



Coventry Village News

APRIL, 1985

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL 9, NO. 4

Proposals are sought for projects here in Coventry

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) is seeking suggestions on how to spend \$10,000. The money has accumulated over the years from the proceeds of Street Fairs, membership dues, and other contributions. The money was set aside—in a special restricted fund—at CNI's February meeting.

CNI has agreed that the money may be spent only for tangible capital improvements. Requests for the funding of social service programs, for instance, cannot be considered.

Projects may be located anywhere in Coventry. The definition of the neighborhood used here is the same as the Coventry Elementary School district, plus a small corner of East Cleveland between Coventry and Superior Roads.

Projects involving some funding from other sources are likely to receive special favor. The City of Cleveland Heights has already offered one such suggestion: that CNI contribute toward the proposed re-building of the small park in front of Coventryard. As that suggestion now stands, CNI would contribute \$5,000; the City would contribute \$30,000, and \$25,000 would have to be found from other sources, such as merchants and landlords in the area.

[Continued on page 4]

Major restaurant plan goes to Planning Commission

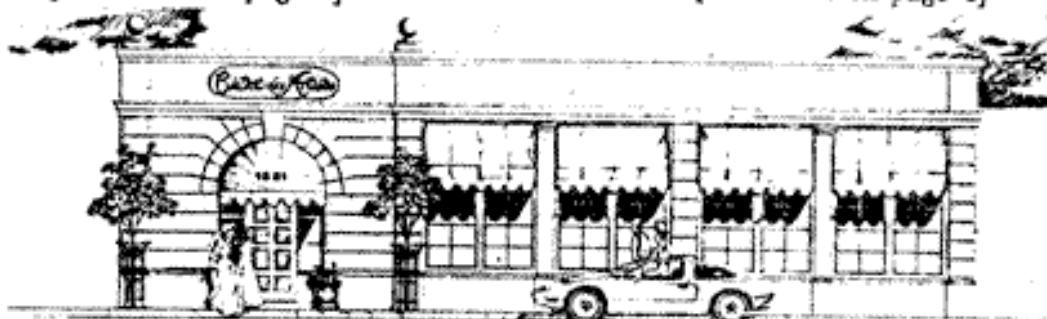
Alton Doody, backer of the Lindey's restaurants in Columbus and Beachwood, wants to convert the former location of Coventry Bike and Ski, at 1823 Coventry Road, into a restaurant to be known as Bistro des Artistes. It will seat 151 patrons, and will employ between forty and fifty full-time workers. Many aspects of the project will be patterned after Cafe des Artistes, a classy New York City establishment.

The fate of the project will be decided at a public hearing before the City's Planning Commission at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, April 10. The public is invited, and anyone who wishes to will be given a chance to speak.

Doody selected Coventry Village for his third restaurant venture because of its proximity to Cleveland's extensive cultural, educational, and medical facilities. Visitors to the the Art Museum, Severance Hall, the Playhouse, and other cultural magnets, along with people associated with the several hospitals, are the target market for Bistro des Artistes.

He was also attracted by this area's "early twentieth century charm and texture." Doody sees Coventry Village as "eclectic and rich in divers-

[Continued on page 4]



Facade plan for Bistro des Artistes, 1824 Coventry Road.

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PERSONS wishing to submit copy for the May 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 April 16. While no unsigned items will be published, your name may be withheld on request. Phone 371-6095.

Meeting Notes

March Regular Meeting

The memberships of four persons who do not live in Coventry Village were approved.

A contribution of \$85 to a commercial area clean-up program sponsored by Coventry Merchants Association was approved.

Joyce Braverman of the Planning Department, City of Cleveland Heights, presented draft plans for the re-doing of the small park in front of Coventryard.

Parking lot expansion to start on April 1

The start of work on the expansion of Municipal Lot Number 4, on Lancashire Road just east of the Unitarian Society building, is expected on April 1.

