



Coventry Village News

JANUARY, 1985

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. VOL 9, NO. 1

NEW LOT OPENS; WAY IS CLEARED FOR STILL MORE PARKING

In mid-December, the lights went on for the first time at the new City parking lot at the corner of Lancashire and Euclid Heights Boulevard. The lot had informally been in use for a week or so before that.

A few days earlier, bulldozer and other equipment arrived in front of the house at 2736 Lancashire. They started to work at 9:00 AM, and by 9:30 the house had been reduced to a heap of rubble, which was then hauled away.

At its meeting of December 3, City Council authorized the staff to seek bids for the expansion of Muni Lot Number 4, which is just east of the house that was razed. By seeking bids now, the City hopes to find contractors hungry for spring work, and willing to build the new lot for a bargain price.

On December 19, the City's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) unanimously approved a zoning variance for the set-back of the proposed lot. The BZA action, which had the support of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI), will allow the new lot to project a few yards in front of the set-back line defined by the other buildings on Lancashire. Other parking lots in the area—including Lot 4—project a bit in front of that set-back line. The variance will allow the lot to be built with nine more spaces than would have otherwise been possible.

City Planning Department members Cal Caminati and Joyce Braverman presented plans for the new lot to the December 11 meeting of CNI. Caminati said that he wished to correct a report

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STREET FAIR 85: NO DECISION YET

If there is a Coventry Village Street Fair in 1985, it will be somewhat different from what it has been in recent years.

After a long and sometimes heated discussion, Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) resolved at its meeting of December 11 to ask the Fair Committee to report back to the Corporation at its February meeting with a detailed report on the feasibility of many changes to the event. In subsequent discussion, it was decided that the Fair Committee would offer its report at the meeting of January 8.

At the base of the controversy over the Fair this year is a wide-spread feeling that it no longer serves the purposes for which it was originally intended, and that it conveys an inappropriate image to the folks who attend it. Coventry Village, and CNI, have changed immensely since the annual event was founded eleven years ago. Values of peace, love and tie-dye have been replaced with values of family, community pride, and homeownership.

Critics of the Fair say that it has not kept pace with these changes. It has come to have too much the atmosphere of a regional carnival; gone is any sense of its being a neighborhood party, by and for the folks of Coventry Village.

Yet it is an immensely valuable promotional tool for the Village, especially for merchants. Scrapping it would mean not just the loss of the often-large revenues merchants earn during the fair, but the loss also of the potential new customers who discover

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

MEETING NOTES

DECEMBER REGULAR MEETING

City Planning Staff members Joyce Braverman and Cal Caminati presented plans for the expansion of Municipal Lot Number 4, on Lancashire Road.

CNI will support the City of Cleveland Heights in its request for a variance in the set-back requirements for that proposed expansion of Municipal Parking Lot Number 4.

After a long discussion of plans for a Street Fair next summer, the Fair Committee was asked to make a detailed report at CNI's February meeting, detailing ways in which the Fair might feasibly be changed.

The Membership was reminded that all memberships expire at the end of each year.

IT'S TIME TO PAY

All memberships in Coventry Neighbors, Inc., expire at the end of each year. Paid subscriptions to the *Coventry Village News* also expire then. If you haven't yet paid for 1985, you may use the form on the last page of this newsletter to do so.

LETTERS WELCOME

The CVN welcomes letters to its Editor. Letters can be on any subject; about the only letters we won't print are ones that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be sent to The Editor, **Coventry Village News**, 1811 1/2 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. Letters must be signed, and a phone number must be included. The deadline is mid-month before intended publication.

CONGRESS SEEKS GIFTS FOR MARCH AUCTION

The Heights Community Congress (HCC) is seeking contributions of things to be auctioned off at a gala event on March 9. All contributions are tax-deductible. All proceeds will benefit the HCC, a non-profit coalition of organizations, businesses, neighborhoods, and individuals which works to maintain Cleveland Heights as an open, integrated community of the highest quality.

