



Coventry Village News

MAY, 1984

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL 8, NO. 5

LESS DISRUPTION NOW EXPECTED FROM COVENTRY PAVING JOB

by Larry Beam

The paving of Coventry Road through the business district will be less disruptive than had been expected, according to Dominic Tomaro whose office will oversee the project. Tomaro, the City's Commissioner of Public Services, expects the most severe disruption to last a total of only about eight days.

The first step in the paving process will be the repair of catch basins, access holes, and other metal castings on the road surface. Only minor and localized disruption will result from this step.

Then the old paving material will be ground and scraped off the road, and the road bed will be repaired where necessary. A layer of coarse asphalt—known as a "base" or "binder" coat—will be laid down. Access holes and other castings will be covered with plates of steel, buried in the asphalt. This process will be done first on one side of the street, and will then be repeated on the other.

Curb-side parking will be banned, but two-way traffic will be maintained, on one side of the street at a time.

This most disruptive step in the paving process is expected to take a total of just eight days, provided that the weather is good, and that unexpected problems do not arise.

A smooth but unfinished surface will result. Normal traffic and curb-side parking will be returned.

Work on the project will then be suspended for some weeks while City attorneys work out the details of the process by which the owners of property along Coventry will be assessed for the repair of curbs. [Continued on page 4]

TOUR THE LANES OF COVENTRY

Many of Coventry Village's lanes are off the beaten path. Until now. From 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Sunday, May 27, people will traipse through the lane rich area. The hikers will be part of Coventry Neighbors' "Country Lanes of Coventry Village and Thereabouts" tour. Admission is \$1.00. The guide is Ken Goldberg, past treasurer of the Western Reserve Architectural Historians.

The lanes to be covered are Mornington, Overlook, Edgehill, E. Overlook, Derbyshire and Norfolk. The guide will discuss architectural and historical facts—like how the area was laid out by an English architect who liked limey names.

Everyone is invited. Prams, strollers, and leashed pets are welcome. Meet at the mini-park in front of Coventryard at 2:00 PM, and wear walking shoes.

Afterward, high tea—cookies, tea, lemonade, and coffee—will be served in the Street Fair office in the former Coventry Books, 1824 Coventry Road.

The rain date is Sunday, June 3, 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

**THE MAY MEETING OF CNI WILL BE HELD ONE WEEK LATER THAN
USUAL, ON MAY 15, 7:30 PM AT COVENTRY LIBRARY.
CITY OFFICIALS WILL DISCUSS THE PAVING PROJECT.**

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

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

MEETING NOTES

Regular meeting of April 9

Vice President Kathryn Young, chairing the meeting in the absence of President Bruce Hennes, announced that a walking tour of Coventry will be held on the last Sunday in May.

Attorney Howard Kisner discussed proposed changes the CNI's Articles of Incorporation. The changes were intended to address concerns raised by the Internal Revenue Service regarding CNI's application for standing as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)3. A motion to adopt the revised Articles was tabled.

The Secretary was asked to write a letter to the City Manager, supporting and encouraging his efforts to get the fire-damaged Woodland building tightly secured against entry.

The trustees of CNI will focus on selected delinquent apartment buildings, following the course of code enforcement in them through the Court, filing complaints when necessary, and publishing these in the *CVN*.

The Secretary was asked to communicate to the City CNI's organizational concern over their disrepair and potentially dangerous condition of certain lamps in Hampshire Commons.

LETTERS TO EDITOR ARE WELCOME

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, OH 44118. In order to be considered for publication, letters must be signed, and a phone number must be included.

CNI ENCOURAGES CODE ENFORCEMENT

by Charles Owen

Maintenance of the apartment buildings in Coventry is absolutely essential to the continued viability of the neighborhood. The severe deterioration of even a few of these buildings costs all of us dearly. The City's code-enforcement process and the housing court just aren't doing an adequate job.

At the March CNI meeting, Judge Sara Hunter of Cleveland Heights Municipal Court said that her court rarely or never pursues secondary contempt of court citations. She spoke of issuing two final notices—a first final notice and a second final notice. One observer, after hearing the Judge's words, called her court "a padded glove without a fist."