Carron Asphalt Paving, Inc., will do the work for \$91,362.50. Carron's low bid was a pleasant surprise to City officials, who had estimated the cost of the project at \$130,000.

A frame house was purchased by the City and removed last fall to make room for the expansion.

While work is in progress, the seventeen persons who hold permits to park in Lot 4 will be asked to park in a designated portion of the new Lot 30, at the corner of Lancashire and Euclid Heights.

Apartment buildings get extensive rehabilitation

The Woodland, a six-suite apartment building at 2764 Lancashire Road, has been vacant since it was gutted in 1980 by a fire that Arthur (Frank's Boy) Dietz later confessed to having set. It has been repaired and remodeled. It will be ready for tenants on about May 1, according to Lewis Zipkin, spokesman for its ownership.

In the rear of each suite an open combination kitchen and dining room has been created from space that once was a large dining room, the original kitchen, and a small bedroom. The kitchen portion of that room is floored with glazed Italian tile. The stove is set in an island that also provides seating at a counter. The cabinets are custom-made of birch.

Individual water- and space-heating facilities have been built into each suite.

Plans call for the redesign, in contemporary style, of the rear porches of the Woodland and of the building just to its east. Both will be landscaped. All financing for the project came from private sources. Rents will be about \$500 per month.

Extensive work has also been done on the building at 2761 Euclid Heights Boulevard; that's the second building west of Coventry Cinema. New double-paned windows have been installed throughout. Each suite has been equipped with its own space- and water-heating facilities. Stoves and dish-washers are built in.

This work was financed, in part, by a low-interest loan from the City's Apartment Improvement Program (AIP), which in turn receives its funding from the Community Development Block Grant program.

At a meeting of the AIP board on March 22, approval was given to a \$20,000 low-interest loan to Michael M. Courtney, the recent purchaser of 2741 Hampshire Road. The AIP loan will be

Sister city photo show will open on April 28

City-to-City, the organization promoting a sister city exchange program between Cleveland Heights and Novgorod, USSR, will sponsor a preview of a photographic exhibit which arrived recently from the Russian city. The preview will be held at the Civic, 3130 Mayfield Road, on Sunday, April 28, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The exhibit features people and places in Novgorod, and will be displayed along with an exhibit that was sent from Cleveland Heights last November.

The preview is a benefit for the organization, and the proceeds will be used to pay part of the costs of sending a delegation there this summer. The delegation will consist of City officials and others who will be instrumental in carrying out future exchanges. It is expected that the signing of an official agreement between Cleveland Heights and Novgorod will take place at that time.

Soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. A Russian choral group has been invited to perform.

Tax-deductible contributions of at least \$10.00 are requested. Call Sue Janssen at 371-5565 for reservation information.

combined with financing from other sources to pay for extensive and badly-needed repairs to the building's interior and exterior. The building's former owner, Isaac Dinewitz, was jailed for his failure to maintain it adequately.

A fourth area apartment building, now in the process of sale, will also be extensively remodeled. The buyer has asked that we not identify him or the building until after the sale is consummated. We hope to be able to provide those facts, along with news of plans for the building, in the near future.

--Larry Beam

Proposals . . . from page 1

Other suggestions have included the installation of lawn-sprinkling systems for the Coventryard park, and for the grassy area in front of Municipal Parking Lot 15, across from the Turkey Ridge Tavern. A water line for the Hampshire Gardens—to which gardeners must now carry water—has been suggested. Improvements to the north-east corner of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard, just south of Metropolitan Savings, have been mentioned. Some suggest more benches for the commercial area, and others want to buy playground equipment for the school. None of these ideas has yet been given serious study; they are mentioned here merely as examples of the sorts of proposals to which consideration will be given.

The membership of CNI will decide how the money will be spent. The matter will be voted on twice—once at each of two consecutive regular monthly meetings of the organization. The money might be spent on several small projects, or on a single relatively large one.

Your suggestions are most welcome. There will be a discussion of all this at the April 8 meeting of CNI.

