



Coventry Village News

JULY, 1984

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL 8, NO. 8

OPEN PANTRY LOT TO BE IMPROVED

The parking lot that serves the Revco and Open Pantry stores (2770 and 2780 Mayfield Road), on the southwest corner of Mayfield and Coventry Roads, will apparently receive a thorough rebuilding this summer.

A margin of planters, holding shrubs and trees, will be built around the lot. The lot's surface will be rebuilt. A very small park-like area will be created next to Grum's Sub Shoppe (1776 Coventry). The flow of traffic through the area will be thoroughly reorganized, and the sidewalk which now runs along Mayfield Road in front of the parking lot will be moved to the back side of the lot, just in front of the buildings.

In its present form, the lot is thought by many to be one of the neighborhood's most serious eye-sores. The disorganized flow of traffic through it, and the fact that many customers now park on the sidewalks that surround it, are seen as serious safety hazards. No-left-turn signs installed near the lot by the City of Cleveland Heights a few years ago to reduce these dangers will be removed after the project is complete.

Restructuring of this lot was first suggested by Cleveland Heights architect Phil Hart in his 1982 planning study of the Coventry commercial area. The final plans for the project are the work of Craig Cawrse, a landscape architect with offices in Chagrin Falls.

Expected costs of the project are slightly in excess of \$70,000, of which \$30,000 will be paid by the City's Community Development Block Grant program.

--Larry Beam



~Coventry Village Street Fair~

saturday, august 4
3pm to 8pm

sunday, august 5
noon to 7pm



annual

production of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

The 1984 Street Fair poster (above) was designed by local artist Debbie Rennie. This design was selected from more than a dozen entries in the poster contest.

For the first time in the Fair's eleven years, the poster will be available to the public as a t-shirt.

You can buy a shirt at the Fair office, 1824 Coventry Road, for just \$5.00. The design copyright is held by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. More about the Fair appears on page 3.

SUMMER VACATION

The Coventry Village News will not be published in August. The deadline for submission of materials for the September *CVN* is August 15.

The August regular meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will be held as usual on the second Tuesday, August 14, at the Coventry Village Library.

COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS is published monthly, except in August, by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. in cooperation with the Heights Community Congress.

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Larry Beam

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Kathryn Young

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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 September 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 August 16. While no unsigned items will be published, your name may be withheld on request. Phone 371-6095.

MEETING NOTES

June Regular Meeting

Thanks to Bert and Alice Stratton, Kathryn Young, Diana Cyganovich, and David's Cookies, the recent walking tour was a success.

The special program was a presentation and discussion of plans for a private parking lot for Coventryard, which owners of the mall want to build behind it, at 2764 Lancashire. CNI took no formal position on the project, but initial views of the project, expressed at the meeting, were generally negative.

An expenditure of \$100 for an electric stapler to be used in assembling the CVN and other materials was authorized.

PICNIC

We hope that you will join members of CNI for a picnic at the Summer in the City festival on August 26.

COVENTRYARD PLANS PARKING FACILITY

Simon and Company, the owners of Coventryard, have announced tentative plans to build a 24-space parking lot at 2764 Lancashire Road, behind the mall building. A vacant and fire-damaged apartment building presently stands on the site.

The proposed lot would be private, intended for Coventryard patrons only. Access to it would be controlled by a gate system involving tokens to be given out by Coventryard merchants, or perhaps by a live guard.

No public funding is involved; the lot would be paid for entirely by Simon and Company, and tenants of Coventryard would make extra payments to Simon and Company to defray the costs.

Before the project can proceed, several bits of formal permission must be obtained from the City. Simon and Company has applied to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) for a conditional use permit and a variance which the project would require. The proposed parking lot would be set back just ten feet from the front property line; the neighboring buildings are set back about three times that far. A formal public hearing on that request must be held; it now appears that that hearing will be on August 15. If the proposal is approved by the BZA, City Council will have an opportunity to veto the BZA's action. Present plans also apparently call for the razing of at least part of the garage behind the apartment building at 2768 Lancashire, just east of the proposed parking lot; this would require yet another zoning variance. Council would also have to grant permission to raze the apartment building presently on the site.

Marcia Nolan, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager, presented

STREET FAIR: AUGUST 4 AND 5

The 11th annual Coventry Village Street Fair will be held on Saturday, August 4, from 3:00 to 9:00 PM, and on Sunday, August 5, from noon to 7:00 PM.