At that same meeting, Robert Wilkinson, the City's Commissioner of Inspectional Services, said that it was the responsibility of renters to make complaints to the City on problem properties. But, because many renters have no leases, they are—despite the provisions of Ohio's Landlord-Tenant Act—vulnerable to retaliation from landlords. For many, it is easier to move elsewhere.

These statements from Hunter and Wilkinson—combined with the poor condition of buildings that have been approved by the Department of Inspectional Services—send a clear message to absentee landlords that there is no urgency to the matter of maintaining apartment buildings, that crucial repairs can be delayed, and that such work as is done may be shabby.

The presence of Wilkinson and Hunter at the March CNI meeting was spurred by continuing problems with a building at 2741 Hampshire Road. There was—and remains—a wide perception in this community that its owner, Isaac Dinewitz of Harvey Road, who once faced jail for his

HCC SEEKS HELP WITH FUND-RAISING EFFORT

The Heights Community Congress is seeking volunteers to work on its eighth annual Phone-a-Thon fund-raising effort. Persons willing to help should call the HCC at 321-6775.

Folks who cannot help with this effort, but who want to support the HCC, may send their tax-free contributions to the HCC at 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

unwillingness to repair or sell the building, had somehow "beaten the rap."

Dinewitz's Hampshire property continues to be an eye-sore, even though it received a stamp of approval from the Department of Inspectional Services. At this writing, though, the building's front door has been blowing freely in the breeze for several weeks. Burned-out lights in common areas continue to be a problem for the safety and security of tenants. Sidewalks are severely deteriorated in places. Glass and debris litter the yard. The quality of the work that has been done—in response to pressure from the City and court—has been astoundingly low. Glass of the windows has been painted along with the frames. Paint has been splattered on steps and brick work.

Relatively new apartment complexes in other parts of the metropolitan area offer swimming pools and other amenities, plenty of parking, and at least the illusion of fewer social problems. And the rents are often comparable.

What keeps renters here is Coventry's unique life-style, the area's irreplaceable architectural charm, and convenient location. But these factors can go only so far in keeping and attracting residents. To remain competitive, Coventry must safeguard its quality living space. Neither the court nor the Division of Inspectional Services is doing its part.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The reporter who covered the CNI meeting at which at which housing code enforcement was discussed misunderstood my comments about what happens when a person fails to appear in court on the date given in the ticket and summons.

If the defendant does not appear, a final notice is sent within a few days. The same procedures apply whether it is a traffic, housing, or any other misdemeanor case. The final notice informs the defendant of a new court date, and that the consequences of failure to appear at that time will be the issuance of an arrest warrant. Preparation of a warrant, the next step, is not complex. However, if the identification of the person to be arrested is insufficient, it is more difficult for the Police Department to make the arrest. As I explained, an inspector has accompanied the arresting officers in situations of this kind.

If a person appears in court on the date given in a final notice and gives sufficient reason for not appearing on the date given in the original ticket, the court rarely pursues the secondary question of whether that defendant should be found in contempt of court. Such cases of "indirect" contempt of court require a charge in writing and a hearing. The requirements of the court are the same, regardless of the kind of ticket issued in the first place.

--Judge Sara R. Hunter

PAVING . . . from page 1

Work on the project will then be suspended for some weeks while City attorneys work out the details of the process by which the owners of property along Coventry will be assessed for the repair of curbs.

The curbs will then be replaced, the access holes, catch basins, and other metal castings will be adjusted to the level of the new pavement, and a final coat of asphalt will be applied. Wheelchair ramps will be installed at the crosswalks. Painting center lines and crosswalk markers on the street will complete the job.

Curb replacement is expected to cost property owners about \$11 for each foot of frontage along Coventry. Owners will be given the option of paying what they owe in a single lump sum, or over a ten-year period as additions to their real estate tax bills.

The expected total cost of the project now stands at \$451,795. Some additional costs are anticipated, and are routine in projects of this nature. Funds will come from the sale of bonds approved by Cleveland Heights voters in 1983.

Property owners whose sidewalks are in bad shape will be given the opportunity to have bad sidewalk replaced by the paving contractor, Cleveland Trinidad. Economies of scale will allow Cleveland Trinidad to offer to do the work at a price below the usual cost of such work.