In order to increase their likelihood of success, your suggestions should be in writing, with drawings, if appropriate. Reasonably accurate cost estimates should be included. Send your proposal to Coventry Neighbors, Inc., 2910 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. No deadline for proposals has been established, but CNI leadership hopes for a decision in the next few months. So hurry.

Unitarians celebrate spring

Everyone is welcome, especially families with children, at the Celebration of Spring and New Beginnings, Unitarian Society of Cleveland, 2728 Lancashire Road, 11:00 AM, Sunday April 7. The program will include special music and the decorating of an Egg Tree. Luncheon is available after the service.

Bistro des Artistes . . . from page 1
ity." He believes that these attributes are being appreciated by more and more people. Coventry Village is "dramatically different and coming back," he says.

Doody put his first restaurant in the German Village neighborhood of Columbus. Doody says that the condition of German Village when he first invested there resembled the present circumstances of Coventry. In the years since, German Village has seen immense revitalization.

Doody hopes that Bistro des Artistes will stimulate restoration here; he has spoken of becoming involved in other projects in Coventry.

Plans for the facade of the restaurant have been approved by the City's Architectural Board of Review and by the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC). The LDC is likely to pay as much as \$6,000 toward the costs of the facade. —Larry Beam

North Coventry meeting to be held on April 16

A meeting for residents and owners of homes in the North Coventry area (north of Mayfield) will be held on April 16, 7:30 PM, at 1653-55 Eddington.

The location is a two-family house that is being completely renovated by the City's Housing Preservation Center, which is sponsoring this meeting. When work is complete, the house will be offered for sale.

The meeting is intended to express the municipal government's strong commitment to the revitalization of North Coventry. The thrust is to involve owners and residents in the revitalization of the area, and to explain to them the several City programs that can assist them.

Join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. now.

AROUND COVENTRY . . .

OPENINGS . . . Gourmet de France plans to open about April 20 at 1824 Coventry Road. That location, formerly Coventry Books, is one of the largest shop spaces in Coventry Village. A large walk-in refrigerator, and a walk-in freezer, have been installed. Proprietor Mike Musa plans to sell fresh produce, imported wines and cheeses, and "gourmet" delicatessen products. A line of European-style baked goods will be made on the premises. He will also offer an extensive menu of carry-out, ready-to-eat sandwiches, snacks, and meals.

Remodeling work at Hunan in Coventry, formerly the New England Clam House, is progressing. Opening, which had been planned for mid-April, is now expected at the end of April.

HOOKY . . . March 13 was a very long day for Norman and Karen Minor of Hillcrest Road.

Their daughter, Carolyn, age nine, left for Coventry Elementary School, as usual, at 8:00 that morning. Shortly after 11:00, school officials, following policy, called her home, saying that Carolyn never arrived. Carolyn's father checked the homes of several of the child's friends; she wasn't there. With the help of a neighbor, he searched for her around the neighborhood, and along her path to school; no Carolyn. The concerned parents next called the Cleveland Heights Police, who immediately began a search for Carolyn.

With the help of staffers at the School, a small poster, including a photograph and description, was assembled and reproduced. When more copies were needed, the folks at Revco helped. Many Coventry Village merchants posted the notice in prominent places in their businesses. Many workers and shoppers in Coventry Village became aware of the situation, and began watching for the missing child.

An unusually large number of police officers was about Coventry Village that

day—one on every corner, it seemed. At about 4:00 PM, an officer spotted Carolyn, as she walked along the street. Over her threats to "tell my mommy" about what he was doing, the officer put Carolyn in his car, asked her a few questions, and took her home. Her mother said later, "I didn't know whether to kiss her or spank her."

Frightened by the prospect the next day of minor surgery, Carolyn spent the day watching television with a friend who lives on Mayfield Road. Carolyn told her mother that, in school, she could think of little besides that fear; watching television, she didn't think of it.

Carolyn's stitches have now been removed, and she has promised *never* to play hooky again.