As usual, the Fair will have a full complement of food, crafts, and fine arts booths. Continuous folk, rock, jazz, and reggae music will be provided on four stages.

Additions to the Fair this year include an expanded family programming area, on Sunday only, sponsored by the Coventry School PTA and located on the School grounds. There will be a large balloon release and special musical programming in the amphitheater on the School grounds.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the Fair. You can stop in the Fair office, 1824 Coventry Road, or call 321-2510 for more information.

Parking, always a problem in Coventry, is most difficult during the Fair. We suggest the following locations:

The parking lots behind Cleveland Heights City Hall and the Recreation Pavilion, a few blocks east of Coventry on the north side of Mayfield; the parking lot for the Civic, on the south side of Mayfield, just east of Lee Road; Boulevard Elementary School, on the east side of Lee Road, south of Mayfield; St. Ann's Church, on Coventry just south of Cedar; and Cumberland Park.

plans for the project to the June 12 meeting of CNI. She emphasized the tentative nature of the plans, and suggested that Simon and Company might withdraw the proposal if the neighborhood had strong opposition to it. Although CNI took no formal position on the plan, few members appear to support it. The plan also appears to face an uphill battle among members of Council.

--Larry Beam

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

For the last several weekends, the New England Clam House [in the courtyard behind Coventryard] has entertained a sizable portion of the residential community with live, loudly-amplified outdoor music lasting into the early-morning hours. I believe this a violation of an agreement entered into by the Clam House ownership when they were granted permission to have outdoor seating. I understand that agreement to limit such disturbances to a much more reasonable hour. I and others have complained repeatedly of this situation,

without results, to various City officials.

The City Council recently turned down a similar request for outdoor seating for bar and restaurant in another neighborhood. Council said it felt that the proposal contained too much likelihood of disturbance to near-by residents. I feel that the City's laxity in enforcing the agreement with the Clam House represents, once again, the application of a double standard to the Coventry neighborhood.

---Bob Shields

Famous in the Neighborhood

a poem

Famous in the neighborhood
 Among children and dogs
 And all living things hidden
 I walk about talking nonsense
 Inhaling through the ears energy
 Putting humor on the mouth showing teeth
 In the street I run amuck
 Having learned in my quest
 For maximum security
 A flair for fair play
 Everything truly amazes me
 How people get up, go to work
 How they get through the day
 Without breaking down
 How at night their dreams let them sleep
 Ah, citizens, shopkeepers
 servants of the law
 This is, indeed, an age of obscenities
 The four-letter word
 has long been outstripped
 By its competition from the Pentagon
 Pollution is reaching eclipse proportions
 We are left muttering to ourselves
 Traditional graffiti.
 And pity poor protest
 Bound, Gagged, Held in contempt
 Mediocrity sits in the judgment seat
 The mad bombers are on the way.

... yet the rain falls
 the grass is wet
 The robin eats the worm
 The voices of children
 are heard from the turtle
 In the sandbox in the park
 And the Sun
 still famous in my neighborhood,
 Shines its shoes
 and walks through the sky.

---Daniel Thompson

[Mr. Thompson, who has been reading his work on Monday nights at the Turkey Ridge Tavern, is founder and President of the Poet's Bank, a coterie of poets who publish and perform. He is presently working on plans for The Last Junkyard Reading, a poetry reading to be held at Pearl Road Auto Wrecking, 5060 Pearl Road, on July 15 from 2:00 PM to dark. Another of his current projects is a reading to be called Happy Birthday Hart Crane, which is to be held Sunday, July 22, 1:00 to 4:00 PM at 87 West Street, Chagrin Falls. Thompson was recently appointed a probation officer by Cleveland Heights Municipal Court Judge Sara Hunter.--Ed.]

AROUND COVENTRY . . .

GARDEN . . . The Hampshire Garage is gone, and the task of converting the entire site, at 2652 Hampshire Road, into a community garden is nearing completion. A portion of the rear wall of the building was saved, and now serves as a retaining wall; its brick work has been cleaned up, repaired, topped with a neat slab of concrete. An access drive, of wood chips, remains to be installed; the whole area will be tilled, and shrubs will be planted in front.