POPCORN PARLOUR OFFERS TREATS

Coventry's newest business, the Popcorn Parlour, opened without fanfare on April 1; a grand opening was held at the end of the month.

The shop, at 1862 Coventry Road, the former location of Bill Jones Leather, offers popcorn, made fresh daily, in over 50 flavors. Flavored popcorn balls and chocolate popcorn cluster candy are also available.

These products are offered in a wide variety of containers--from simple plastic bags of various sizes to cans hand-painted by local artists.

Behind the business are Pearl and Howard Fishman and their children, Mark, Cathy, Scott, and Steven. The family lived in Cleveland Heights for many years.

AROUND COVENTRY . . .

PICK-N-PAY . . . For at least a decade, there has been talk of building some large, new project where the Pick-n-Pay store now stands on the east side of Coventry. Most of the plans that have been discussed would have involved the razing of other near-by commercial buildings, and the houses on Rock Court, behind the present store. About five years ago, one such plan developed to the point of an architect's scale model, and a developer--First National Supermarkets, owners of Pick-n-Pay--bought most of the land the project would have required. But that plan fizzled.

Earlier this year, City officials told us of a new flurry of hope that a major new development might be built. Ken Ross, Coventry's largest land owner, and First National Supermarkets--who, with the City own nearly all the land that would have been required--were making progress towards planning a major development. Mr. Ross and his brother would have been the developers.

Now that plan--like several others before it--appears quite dead.

Marcia Nolan, who for several years has headed the City's efforts to find a developer and a project for the area, maintains some hope that both may still be found. But she now says that the effort to find them is now no farther along than it was ten years ago.

LAMPS . . . Two shiny new lamp posts were installed recently in an area known as Coventry Commons, a pedestrian way just west of Musicians Towers. These lamps replaced similar ones whose bases had rusted out; the old lamps fell over about a year ago, leaving wires exposed until the recent repairs were made.

NEW JOB . . . CNI President Bruce Hennes has left his his role as Executive Director of B'nai Jeshurun Congre-

gation, the Temple on the Heights. He has joined Motorola Corporation's Cellular Mobile Telecommunications Division as an account executive.

IRV'S GAMEROOM . . . Irv Gulko, proprietor of Irv's, 1798 Coventry Road, has closed the small gameroom which filled a front portion of what was a bar before until a local option vote dried it up. Employees said that vandalism and theft associated with the gameroom led to the closing.

REMODELING . . . Allen Sherwin's restaurant, bliss, at 1876 Coventry, closed the week before Easter for a thorough remodeling. Earlier plans to install a large bar in the space below the restaurant have been suspended. Plans now call for re-doing the restaurant, making it what Sherwin calls "more of a Coventry place," and giving it a strong bar and lounge atmosphere.

GAMES . . . Dart-throwing competition, sanctioned by the Cleveland Darter Club, occupies patrons of the Turkey Ridge Tavern, 1852 Coventry, on Tuesday evenings. Several teams, which travel to other east side establishments, have been organized. Dart boards are available for practice all afternoons.

The Underdog, the hotdog in the lower level of Coventryard, will sponsor a chess tournament beginning on May 7.

BOOKS FOR TRADE . . . Mac's Backs Paperbacks, located upstairs at 1846 Coventry Road, now offers to trade--as well as buy and sell--paperback books.

BOARDED UP, TIGHTLY . . . The Woodland, a fire-damaged apartment building at 2764 Lancashire Road, has been secured tightly against entry by children seeking adventure and vagrants seeking shelter. Its open condition had been a serious concern; on April 2, neighbor Vernon Shoup expressed his concern to City Council. The boarding-up followed in the next few weeks.

COMMUNITY WATCH-DOG: Food for the Soul

Tired of winter, the BZA, the RTA, El Salvador, and Ronald Reagan? Let your soul soar by attending the concert by Cleveland's most creative dance company, the Primavera, on Saturday, May 22, 8:00 PM, at Kulas Auditorium of John Carol University.

It is the only company in the area whose dances are all composed by members of the company rather than by the artistic director--and the dancer-choreographers are all between the ages of 12 and 18. Their technical excellence, energy, strength, and confidence make them seem, on stage, larger than life. The beauty and deep feeling of their dances move many to tears.