NEW LIGHTS . . . We understand that an entire new lighting system will be installed in the public parking lot across from Tommy's. The new lights will be high-pressure sodium; such lights provide more and better-quality illumination than do the mercury lights there now. Plans also call for the installation of additional lights to brighten up the now-dark rear of the lot, where trouble often occurs.

ANTHOLOGY . . . Hampshire resident Harvey Pekar has signed a contract with Doubleday for an anthology of his *American Splendor* comic books. He is at work now on the ninth of these, which he hopes to have in the stores by July 1.

"I don't think I would have stood a chance of getting a contract with a regular comic book publisher," Pekar told us. "I write realism; they want fantasy," he said. Pekar believes that the comic book medium can and should be used for many things besides the wild fantasy which pervades the genre.

Many of Pekar's stories are set in Coventry Village.

—Ed.

Nominations are open for favorite potholes

The warmer weather now upon us will allow City crews to make permanent repairs to potholes in city streets.

Mayor Alan Rapoport wants citizens to call him, giving the location of especially bad craters. He promises to take a list of these to City Manager Robert Downey. The Mayor will insist that his list of problem potholes be given top priority.

Rapoport can be reached at 932-1144. He suggests that callers simply leave the location of problem potholes on his tape answering machine if he isn't available.

Fair poster contest opens

The Street Fair Committee of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., is again sponsoring a contest to select the publicity poster for this year's Fair.

The contest is open to anyone living in Cleveland Heights or attending school in Cleveland Heights.

First Prize will be the Committee's gratitude, and an opportunity to see the work reproduced for area-wide distribution. The next four runners-up will have their work prominently displayed in a special exhibit at the Fair.

The Street Fair Committee will have final authority to decide the winner. The judging will be "blind": no one, except the contest chairman, will know the identity of the artists.

Technical requirements are:

The design of the winning poster will become the property of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

The poster must be in black ink on white or colored stock. It must be reproducible by a photo offset process.

The poster must be 14 by 19 inches, with a one inch border beyond the cut size marks.

The poster must contain the following information: (1) "12th Coventry Village Street Fair"; (2) "Saturday [or Sat.] June 29 and Sunday [or Sun.] June

A wide variety of music is sought for the Street Fair

The Music Sub-committee of the 1985 Coventry Village Street Fair is seeking many differing sorts of music for the various stages during the event scheduled for June 29 and 30. The sub-committee is seeking folk, ethnic, classical, and other kinds of music.

Tapes should be sent or delivered to the The Coventry Village Street Fair, Music Sub-committee, 2765 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106. Please include the name of the band or performer, the name of a contact person, a phone number, the category of music, and a stamped return mailer. The deadline is May 15.

30"; (3) "Saturday 9:00 PM to 9:00 PM and Sunday noon to 7:00 PM"; (4) "A production of Coventry Neighbors, Inc." (5) Copyright 1985 by Coventry Neighbors, Inc.; these words must appear in tiny type in the lower left-hand corner of the poster within the cut size marks.

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

The location and a small map are optional.

The Fair Committee reserves the right to make minor alterations, as necessary, at its discretion.

Only finished art work is acceptable; roughed-in concepts cannot be accepted.

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

All entries must be delivered to 1776 Radnor Road, Cleveland Heights, no later than May 15, 1985. If there are any questions, please call 932-3586 in the evening, or the Fair office at 321-2510.

City shares new park plans with Coventry Neighbors

Cleveland Heights City Council is apparently willing to spend \$30,000 to rebuild the small park in front of Coventryyard. Council is asking that an equal amount, bringing the total to \$60,000, be contributed toward the project by others--the owners of Coventryyard, other landlords, merchants, and Coventry Neighbors, Inc (CNI).

A preliminary version of a new design for the park was shown to CNI at the organization's March meeting by Joyce Braverman of the City's Planning Department. Braverman's design called for a park more urban in character. More paved area, less grass, more seating, and elevated plantings are shown.