AFRICAN IMPORTS . . . An opening before the Street Fair is planned for Biashara, a shop that will specialize in imports from the East African nations of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. It will be located at 1807 Coventry, the former location of the Food Project. Proprietor Linda Kimenderi, of East Cleveland, says that her shop will carry clothing, jewelry, carvings, paintings, and more. She plans also to do export work.

ORCHESTRA . . . Coventry photographer Herb Ascherman has made portraits of all the members of the Cleveland Orchestra. These are now on display in his studio at 1785 Coventry, and are available in a book, called *Fanfare*, published by the Junior Committee Orchestra (\$10.00).

PAVING . . . Completion of Coventry paving project is expected before the end of July. The portion of Coventry between Mayfield and the East Cleveland border has already been completed; areas south of Euclid Heights Boulevard will be completed next, and the business district will be done last.

PIZZA BAZAAR . . . Building permits for the Pizza Bazaar, proposed for 1823 Coventry Road, the former Coventry Bike and Ski, have been ready for several weeks, according to a City official. He says that, so far as he is concerned, the project appears ready to go ahead. Yet rumors persist on the Street that

the project is dead, and the failure of the project's backers to return our phone calls--and calls from the aforementioned City official--tends to give substance to those rumors.

NEW TREES . . . The City has recently planted about twenty-five new trees on the center strip of Euclid Heights Boulevard. They are scarlet oaks and little leaf lindens. City Forester Emerich Sabo says that these species will give rich color to the center-strip. He plans to plant more trees, species that will add still more color, late this year or early next year.

Sabo says that the planting of these trees represents a subtle change in City policy. He says that until recently the planting of new trees in areas like the center-strip was avoided because it made mowing the grass there more difficult and time-consuming. He believes that planting the trees is well worth the added costs, because it helps to maintain the community's identity as a "City of Trees."

FLOWERS . . . This summer has been disappointing for those who have worked to beautify Coventry Village with flowers and other plantings. Evergreens placed in the sidewalk planters by the City last fall have been stolen, vandalized, or have died from want of attention and watering. Two trees were destroyed by vandals. Simon and Company, the new owners of Coventryard, have done a grossly inadequate job with the maintenance of the mini-park in front of their building.

Yet there are bright spots. Marcia Polevoi, proprietor of High Tide/Rock Bottom, has done an elegant job with the planter that's part of her facade. Tommy's and Record Revolution have done good work with their window boxes. Tom Loesh, of Passport to Peru, has taken care of a several planters.--Ed

COMMUNITY WATCH-DOG: Youth Center Update

by June C. Wortman

While you may not have heard much about it, the Coventry Youth Center has been very active with a lot to show for it.

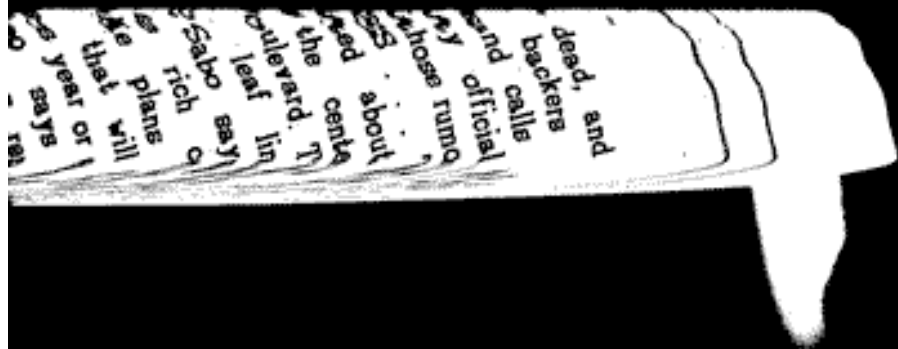
The Center's first director, Anthony Rushin, was enticed away to become Superintendent of the Metzenbaum Children's Home last April. The board revved up for another search and found Sharon

Gospel choir, training for babysitters, chess, newsletter writing, tutoring, aerobics, volleyball and basketball. The Center has also provided grooming/self-enhancement, and will also be providing first-aid training. Along with all these activities, which require enrollment, are open activities, such as board games, dancing, ping-pong and pool.

work history that includes two years in Sierra Leone as a Peace Corps worker. She has worked in many settings with youth and their families. She has a warm,

Learn. Won't you join us to watch the program?

By the time you read this the Center will be well along in its Sustaining Membership Drive, which aims to raise \$75,000. The money is badly needed for a



either separated or divorced; this compares with 11.2% City-wide.