Originating eight years ago under the auspices of the Cleveland Music School Settlement, the Primavera has recently gained the support of the Cleveland Modern Dance Association and the Fine Arts Department of John Carol University. They have danced twice in the Cain Park summer dance festival, each time attracting the largest audiences in the series. This spring they have danced, along with professional companies, in the Lake Erie Choreographic and Photographic Festival. Every year they perform ten concerts in the Cleveland Public Schools.

Who are these girls who sign a contract of commitment and spend twelve hours a week in classes and rehearsals when they could be doing any other typically adolescent things? Three are Cleveland Heights residents: Kirsten Geker, Jessica Horrigan, and Rebecca Wortman. Rupa Datta lives in University Heights, and Stephanie Gottlob in Beachwood; Kelli Adams, Lane Blum, and Alissa Levin live in Shaker Heights.

Most are on the honor roll. All have wide interests beyond dancing. Most study one or more musical instruments. Kelli ice skates and plays field hockey, softball, clarinet, and tennis. Jessica

plays varsity field hockey at Heights High, and also boats, bikes, and jogs. Rupa plays violin, gets perfect scores in chemistry exams, and takes an active part in the activities of the Indian Cultural Center. Stephanie and Alissa enjoy horseback riding and sailing.

The marvel of the group lies not only in their energy, dedication, personal organization, and variety of interests but also in the creativity which appears in the endless variety of their dances and in their approach to life.

If a member is too ill to appear, dances are re-choreographed to accommodate. When a dancer ran a sliver of glass into her toe during a performance, she continued to dance--and removed the glass later. When a stage space is too small, they manage creative changes to avoid trouble. When most of the group graduates in a single year, they regroup the newcomers around a few old hands and within a year impart to them the old hands' dedication, high standards, and group morale.

Arnona Marenoff Eisenberg, with occasional help from her talented daughter Alisa, lead Primavera, providing continuity, encouragement, leadership, and support. They believe in the capacity of the young to create, and have the courage to permit them to try. Arnona begins the training with children just six years old. The training she gives them in choreography is not widely available even for adults; it is rarely available for young students.

Don't miss this opportunity to see something that few other cities can provide. See the Primavera Dance company and have your faith humankind--and in the future of our city and of our world--rekindled. You will enjoy the beauty, spontaneity, grace, technical skill of this first-class modern dance company. They are professional in the truest sense of that word.

--June C. Wortman.

STREET FAIR MUSIC

The Music Committee now accepting accepting demo tapes and promotional materials to be considered for the schedule of events. Packages may be left at the Street Fair office, 1824 Coventry Road. The Committee is also seeking volunteers; people willing to help should sign up at the office.

We are getting started a bit earlier this year, so please call the office at 321-2510 to make sure that someone is there.

--Gary Wells, Music Chair

POSTER CONTEST

A change of address

Submissions to the contest which will select the promotional poster for the 1984 Coventry Village Street Fair should be delivered to 3434 Washington Boulevard, before 9:00 PM on June 1, 1984. This address is a change from the address published in last month's *CVN*; the contest chairperson has moved.

Full rules and technical requirements for the contest are available at the Street Fair office at 1824 Coventry Road. They also appeared in full in the April *CVN*.

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Pre-schoolers, aged 3 to 5, are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal to the Coventry Village Library for a "pet show" on May 2, at 10:30 AM or at 2:30 PM. Besides hearing stories, each child may tell something about his or her favorite "pet."

Coventry Elementary School is getting new kindergarten playground equipment. The equipment is also intended for use by preschool children when school is not in session. As a special preview, the pre-school program scheduled for May 18 will feature an outdoor playtime. Officer John Howard of the Cleveland Heights Police Department will speak briefly to parents and children in the All-Purpose Room on the subject of playground safety. A rain date of May 21 has been set.

HERITAGE CENTER SPONSORS CLINIC

A Building Doctor Clinic, sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Heritage Center, will be held on Thursday, May 17, 7:00 PM at the new Fire Station No. 1, 3445 Mayfield Road at Taylor.