The cost of building the plan shown to CNI was estimated at about \$80,000; only about \$60,000 is likely to be available.

Work on the project will not begin for at least one year. During that time, new, less-costly plans will be drafted. Braverman will share these plans widely with area residents and businesses. The plan will likely be displayed in storefronts here. Suggestions will be solicited.

Litter crack-down coming

The first step toward a crack-down on the problem of litter on the streets of Cleveland Heights was taken by City Council on April 18. A whole new chapter of the local laws, titled "Littering," was introduced on first reading that night.

The new code provides for fines of as much as \$100 for throwing litter on any street, lawn, or public sidewalk. Also prohibited is the sweeping of litter from the sidewalks into the street, as is the practice of some merchants here.

Already part of local law is the requirement that folks walking their pets must "pick up and properly dispose of any fecal matter left by an animal on any public or private property."

Rapoport, Boyd meet with Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Alan Rapoport and Council member Barbara Boyd met with Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) at the organization's regular meeting of March 12.

Rapoport, a several-term past president of CNI, attends most of the organization's meetings, reports on City Hall activities, and answers questions.

At the March meeting, Rapoport described progress on the building of the new City Hall, and told of his efforts to get more trees planted in the Coventry Village commercial area. He said that Council would not provide funding requested by the Coventry Merchants Association for a clean-up program. He said that Council was considering providing \$30,000 for the rebuilding of the small park in front of Coventryyard; that funding had also been requested by the merchants' group.

He described plans for City Council members to go on an out-of-town retreat. Matters of long-term strategy planning would be discussed at the retreat, he said. He was later asked how these out-of-town sessions, held without members of the public present, were lawful under the Sunshine Law; he responded that Law Director Donald Barclay had assured him that the retreats were legal.

Boyd, who has met with CNI several times before, described a recent rearticulation of the City's position on Affirmative Action. She described the process of the Administrative Services Committee, which she chairs, in producing the statement. She told of the five-to-two split of City Council votes in the passage of that statement.

Rapoport and Boyd chatted informally with members at great length after the meeting ended.

--Larry Beam

Happy Easter

Membership drive gets healthy results for CNI

More than 125 residents, merchants, and elected officials responded to the most ambitious membership drive yet conducted by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI).

The officers and trustees of CNI extend warm and cordial thanks to those who gave. Your dues payments, subscriptions to the *Coventry Village News*, additional tax-deductible contributions, and notes of encouragement are most heartwarming and gratifying.

Some of us are approaching our tenth year of activity on behalf of Coventry Village. Although relatively few members regularly attend meetings, your personal messages of support over the years have been essential in motivating us to continue. As dues payments and contributions arrive daily, you are letting us know that as we strive for excellence, you approve of our activities and positions and want to see us keep at it.

Since so much of what is necessary to the continued revitalization of Coventry Village depends on our relations with City Hall, your memberships help give us the clout necessary to be effective. By focusing individual energies into one organized voice, you help make CNI an effective representative of this neighborhood.

---Bruce M. Hennes, President

Seniors to dine and dance

A dinner dance for senior citizens of Cleveland Heights and University Heights will be held on April 23 at Wiley Junior High. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM.

The Lou Elgart Band will perform from 7:30 to 9:30.

The event is sponsored by the School Community Department of the Board of Education. Admission of \$5.00 per person must be paid in advance. Reservations must be made before April 16. Call 371-7239 for more information.

Library goings-on . . .

National Library Week (April 14 to 20) will be the kick-off of a year-long, state-wide campaign to bring libraries of all kinds into the spotlight. Watch for people in red shirts with the very special slogan, "Libraries: Learning for Life."

Coventry Village Library will host two special programs during National Library Week. Our Fifth Annual Book and Author Tea will be held on Sunday, April 14, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Susan Heller will discuss, "Collecting Books for Fun and Profit" at 3:15. We do hope all our Coventry neighbors will come meet neighborhood authors and enjoy Ms. Heller's talk.