The 1980 Census counted 56,438 people in Cleveland Heights; that's a decline of 7.12% from the 1970 count of 60,676. Blacks in all of Cleveland

median rent in the City was \$121 in 1970; in 1980, it stood at \$245; the increase is 193%. Other costs of living increased by about 213% in the same time period.

COVENTRY IN THE CENSUS

by Larry Beam

Data from the 1980 Census have recently become available on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis for all of Cleveland Heights. The geographic definitions of neighborhoods used in these data are roughly the same as the City's elementary school districts, and the school names are used for them. Cleveland Heights is divided into ten such neighborhoods.

Coventry stands out in a number of ways. Median income of families in Coventry—\$22,098 in 1979—was the lowest among Cleveland Heights neighborhoods. For the whole City, median income of families was \$25,419; among the City's ten neighborhoods, Fairfax had the highest median family income: \$28,171.

Of the 670 Cleveland Heights families who had poverty-level income in 1979, 175 lived in Coventry; that's 9.3% of of this neighborhood's 1,887 families. Coventry had more than twice as many such poor families as any neighborhood except Taylor, which had 96 (7.8%). For the whole City, 4.8% of the families had poverty-level incomes. In 1969, 556 Cleveland Heights families, or 3.6% had poverty-level incomes. In 1970, 256 Cleveland Heights families told the Census Bureau that they received public assistance or welfare; by 1980, that statistic had increased to 849, of whom 116 lived in Coventry.

A larger percentage of people over 15 years of age are single in Coventry than in any other neighborhood: 45.3%. In all of Cleveland Heights, 31.9% of the people 15 and over are single. Of the 4,126 persons in Coventry who said they had ever been married, 17.5% were either separated or divorced; this compares with 11.2% City-wide.

The 1980 Census counted 56,438 people in Cleveland Heights; that's a decline of 7.12% from the 1970 count of 60,676. Blacks in all of Cleveland

Heights numbered 1,508, or 2.5%, in 1970; the 1980 Census counted 14,061 blacks, or 24.9% of the total population. In 1980, blacks made up 13.3% of Coventry's population. The City's largest concentration of black population is in the Caledonia neighborhood (69.1%); the smallest concentration of blacks is in Roxboro (6.1%).

Foreign-born persons were 13% of the City's 1970 population; in 1980, the foreign-born were 9.6%. The 1980 Census counted 1,065 (11.8%) foreign-born among the Coventry neighborhood's total population of 9,017. Of Coventry's 1,404 persons aged 5 to 17 years, 132, or 9.4%, were reported speaking a language other than English at home.

Among Coventry people who identified themselves as being of a "single ancestry group," more named Russia as the country of their ancestors than any other nation; next was England, then Germany. City-wide, Germany was first, followed by England, Ireland, Italy, and then Russia.

Of the 5,635 persons in Coventry age 25 and older, 85.9% have completed high school. The comparable City-wide statistic is 83.4%; among the ten neighborhoods, Millikin ranks lowest, with 76.0%; Fairfax is highest with 94.2%.

The 1980 Census found the median value of owner-occupied housing units to be, for all the City, \$51,500; in 1970 that statistic stood at \$23,300, an increase of 220%. In Coventry, the 1980 median value was \$62,600.

In 1970, Cleveland Heights had 6,765 renter-occupied housing units; by 1980, the number had increased to 7,435. Of these, 2,704 were in Coventry. The median rent in the City was \$127 in 1970; in 1980, it stood at \$245; the increase is 193%. Other costs of living increased by about 213% in the same time period.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION FORM

To encourage and recognize individual and collective efforts to improve the City's physical environment and preserve its excellence, Cleveland Heights and the Heights Community Congress are sponsoring an annual Community Improvement Awards program open to all.

TO QUALIFY

The improvements must be visible from a public right-of-way and may be: additions, restoration, renovation, new construction, painting and maintenance which may include exterior facades, interior treatment visible from the outside, exterior spaces, sitting areas, landscaping, graphics, lighting, street furniture and signage.

The Community Improvement Awards Program is in three stages:

1. NOMINATIONS

Anyone may nominate any improvement made to any place or property in Cleveland Heights since 1978.

2. SELECTION

The Committee will select from the nominations those projects which meet the criteria. Each project selected will be awarded a Certificate of Recognition and will become eligible for an award.