Rehabilitation specialists Mary Beth Hirsh and Laureen Cain Haenszel of Ohio Historical Society's "Building Doctor" staff will present a lecture and slide show on topics dealing with the maintenance and rehabilitation problems common to older Cleveland Heights homes and other buildings. A question and answer session, tailored to those in attendance will be featured.

Admission to the clinic will be \$5.00 at the door, or \$4.00 in advance. Contact Charles J. Owen, Chairman of the Cleveland Heights Heritage Center, 2745 Hampshire Road, Suite 3, Cleveland Heights OH 44106. Phone 321-1268.

DOBAMA OFFERS TWO ONE-ACT PLAYS

Dobama Theatre's fifth production of the season will be two one-act plays by Arthur Kopit. The plays are *Sing to Me Through Open Windows*, and *Chamber Music*. The show opens on May 3 and will continue through May 20.

Sing to Me Through Open Windows will feature Erin Quill and Mel Hart. It is a bittersweet lament about a boy, a passe magician, and a diabolical clown.

Chamber Music is about eight women in a mental hospital who meet to plan an attack on the men's ward of the hospital. Performers include Michelle Meers, Jane Disko, Marilyn Caplane, Barbara Quill, Mary Wirtz, Lisa Capone, and Erin Quill.

Curtain times are 8:30 PM Thursdays and Saturdays; 9:00 PM Fridays, and 7:30 PM on Sundays. The box office phone number is 932-6838.

LIBRARY GOINGS-ON

The children's programs at the Coventry Village Library are coming to an end. On May 1, the final "Stories Galore" program for school-aged children will present a Mothers' Day story. Pre-school story time will continue Thursday evenings at 6:45 PM until May 22, and on Wednesdays at 10:30 and 2:30 PM until May 23.

Although the program season is coming to an end, we hope our neighbors will come in to see some of the new magazines we've been getting. Of particular interest is the *World Press Review*, which contains news and views from the foreign press. The April issue discussed world opinion of Chernenko, the new leader of the Soviet Union. Many requests prompted us to subscribe to *Harper's Magazine*, which has just undergone a complete change in editorial direction. We also have a new magazine called *American Craft*; its April/May issue describes beautiful modern pewter work in words and photos, and there are similar stories about bentwood and weaving. Current issues of periodicals do not circulate, but old issues do.

Come discover all the Library has to offer. —Debbie Graves Shoup

HCC SEEKS DATA ON NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

The questionnaire on page 9 (opposite) is part of an effort by the Heights Community Congress (HCC) to identify concerns of residents. The HCC is especially interested in discovering what concerns are common the several neighborhoods.

Responses will be kept in confidence, and supplying your name and address are optional. Your school district, however, is essential.

Please return your questionnaire before June 1 to: The Heights Community Congress, 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland

371-6205

GARAGE COMING DOWN FOR MORE GARDENS

The City of Cleveland Heights has signed a contract with B & B Wrecking and Excavating for the razing of the Hampshire Garage. Completion of work on the \$11,640 contract is expected by the end of May.

The severely dilapidated, City-owned building stands among two-family houses at 2652 Hampshire Road, west of Coventry. Its large front yard has been used for several years as community garden.

After the building is removed, City crews will landscape the site, converting all of it into garden plots. There will be about 50 plots, each 10 by 20 feet. There are 34 plots there now. Low shrubs will be planted along the front of the site, paths separating the plots will be created, and the access drive, which is there now, will be rebuilt.

It is as yet unclear whether gardening there will be possible this summer. Cal Caminati, the City staffer in charge of the project, says officially that the plots "will probably not be available until the 1985 gardening season." Less officially, Mr. Caminati expresses strong hope that gardens will be possible this summer, at least for crops that can be planted a bit late.

CVN SEEKS ART

Each month, when it comes time to put this newsletter together, we find ourself with odd bits of space to fill. The space in which this solicitation appears is one such.

We would like to find some simple, attractive drawings to fill these spaces. We use columns that are 3.1 inches wide. The heights of the drawings we need varies.

We cannot afford to pay for drawings, but we do believe that exposure in the *CVN* could be valuable to an aspiring artist. If you can help, please call the Editor at 371-6205.