloween party cost \$656; \$650 was raised in merchant contributions.

City Planning Staff member Jay Gardner presented plans for future parking lot development in Coventry.

CNI supports a joinder request before the Planning Commission, regarding the expansion of Lot Number 4.

CNI will ask the City to send a representative to the December meeting, to review these parking plans again.

CNI welcomes Julie Alandt, a new Community Relations staffer with the City.

HOW COVENTRY VOTED ON NOV. 6

Of 1798 votes cast for Presidential candidates by Coventry voters, 1319, or a little more than 73%, went to Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro. In all of Cleveland Heights, about 65% went to Mondale and Ferraro. About 58% of Coventry's registered voters came to the polls; for all of Cleveland Heights, turnout was about 65%.

In the race for State Senate, 21st District, Coventry voters gave incumbent Mike White, a Democrat, about 65% of their votes; he got about 59% of the votes cast in all of Cleveland Heights. His challenger was Marjorie B. Wright, a former Cleveland Heights Mayor and one-time Coventry resident. White got a bit more than 75% of the vote in the district.

Mary Boyle, formerly our State Representative and wife of a former Cleveland Heights Mayor, got nearly 76% of Coventry's votes in her race for County Commissioner. She got a little more than 68% of the votes cast in Cleveland Heights, and almost 55% of the votes cast in Cuyahoga County. Her opponent was Vincent Campanella.

In the other race for the County Commission, Republican Virgil Brown took only a bit more than 48% of Coventry's votes; he got more than 56% in all of Cleveland Heights, and more than 51% county-wide. He was opposed by Benny Bonanno.

Jane Campbell, our next State Representative, got more than 81% of Coventry's vote, nearly 77% in this city, and almost 75% in the entire 15th State House district. She was opposed by John S. Ely, Jr, a Republican.

About 85% of Coventry's voters supported Issue 1, for Human Services. More than 79% of this city's voters voted "yes"; the issue won county-wide with about 68%.

County Issue 2, for Metroparks, got 81% support in Coventry, about 73% in

HUNGER CENTER HELPS NEEDY

This festive season, when many folks share in the abundance that has become a part of their lives, is a good time to think about those who are less fortunate. The need to feed the hungry is as great now as at any time of year.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will provide convenient place to drop off donations to help the needy this holiday season. Quality Quilts, 1811 Coventry Road (across from Carroll Drug), is the place to bring donations of non-perishable foods or money.

All donations will go directly to the Heights Hunger Center at Euclid Avenue Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road, opposite Severance Center. Each month, between 125 and 150 families receive a three-day supply of nutritionally-balanced food.

Money received by the Center is used to buy food at the greater Cleveland Food Bank; USDA food items can be purchased for 4 cents a pound, and other grocery items are 8 cents a pound.

Your contributions of food and money do make a difference. CNI urges you to remember the hungry this holiday season.

this city, and about 63% in the county.

A levy renewal for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools received 73% of the vote in Coventry, 65% in this city, and almost 63% in the entire school district.

Of the 3,104 registered voters in Coventry, 1251, or about 40% are listed as Democrats; 248, or about 8%, are Republicans; and 1,603, about 52%, have declared no party affiliation. For all of Cleveland Heights, it's 47% Democrats, 16% Republicans, and 37% not declared.

Here Coventry was defined as the five voting precincts which touch on the commercial area. They are 1-B, 1-H, 1-K, 3-A and 3-G.

LIBRARY GOINGS-ON

Elisabeth Ruth Shoup, daughter of Librarian Debbie Graves Shoup and Vernon Shoup was born Friday, November 9. Mother, Father and baby are all doing well. Mrs. Shoup will return to the library in February.

Want some ideas for holiday decorations, gifts to make, or special recipes? The library has a variety of books on these subjects as well as some fun-filled holiday stories for young and old.

Two special children's programs are scheduled for December. Mary Jane Hepner will teach pre-schoolers some fancy footwork on Tuesday, the 18th, at 6:45 p.m., and two movies, "Free to Be You and Me" and "The Cricket in Times Square," are scheduled for school-age children on the 29th at 1 p.m.

Don't forget our ongoing programs:

Pre-school Story Time: 2 p.m., Mondays December 3, 10, and 17, and January 7; on Tuesdays December 4, 11, 18 and January 8, at 6:45 p.m.; and on Wednesdays December 5, 12, 19 and January 9, at 10:30 a.m.

Read Aloud Fun: for school-age children, 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays December 4, 11, 18 and January 8.

Stories for Elementary School Children: 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays December 5, 12, and 19, and January 9.

LETTERS WELCOME

The CVN welcomes letters to its Editor. We will print all letters which seem of general interest and which fit into the space available. We reserve the right to edit for clarity.

Letters should be addressed to The Editor, 1811 1/2 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, OH, 44118. In order to be considered for publication, letters should be received by mid-month. Letters must be signed (though names may be withheld on request), and a phone number must be included.