Criteria for selection:

- value to the improvement of the community
- catalyst to encourage others to upgrade their physical environment
- respectful of surrounding places, spaces, buildings and people
- provides social, economic and/or aesthetic benefit to the neighborhood and community

3. AWARDS

A panel of five judges selected from the community will choose award winners in each category whose projects go beyond the ordinary in aesthetic appeal and clearly enhance the physical environment of the neighborhood and community.

SUBMITTED BY: (name and telephone)

NAME _____

(of property owner and/or business)

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

TIME SPAN OF IMPROVEMENTS: _____

DESCRIBE PREVIOUS CONDITIONS: _____

DETAIL SPECIFIC HOUSE OR BUILDING

IMPROVEMENTS: _____

DETAIL SPECIFIC LANDSCAPE OR WALKSCAPE

IMPROVEMENTS: _____

CATEGORY OF NOMINATION:

- Individual Residence
- Multi-Residential
- Business/Commercial
- Special Projects
- Tender Loving Care
- Street Award

RETURN BY AUG. 15 TO:

Heights Congress
2163 Lee Road
Cleve. Hts., Oh. 44118

FACADE FIX-UPS PROGRESS SLOWLY

A committee of the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC) has reviewed plans for a new facade for the building that contains Coventry Laundromat, Charles Gallagher, Lee's Design Lines, and D.O. Sommers (1793 to 1805 Coventry). The LDC offers financial help to such projects, frequently paying more than half the project costs. The building is owned by Ken Saks and Gary Biller, who do business as L & K Realty.

Improvement of the building's facade was promised several years when the owners obtained permission from the Board of Zoning Appeals to expand the laundromat. The new facade plans, which are the work of architect David Howe, call for the removal of the panels that now cover the building, the cleaning and repair of the brick underneath, and new signs.

The removal of a few of the red and yellow glazed metal panels that now cover the building revealed that the brick underneath is quite rough, as is the mortar work. It is now not clear whether the facade renovation can go ahead as planned.

Plans are in the discussion stages for facade improvements to Heights Laundry and Dry Cleaning (1863 Coventry), O'Grady's Professional Cleaners (2779 Euclid Heights) and Heights Hardware (1792 Coventry).

Meanwhile, work on a new facade for the Coveham building, just north of Hampshire on the east side of Coventry, is proceeding very slowly. Completion of the modest but important project had been expected before last year's Street Fair, and even now it's only about half done. Some tenants of the building have protested what they perceive as low-quality work there. Jay Gardner, who oversees the City's Storefront Renovation Program, says that the matter is entirely out of his hands, but none the

less promises completion "in our lifetimes."
--Larry Beam

LIBRARY GOINGS-ON

The children's programs will continue in full swing during July. Crafty Creations, a series of three crafts programs for preregistered children in kindergarten through sixth grade, will be held July 3, 10, and 17 at 7:30 PM. Children will do watercolor pictures, cross-sticks, and make stationery.

Toddler Story Time, for children two and a half to three years old, will begin on Wednesday, July 11, at 9:30 AM. This excellent program is designed to help the toddler join a group and focus on a leader (Mrs. Bellamy) who has exciting things for them to do.

The summer reading program, "Go for the Gold," will continue through the summer. Be sure to enter the program before the fifth week.

Summer is a great time to catch up on best sellers you may have missed during the busy winter months. James Mishner's *Poland*, Saul Bellow's new book of short stories, and John Updike's *Witches of Eastwitch*--all will certainly hold you on a lazy summer day. Watch in the next few months for some new magazines for computer owners and for writers.
--Debbie Shoup.

GOOD WORK, OFFICER

We'd like to commend the Cleveland Heights Police officer who, on Friday June 22, warned an out-of-state motorist away from an illegal parking space--and then parked *his* car in that space. He then went into a restaurant, apparently for dinner. His parking there was a brilliant way to prevent further abuse of the space, while at the same time polishing the Police Department's image in the community.
--M. Polaski

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Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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TIME VALUE -- PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1984

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

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, June 7, 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 (\$2.50)Family (\$3.50)Senior (\$1.50)

.....Just a subscription to the *Coventry Village News*--no membership.

(\$5 for 11 months; the *CVN* is not published in August.)

NAME:..... PHONE:.....

ADDRESS:..... ZIP:.....

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

Please return this form with your check to
COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.,
3081 East Derbyshire Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.