All gifts will be listed in an auction book.

The auction evening will be called "A Reel Auction." It will be an informal night of fun at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, at 3352 Mayfield Road. There will be reels of contra dancing, brew, bubbling hot chili, a silent auction and an irresistible oral auction to cap off the night. The auctioneer will be Evelyn Hayes of Prosperity Productions.

The HCC has a long list of gift suggestions. Contributions should be made before February 9. Call the HCC at 321-6775 for more information.



PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Dr. Schnickenschnauser, the clown, will appear on Friday, January 11, 9:30 to 11:00 AM, in the All-Purpose Room of Coventry Elementary School. Bring your preschoolers, ages three through five, to experience the thrill of clowning, magic, and ventriloquism in this performance by Bob Wallenberg.

CDBG BUDGET HAS 4 PROJECTS HERE

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget, recently approved by City Council, contains funding for four projects--totaling \$219,400--in the general Coventry area. These projects are: \$159,000 for a waterline on Edgemoor Road; \$49,000 for improvements to the park on Overlook Road at Kenilworth Road; \$3,600 for a new fence and other improvements at Turtle Park, at the corner of Hampshire Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard; and \$7,500 for the Coventry Youth Center.

Other items in that budget, less directly targeted to Coventry, are likely to result in spending here.

These include the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC), which helps pay the costs of facade improvements and new signs for commercial buildings throughout the city; and the Commercial Areas Improvement Fund, from which the Coventry Merchants Association plans to seek funding for the continuation of its street-cleaning and flower-planting programs, among other things.

Also in that budget is \$100,000 for a program of assistance to homeowners. Most, perhaps all, of that money, as reported in the *CVN* in November, is likely to go to owners in the portion of Coventry north of Mayfield and west of City Hall.

Across Cleveland Heights, the CDBG program brings about \$1.5 million in federal tax money back to this community each year.

The CDBG program, a creation of the Nixon Administration, is now seriously threatened by the budget-cutting efforts of the Reagan Administration in Washington.

Readers who value this program--and the many things it has done for Cleveland Heights over the years--might consider writing to their representatives, encouraging them to fight to keep it.

--Larry Beam

STREET FAIR . . . continued from page 1
the charms of this area when they come to the Fair, and who return to shop during the rest of the year. Trustees of the Heights Community Congress have written to CNI, praising the Fair in the highest terms, and urging its continuation.

But can the Fair be changed to suit the desires of a more mature CNI? In a lot of ways, it will always be the same: a sea of people from Mayfield to Euclid Heights, a lot of bright orange trash barrels, vendors on the sidewalks, and much litter.

The general outline of suggested changes—something about which there is as yet no consensus—calls for less sale of manufactured wares by outsiders, more arts and crafts, fewer non-profit political booths, and better food.

Can the Fair, which pays its costs by charging for booth space, afford to dump some of its biggest-paying participants? Can better-quality replacements be found? Those are among the questions which the Fair Committee is studying now, and about which it will report at the January meeting. —Larry Beam

TWO BUSINESSES HAVE NEW OWNERS

COVENTRY DISCOUNT

The new President of Coventry Discount, formerly H & Y Discount (1813 Coventry) is Michael Markelov, a chemist with Standard Oil. Markelov came here seven years ago from Russia.

Markelov bought the business for his parents, Anna and Semion Feldman, who run it. He arranged three years ago for them and his sister, now 18, to come to America. Markelov described the effort to get his parents and sister out of Russia as "tricky business." Jewish Family Services helped the family get settled and to learn English.

Markelov hopes to get a new sign and make other improvements to the facade of the business. Despite help from a City program, his efforts have been made difficult by a landlord who has been less willing than other Coventry owners to spend on such things.