A very special person will be coming to Coventry to speak about her well-known books for children. Mrs. Tricia Springstubb, author of *Magic Guinea Pig*, *My Minnie is a Jewel*, and several other books, will speak with children on Wednesday, April 17, at 3:30 PM. She is a Cleveland Heights resident.

Regular programs will continue. Preschool Storytime is offered Mondays at 2:00, Tuesdays at 6:45, and Wednesdays at 10:30. After-school programs will be suspended for the week of school vacation, and will begin again the week of April 8.

Tax forms will be available through April 15. We also have several non-governmental books, such as *Pay Less Tax Legally* and J.K. Lasser's *Your Income Tax*.

On May 5 the Library will offer a performance by The Covenant Bells, the high-school-aged bell-ringers from the Church of the Covenant. This special performance, in honor of the International Year of Youth, will start at 3:00 PM.

---Debbie Graves Shoup

Keep Coventry Clean

Street cleaning effort is effective, needs money

Coventry Merchants Association is continuing its effort to clean litter and other debris from the streets, sidewalks, and parking lots of Coventry's commercial area. Last fall and again this spring, these efforts have had an immense impact on the appearance and image of Coventry Village.

A gas-powered vacuum cleaner is operated here for about ninety minutes each morning, weather permitting. Bottles, cans, pizza boxes, and other large items are picked up by hand. Other debris is swept up. Several long-time residents and merchants say that Coventry's business district has never been so clean.

City workers from the Department of Forestry helped by putting mulch in the cut-outs around trees, and in the planters.

When the weather allows, flowers will be planted in the planters and around the trees.

The project is being paid for by Coventry Merchants Association (CMA). The resources of CMA are limited, and it is not clear how long the clean-up efforts can continue at their present level. Cleveland Heights City Council has expressed an apparently absolute unwillingness to help with the costs of the clean-up effort.

CMA gets its funds from dues paid by merchant members, and from additional contributions. Only about twenty of the ninety (or so) merchants here have paid dues, which are just \$85 per year. Faces, the restaurant and bar at 1867 Coventry, and William Ross Realty, the major landlord, have joined recently; Ken Ross made a generous additional contribution. Coventry Neighbors, Inc., made a contribution of \$85.

Readers who would like to see this effort continue can help by sending contributions to Clean-up Campaign, c/o Coventry Neighbors, Inc., 2910 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

—Larry Beam

Street Fair Office opens; much help is still needed

An office for the 1985 Coventry Village Street Fair has been opened on the lower level of Coventryard Mall, 2785 Euclid Heights Boulevard at Coventry. Thanks is due to Simon & Company, owners of the building, who are donating the space. The phone there is 321-2510.

The office will be open from 7:00 PM to 9:00 on Mondays, 1:00 to 4:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 1:00 to 6:00 and from 7:00 PM to 9:00 on Wednesdays, and from 10:00 to 2:00 on Saturdays; it will be closed on Fridays and Sundays.

New chairs of Fair sub-committees are: Lee Batdorff, Marketing; Vera Diete-Carr, Booth Search; Ed Lemmers, Music Staging; Deborah Russell, Family Programming; and Marion Fisher, T-shirt Sales. Sue Klaus and LaJune Brown are Typists.

Also helping with Family Programming are Ed Basan, from the Jewish Community Center; Mary McAbrew from Coventry PTA; Sandy Hurd-Green, from the Board of Education; and Sharon Robinson, from the Coventry Youth Center.

People are still needed to head these essential sub-committees: Fair Guide Distribution, Operations, Cultural Presentations, and Sanitation.

If you would like to help, call Kathryn Young at 321-2510.

The next meeting of the Fair Committee will be on Wednesday April 17, 7:30 PM, at the Fair office. All are invited.



Coventry Village News
Heights Community Congress
2163 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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TIME VALUE -- PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1985

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General Meeting, Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Library. The public is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, May 9, 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.)
I wish to make a tax-free contribution of

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

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

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

Please return this form with your check to
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2910 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.