CITY HOUSING AID GETS STATE MONEY

Home improvement loans will be made by the The City of Cleveland Heights with nearly \$300,000 it will receive from the State of Ohio. The Ohio Housing Finance Agency will raise the money by selling tax-exempt bonds.

Councilman Joanne O'Brien said that present plans call for about one-third of the money to be lent at 5% to 6% interest to homeowners with relatively low incomes. The balance would be lent to homeowners who do not satisfy the low-income criterion at 11.5% to 12.5% interest. A staff member said that owners of homes in certain area of the city may be made eligible for the 5% to 6% rates regardless of their incomes. North Coventry--the part of Cleveland Heights west of City Hall and north of Mayfield--is likely to be so designated.

Traditional private lenders--banks and savings and loans--are now asking 16% to 18% for loans of this sort.

The Day Begins

a poem

The day begins
A melancholy white
Bone of light
In the wind's teeth
A glowing row of windows

Turned toward the light
Shoes yawn
Their whiskers twisted
The bed is narrow
The house heavy with sleep

I lie awake alone again
Staying with friends
In the shadow of forgotten dreams
A dead horse sensing
The approaching blow

Alone again bone alone
The only light the windows
Against the wind the while
The fire frozen
I lie in wait for what

--Daniel Thompson

AROUND COVENTRY

BAKERY . . . The large shop space once occupied by Coventry Books, at 1824 Coventry Road, will probably become Gourmet de France, a retail bakery, produce shop, and delicatessen, according to Ken Ross, owner of the building. Plans call for baking to be done on the premises. There will be no restaurant seating.

FAT CHOY . . . A sign appeared recently in a window of Irv's Delicatessen (1798 Coventry), announcing that Chinese cuisine will soon be offered there by The House of Fat Choy. A similar sign had been displayed inside the business for at least several months. Plans apparently call for the addition of Chinese offerings to the establishment's present menu, and for the cooking to be done in the same kitchen which prepares the other offerings.

BILLY GOAT . . . Coventry Merchants Association (CMA) has begun a serious effort to make Coventry's commercial area a cleaner, neater place. CMA invested a large portion of its resources in a Billy Goat—that's a brand name of a sort of vacuum cleaner for sidewalks and streets. The machine, powered by a eight horsepower Briggs and Stratton engine, is operated for about ninety minutes each day, weather permitting. In that time it picks up several bushels of litter, making a dramatic impact on the appearance of the neighborhood.

CMA leader Marcia Polevoi, proprietor of High Tide/Rock Bottom, expressed hope that these clean-up efforts would persuade more of Coventry's merchants to join the organization. She said that the dues that would be paid by new members are essential to the continuation of the project, which costs about \$60.00 a week.

NO FIRE . . . Fire trucks have appeared several times in recent weeks in front of a single-family house at 2736 Hampshire Road. Hoses have been connected, and fire fighters have gone

about the activities of putting out a fire.

But there has been no fire. The firemen were practicing and sharpening basic skills. When we stopped by on a recent Saturday, they were manipulating a basement pipe and a Bresnon distributor into the basement of the house. These are tools fire fighters use when they can't get into the area where the fire is. Later they made large holes in the roof of the house; in a real fire, they do that to allow potentially dangerous and explosive gases to escape.

As they practiced, they kept to a minimum the pieces of equipment they used; they had to be ready to pack up and leave swiftly if there were a real fire. The mood of the practice session was relaxed and calm—in sharp contrast to the anxiety and tension of the real thing.

Fire officials regard the opportunity to practice on a house like this one as very valuable. The new Fire Station Number One, at Taylor and Mayfield Roads, contains a practice facility, but firemen cannot practice making holes in roofs or smashing windows there.

The Lancashire Road house will be torn down during the first week in December. Broadway Wrecking will do the job under a \$12,200 contract with the City, which now owns it. A neighboring parking lot will be expanded in the spring.

THE WALL . . . The large retaining wall at the rear of this neighborhood's biggest parking lot has been painted a tasteful brown. A City crew painted it a brilliant day-glow shade some months ago, and CNI objected, loudly and repeatedly. The new paint job is also far neater than the old one. Perhaps now the City will address some of the lighting and other maintenance problems there.

--Ed.

DOBAMA THEATRE OFFERS "KNUCKLE"

A young arms merchant returns to England to search for his sister who has disappeared. Was it murder, suicide or what? That is the premise of David Hare's *Knuckle*, which opened at the Dobama Theatre, 1846 Coventry, on December 1.

The play is the second show of the theatre's twenty-fifth season. *Knuckle*, a British whodunnit with Sam Spade overtones, was first presented by Michael Codron at the Comedy Theatre in London. This was followed by a New York production at the Hudson Guild Theatre in 1981.

Dobama's production casts Robert Hawkes in the role of Curly Delafield, the young arms merchant determined to discover the secret behind his sister's disappearance. Ron Newell plays Patrick Delafield, Curly's father, and Ibbly Hardies plays Mrs. Dunning his housekeeper.