ANOTHER BUILDING TO GET LDC ASSISTANCE

The Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC) recently approved plans for the white terra cotta building on the southwest corner of Coventry and Lancashire. New signs and new awnings are planned, as are extensive repairs. The LDC, which receives funding through the City's Community Development Block Grant program, will pay a substantial portion of the costs of that project.

The LDC recently set aside \$17,400 to help pay the the estimated \$40,700 cost of facade work now nearing completion on the building on the east side of Coventry, just south of Hampshire. The building houses D. O. Summers, Charles Gallagher, Design Lines, and Coventry Laundromat.

At the Taj Mahal Restaurant, which will become Coventry Cafe, at Coventry and Mayfield, new windows have been installed, and tile work will be done when the weather allows. That project is also assisted by the LDC.

CORKSCREW

The Corkscrew (1781 Coventry), a wine shop that boasts one of this area's largest collections of fine wines and nearly one hundred imported beers, has a new owner. She is Liz Tekus, a clothing designer. The shop is run by her husband, Joe, who practiced accounting for the past twelve years. They are Cleveland Heights residents.

They plan extensive interior remodeling of the shop.

Mr. Tekus does not fear competition from Gourmet de France, the bakery and delicatessen moving into the former bookstore space at 1824 Coventry. That business has applied for carry-out liquor licenses. He says that the competition may hurt briefly, but he believes that in the long run it will be good for all Coventry businesses, including his own.

AROUND COVENTRY . . .

FOR WOMEN, TOO . . . Saint Michael's Designs is a men's clothing boutique which opened recently on the lower level of Coventryard. Proprietor Michael Wilson, who designed all the clothes sold there, says that about half his business comes from women. His designs, described as "for the conservative yet daring man," are mostly loose-fitting, and resemble the vogue of this fall's women's styles.

Wilson, a product of the Virginia Marti Fashion Institute, has been selling his clothing to Man Talk stores and to the Ohio Signature shop at Shaker Square for several years. He opened his small shop in Coventry, he says, in order to have more personal contact with his final customers.

Wilson lived in Coventry briefly a few years ago, and says he selected this area as the location for his shop because he finds Coventry Village inspirational in his work.

STOLEN . . . On Sunday, December 16, two new signs—identifying the Coventry Village business district—were installed at either end of the commercial strip here. The tasteful signs, designed by Joyce Braverman of the City staff, were made of carved wood. Similar signs have been installed in other older business districts of Cleveland Heights.

That Sunday night, even before the concrete in which it was set had hardened, one of those signs was stolen. That sign was at the north end of the business district, in the newly-landscaped Open Pantry parking area. The other sign, at the south end, near Metropolitan Savings, remains.

The signs, whose construction and installation cost about \$800 each, were paid for with a grant that Coventry Merchants Association received about a year ago. The stolen sign was City property, and was not insured. When asked if it would be replaced, a City staffer

said, "I guess so. But I sure hate to think of it sitting on somebody's mantle."

FIRST LAW . . . The first business meeting of the Trustees of the Hamlet of Cleveland Heights was held on April 27, 1901. J. G. W. Cowles introduced Ordinance No. 1 at that meeting; it was titled, "An Ordinance to prohibit ale, beer, and porter houses, and other places where intoxicating liquors are sold in retail." Ordinance No. 2 granted to the Cuyahoga Telephone Company "permission to erect, operate, construct, and maintain lines of telephone over the streets of the Hamlet of Cleveland Heights."

HARD SELL . . . A manager at Sunshine II, the clothing and drug paraphernalia shop at 1788 Coventry Road, recently used a machine to make random phone calls and deliver a recorded message to pitch his wares. After listing the clothing, leather goods, and accessories the shop carries, the message specifically mentioned equipment used in the consumption of marijuana and cocaine.

After the message was received by a few families here, a storm of angry protest erupted. Coventry Neighbors, Inc., in the person of its Vice President, Kathryn Young, contacted the store's owner, who said he was unaware on the nature of the message. He had it changed immediately.

The shop had complied some years ago with a CNI request that it stop displaying drug paraphernalia in its windows.

FAREWELL . . . Frann Washington, Community Organizer for the Heights Community Congress, will leave that post at the end of January. Frann was instrumental in the monthly production of this newsletter: she printed it. She always finished on time, even when we were late getting the copy to her. We'll miss her.

—Ed.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.: WHO WE ARE

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., began as tenant-oriented organization in the late 1960's. Its membership and scope of activities have changed considerably since then. Today a solid majority of CNI's members are homeowners, as are three of its six officers.

This newsletter, with a readership estimated at more than 4000, is CNI's most important activity. The *Coventry Village News* aims to provide lively reading about goings-on here, hoping thereby to help bind the neighborhood more tightly together. We send the *CVN* to persons of influence in the media and politics, with the aim of promoting the neighborhood among opinion leaders. We also use the *CVN* to influence City Hall's policies toward, and activities in, Coventry Village.

Our other major activity is the Coventry Village Street Fair, which annually attracts an estimated 70,000 people to Coventry Village. A story about plans for the 1985 Fair begins on page one of this newsletter.

CNI's Crime Prevention Task Force has given self-defense workshops, passed along crime-prevention information, and fingerprinted local children in order to make it easier to find them if they are kidnapped or lost. The Task Force works with the Cleveland Heights Police Department in the deployment of beat patrolmen here, and in educational efforts.

The Environmental Concerns Committee works on making Coventry a neater, more attractive neighborhood. The Committee has secured grants to buy planters, trash receptacles, bike stands and park benches. It has mobilized volunteers to clean up the neighborhood. It is now working on a redesign of the park in front of Coventryard Mall.

CNI has sponsored a walking tour of

the neighborhood, several taped and live presentations on Viacom, and a neighborhood pancake breakfast. We sponsor an annual Halloween party. We monitor the activities of City Council and the various City boards and commissions. We track the performance of key City departments.

CNI analyzes the various issues and proposals that arise here. Our membership takes positions on these matters, attempting thus to guide and encourage the renaissance of our neighborhood.

CNI is a non-profit corporation with standing as a tax-deductible organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We do what we do almost entirely with volunteer energies. Our revenues are used to defray operating costs and to fund projects beneficial to the neighborhood.

The broad, long-term goal of CNI is neighborhood revitalization. Short term goals change with the opportunities and circumstances before us, and with the wishes of CNI's leadership and membership. Much of our thrust is toward the commercial strip, because of its importance to making Coventry Village a unified neighborhood.

CNI needs your energies. Even if you cannot attend our meetings, please take the time to fill out and return the membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

CNI meets on the second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 PM, at the Coventry Village Library. Our meetings are open to the public. Though one must be a member to vote, everyone, including non-members, is invited to participate in discussions.

I hope that you will feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions you may have about CNI or Coventry Village. My phone number is 321-4670.

--Bruce Hennes, President

HOW TO STAY WARM THIS WINTER

by Jeff Hess

As you've probably noticed by now, the weather around here has been unseasonably warm. In fact the National Weather Service has gone out on a limb and predicted a mild winter for most of the East, including Cleveland. They may be right on target for everyone else, but northern Ohio has a way of defying predictions. So even if November and December were down right balmy, be prepared for what the next three (four?) months may have in store for us.

How do you do that? By making sure that your dwelling, whether rented or owned, is tightened up for the winter blows and your status with the utility companies is such that you won't be left with icicles on the outside of the refrigerator. The Heights Community Congress (HCC), at 2163 Lee Road, has help for you on both counts.

First, in the way of help in tightening up your domicile there are four main sources of assistance: energy conservation information, energy audits, weatherization loans and special instruction and materials for putting up storm windows.