The cast is completed by Caryl Richards as Jenny Wilbur, Ken Armour as Max Dupree and Robert Holmes playing all other male roles. Donald Bianchi directs the show and Fran Buffinton and Marilyn Caplane produced.

Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays and 7:30 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$4.50 weeknights and \$5.75 on Saturdays for general admission. Student and senior citizen tickets are \$3 weeknights and \$4 Saturdays. The show will run through December 22. The box office phone number is 932-6838.

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Bring your pre-schoolers, ages 2-5, to the Coventry School All Purpose Room between 9:30 and 11 p.m. on December 7 for our gym program. The program will feature large muscle toys and gym equipment as well as some action games and large gym balls.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

In "A Question of Emphasis" J.B.L. [CVN, November] reports a conversation in which the writer asked two police officers why tickets are not issued to "cars that park in the fire lane next to Coventry Pizza, blocking the entrance to the municipal lot." The writer pointed out that these cars block the sidewalk, the parking lot entrances, and the vision of drivers trying to get out of the lot. The response reported [from the police] is that "the signs on that wall are so faded that you can't read them. We can't get the courts to enforce them. We've asked for replacements, but after you argue over whether they're legible in court a few times, you give up."

Several violations of law are suggested by the writer's comments. Fire lane ordinances prohibit the obstructing of fire lanes, allowing impounding of cars found parked in fire lanes and require the property owner to place and maintain appropriate markings on the ground or by sign or both. Parking laws prohibit obstructing lane access in parking lots or free passage of vehicles through them. In the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court, over which I've presided for nearly nine years, I don't recall an instance in which anyone has argued the inadequacy of signs at the area in question.

As to community interest in the clean-up of the parking area, also addressed in the column, I concur. In this regard I reiterate a suggestion I made several years ago to Coventry Neighbors that if supervision is supplied by CNI volunteers, I will use alternative sentences involving community service and restitution to the community by persons who have violated its laws. Maybe J.B.L.'s comments will spark an interest.

Sara R. Hunter, Judge
Cleveland Heights Municipal Courts

LANDLORD-TENANT HELP FROM HCC

by Jeff Hess

When you rent an apartment you purchase a service in much the same as when you sit down to dinner at a restaurant. That is the way that Helen Payton, assistant director of the Heights Community Congress (HCC), likes to think of the situation when she deals with landlord-tenant relations.

Because of the recent cutbacks in funding to the Cleveland Tenants Organization—which resulted in the elimination of their capacity to counsel tenants with landlord problems—the HCC has become more deeply involved with these problems. The HCC currently offers three levels of help to renters and potential renters in the area.

The first comes in a pamphlet titled "All-America Apartments, Cleveland Heights Tenant Primer." It was written in 1979, but the information contained in it is just as valid today as it was then. The primer is available from the HCC offices at 2158 Lee Road (above the Cedar-Lee Theater).

Inside the pamphlet you will find a diversity of information covering almost every aspect of the joys of renting. You are first treated to a lesson on landlord-tenant economics which gives you some insight into how your landlord hopes to make a living.

With those thoughts safely tucked away, you begin trying to find an apartment. Some of the best ways to find what you want are suggested along with a warning about places you shouldn't look for help. The primer includes a handy checklist of problems to look for when you make that initial inspection of your apartment.

The text next covers such things as security deposits, what to do once you are in your place, and, most importantly, your rights as a tenant. This section is based on the 1974 Landlord-Tenant Law (Ohio Revised Code Section 5321.04), and is intended as an intro-

duction only. It is advisable to familiarize yourself with the actual law or to consult a lawyer if it should become necessary.

When problems arise the pamphlet has some suggestions on ways to handle them such as working with your fellow tenants, rent depositing in municipal court and using inspectional services.

Rent depositing is not difficult, and the HCC lays out a seven step guide and provides samples of the paperwork. Inspectional Services can be a two-edged sword, but it is a valuable tool for the renter who is familiar with the codes.

Finally the primer gives you advice on two ways of leaving your apartment: the happy way—moving out on your own with your security deposit back—and the unhappy way—being evicted. Both ways have their problems, but the guide has hints to help smooth the waters in either case.

The second is a series of workshops hosted by the Congress. A recent workshop featured Judge Sara Hunter, Commissioner of Inspectional Services Robert Wilkinson, landlord Kenneth Montlack and tenant Amy Dubaniewicz. According to Fran Washington, community organizer for HCC, another workshop is planned for the first of the year. The intent is to provide a public forum for discussion of landlord-tenant problems and to help find solutions.

The third is one-on-one counseling. People who feel they need personal help can call Fran Washington at 321-6775 and make an appointment. The service does not entail any form of legal or financial assistance, but Fran will direct you to people who can provide such help if your problem warrants.

HCC is a valuable resource for the renter in Cleveland Heights. Next month we'll take a look at how HCC can help keep you warm when the January winds start to blow.

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TIME VALUE -- PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1984

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General Meeting, Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Library. The public is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, January 3, 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.)

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