The energy conservation information is available free from the East Ohio Gas Company by calling them at 361-2345. Their pamphlet offers tips on how to cut your energy costs without making yourself uncomfortable. Information and workshops are also available from the Housing Resource Center by calling 621-9359. Additional information may be found at the public library.

Energy audits are available through the Lutheran Housing Corporation by calling 851-0721 or by contacting the HCC at 321-6775. In the past there has been some problem with a time lag between the time the audit is performed and when the results are available. According to staffer Helen Payton, the HCC has located a new source of audits

that hopefully will cut the time down to next to nothing. This new system is as yet untried in Cleveland Heights, but it looks promising.

If you meet the income and location requirements, you may be able to get low cost assistance for weatherizing your home or apartment. The Heights Conservation Program has money available for low interest (5%) loans to help certain individuals with such winter problems as: caulking and weatherstripping, furnace efficiency modifications, clock thermostats, insulation and many other items. To qualify you must live in a residence with four or fewer units and meet income restriction guidelines. A pamphlet describing the program in greater detail is available through the HCC.

If you don't meet the income guidelines or other restrictions for the weatherization programs there is still some help available to you from the HCC in the form of low-cost storm windows. The HCC has purchased the materials needed to make your own storm windows and is reselling them to anyone who wishes to make their own. The cost of making a storm window for a 48" x 48" window is just \$9.85. The plastic used is heavy 4 mil vinyl that will last for several years.

To get the materials, call Frann Washington at the HCC (Mondays only) and give her the total figure for the materials you will need. Do not call in and give her a list of all the various sizes of windows you need to cover. For each window you will need: vinyl (54" wide x height of the window), 1 3/8" lattice for the frame and four corner pieces per window. The HCC also has tacks, L-screws, tape, caulk, vinyl weather-stripping and door sweeps available at low cost.

You should also keep your eyes open for flyers in the next few weeks de-

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LIBRARY GOINGS-ON

Why not make a New Year's resolution to use the facilities of Coventry Village Library on a regular basis? Along with the old favorite reading materials, we have new things to read and new things to experience.

The magazine and newspaper collections have been expanded to include new subscriptions to these periodicals: *Chickadee* (a children's magazine), *Family Computing*, *Health*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Ohio Owl* (another Children's magazine), *Psychology Today*, *Sunset*, and the *Washington Post Weekly*.

Children's Programming will resume the second week in January, with this schedule:

Pre-school Storytime, for ages three through five: Mondays, starting January 7, at 2:00 PM; Tuesdays, starting January 8, 6:45 PM; and Wednesdays, starting January 9, at 10:30 AM.

Toddler Storytime, for ages two-and-a-half through three, Wednesdays, starting January 9, 9:30 AM. This program will end on February 27.

Once Upon a Time, for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, Wednesdays, beginning January 9, at 3:30 PM. There will be no program on April 3, and the program ends May 1.

Read Aloud for Fun, for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, Tuesdays, beginning January 8, 2:30 PM.

A special children's program in honor of Martin Luther King will be held on Wednesday, January 16, at 3:30 PM. There will be stories by Mr. James Spriggs, Jr., and songs by the Coventry School Choir.

Our meeting Room is available for use by community groups. Please come in to talk with librarians about scheduling dates.

Do you have any collections you would like to share with your neighbors? Our exhibit case is always filled with intriguing displays. We invite you not only to enjoy what we have on display, but also to display your own collections

for the pleasure and interest of your community.

POWERS PLAYERS TO HOLD AUDITIONS FOR COMPANY

Powers Players, the amateur adult musical theater company at St. Ann's Church, will hold auditions for a production of *Company*, by Stephen Sondheim and George Furth, on January 27 and 28. These auditions will be at 7:30 PM, in Walsh Hall, on the lower level of the church at 2175 Coventry Road at Cedar. Persons seeking roles are urged, but not required, to learn a song from the show.

Performances will be on April 25 and 26, and on May 2 and 3. For more information, contact Kitty Keefe at 531-4416, or Diane McCann at 781-3098.

HAVE A HAPPY 1985

PARKING LOTS . . . from page 1

in the *CVN* last month, which said that another house, at 2753 Lancashire, would be razed to make way for more parking in 1986. Though a map which Caminati used in his presentation shows that house replaced with parking, he said that the City "has no immediate plans" for its removal.

In a move related to the opening of the new lot at Euclid Heights and Lancashire, parking meters were recently installed on the north side of Euclid Heights as far west as Lancashire. Their purpose is to encourage area residents to park in the new lot, freeing on-street spaces for patrons of Coventry businesses. The installation of still more meters on the streets here is probable.

--Larry Beam

DOBAMA STAGES "DUET FOR ONE"

by Jeff Hess

On January 19, 1985 the Dobama Theatre will open its doors for the first production of the new year: *Duet For One*, by Tom Kempinski. The play was first performed in London in 1980 where it received the Critics Award for Best New Play. The play opened at the Royale Theatre on Broadway in 1981 under the direction of William Freidkin and now comes to Cleveland for the first time.

Joyce Casey, executive producer at Dobama, is directing the play and the two characters (Dr. Alfred Feldmann and Stephanie Abrahams) are being played by Tony Walsh and Janis Jacobs. Walsh received a special commendation for body-of-work and Jacobs received a special commendation for individual performance from the 1984 Cleveland Critics Circle Awards.

The play is a visitation in six acts with a woman and her psychiatrist. She is a victim of MS and has lost her ability to perform as a concert violinist. The play is based on the real-life experiences of concert pianist Jaqueline Duprey. Confined to a wheelchair she must come to grips with the future, but also the illness serves as a crisis point that brings elements of her past to the fore as well.

Casey was drawn to the play because of the positive strength of Abrahams. There is inspiration in the woman's struggle as well as a joy in her love of her music. The music is so important to the play Casey and sound manager Larry Gorjup have gone beyond the original script in arranging the music.

The music is one of the uplifting aspects of the play according to Jacobs. As part of her preparation for her part she studied photographs of Duprey performing to get a feel for what music means to a person devoted to it. She also has bought a wheelchair at a garage sale to get some of the feel of what it

may be like to live a life in a seated position.

Curtain times are: 8:30 on Thursdays and Saturdays, 9 on Fridays and 7:30 on Sundays. Individual ticket prices are: \$4.50 on Sundays and weekdays, \$5.75 on Saturdays. Students and Senior Citizens get a discount prices of \$4 on Saturdays and \$3 all other times. The box office phone is 932-6838.

The play will run until February 2.

STAYING WARM . . . from page 7

scribing a workshop that will be held at the Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation, 2483 Lee Road, on how to assemble the storm windows.

Second, what do you do if you've made your cave as light as you can afford to, but now you don't have the funds to pay the utilities to provide the heat from the inside? Help is available from several sources: the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Welfare Emergency Assistance, Percentage of Income Plan, The Consumer Protection Association, The Lutheran Housing Corporation and the HCC.

The number to call for HEAP, emergency HEAP or the Percentage of Income Plan is 589-9292. Welfare Emergency Assistance is 861-7700. The Consumer Protection Association is 881-3434 and the Lutheran Housing Corporation is 651-0077. Senior Citizens can contact the Cleveland Office on Aging for both referrals and counseling at 664-2833.

If the worst happens and the utility worker is on the way to shut you off you can call either the Consumer Protection Agency at the above number or the HCC for emergency assistance.

Remember Aesop's tale of the grasshopper and the ants and don't be caught out in the cold this winter.

Coventry Village News
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TIME VALUE -- PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1985

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General Meeting, Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Library. The public is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, February 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 (\$5.00)Family (\$7.00)Senior (\$3.00)
.....Just a subscription to the *Coventry Village News*--no membership.
(\$5 for 11 months; the *CVN* is not published in August.)

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

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

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

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