



Coventry Village News

MARCH, 1985

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL 9, NO. 3

New City Manager meets with Coventry Neighbors

"My main objective will be the efficient and effective delivery of basic municipal services," said Bob Downey, who became City Manager here on January 25. He was speaking to the February meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI).

With the completion of the new City Hall a major push to redevelop the municipal government's own facilities will be completed, Downey said. He said the local government's activities would settle down to business-as-usual.

Downey said that he had recently made several appearances with groups like CNI, and that he planned to make many more. He said he believes that his performance as City Manager would be helped along by his being aware, first hand, of citizens' concerns and problems. Such awareness would help him, he said, to make better policy recommendations to the City Council.

Downey's predecessor, Richard Robinson, rarely appeared in public, except at Council meetings. One of his few appearances at meetings of citizens' groups was at a special meeting of CNI several years ago. He took that opportunity to describe his reasons for wanting to remove curb-side parking from Coventry and other commercial districts, and from side-streets like Hampshire.

In response to a question, Downey said that he would be delegating more responsibility for the city planning and some other activities to his staff than his predecessor had. "My strengths and weaknesses are different from those of my predecessor," he said.

Another questioner, who worked for
[Continued on page 4]

Street Fair Committee starts detailed planning

Disagreements over whether there should be a Street Fair this summer have been laid aside, and planning for the event is moving along with confidence and direction. The Fair will be on June 29 and 30.

At its first real working session recently, the Street Fair Committee of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., adopted a schedule of fees to be charged for booth space. For the first time, Coventry Village merchants will pay the same fee as vendors who come to the Fair from outside. A substantial late fee will be charged to those who do not pay for booth space by a deadline which is yet to be established.

It was agreed long ago that, if there were to be a Fair this summer, it must be substantially changed from past years. This year's Fair must have less carnival atmosphere than past Fairs, and more the spirit of a community festival. Just how to effect these changes is a central theme of the Fair's planning efforts.

Mary Pellegrini, head of the Family Programming subcommittee, offered a variety of ambitious suggestions which will require much added volunteer time and effort to implement. She hopes to expand the family programs, which had been limited to one day (Sunday), to both Fair days. Pellegrini and the other members of her committee will attempt to attract a variety of community organizations to work with them. In the past, only the Coventry PTA had been involved.

A tentative plan to require that booths subscribe to some minimal aesthetic standards has been proposed. A
[continued on page 6]

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

Meeting Notes

February Regular Meeting

CNI will contribute \$100 to the Hunger Center.

An expenditure of \$100 on postage for a membership drive was approved.

CNI will communicate to Howard Chesler, administrator of Musicians Towers, its desire that George Hoyt be allowed to rent an apartment there.

Funds in the amount of \$10,000 were moved from the CNI's General Fund into the Special Reserve Account.

City Manager Bob Downey delivered a short talk and answered a few questions.

Membership drive mailing brings cheering results

A mailing of about 500 pieces soliciting payment of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., membership dues and Coventry Village News subscription fees has already produced pleasing results.

If you believe that Coventry Neighbors, Inc., (CNI) performs a valuable function in this neighborhood, we hope that you will pay our minimal membership dues and join us.

If you enjoy this newsletter—but don't want to be a member of CNI—we hope that you will pay our low subscription fee.

Use the form on the last page of this newsletter to insure proper credit of your tax-deductible contribution.

We intend soon to remove from our mailing list the names of many people who have been receiving this newsletter on a complementary basis.

Editorial

A home for George Hoyt

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., commends the efforts of the City of Cleveland Heights to assist Mr. George Hoyt in finding decent, safe and stable housing in Coventry Village. We join Mayor Alan Rapoport in encouraging the management of the federally-subsidized Musicians Towers to allow Hoyt to move into that building.

City Planning Department officials have rented an apartment for Hoyt, who had been staying with friends. The City took this action under Federal regulations which require cities to find housing for people who are displaced from their homes by projects paid for with federal grant funds. In this instance, though, the City's action was entirely voluntary: Cleveland Heights would not have been required to help Hoyt; no federally-funded project forced him to move.

Hoyt's family once owned much of the land on which Musicians Towers was built. The family held on to one house, which the project's developers had wanted to acquire, at 2722 Hampshire Road. Mr. Hoyt lived in that house until a few years ago, when it was condemned because it had fallen into severe disrepair and was no longer fit for human habitation.

Not having the resources to properly repair his house, Hoyt gave it, through a quit-claim deed, to Paul L. Veil. Veil promised Hoyt that Hoyt could live with him and his wife—at least until Veil was able to complete one of several development fantasies he had for the site. One of these was a several-hundred-bed veterans hospital; another was something called the "Islamic-Christian Peace Center." Veil promised Hoyt living quarters in each of these.

Now the City of Cleveland Heights is engaged in an eminent domain proceeding to acquire the house; a parking lot is planned for the site. That litigation is made more complex by the

City's desire to have Hoyt's gift of the house to Veil declared invalid. Hoyt is not legally competent to manage his financial affairs, and his court-appointed guardian never agreed to the transfer of property to Veil.

Hoyt's new apartment on Hampshire Road is only a temporary solution. Only a few thousand dollars is available from the source now paying his rent; Hoyt's finances are such that he must live in subsidized housing if he is to remain in Coventry. Kathleen Ruane of the City's Office on Aging believes Hoyt is quite competent to live by himself in an apartment in Musicians Towers. She is willing to provide him with some support were he to move there.

The impediment to that solution is Howard I. Chesler, administrator of Musicians Towers, who denied Hoyt an apartment in the building. We believe that Chesler should act in the best interest of the community, and allow George Hoyt to move into Musicians Towers.

Problem building may receive AIP assistance

One of this neighborhood's most shabby apartment buildings will apparently receive major renovation in the near future.

The board of the Apartment Improvement Program, part of the City's Community Development Block Grant program, has agreed in principle to loan \$20,000 to the owners of 2741 Hampshire Road. The loan will be made at substantially less than market rate of interest; the owners will invest at least an equal amount from other sources. New kitchens and bathrooms are planned throughout the building. A new security system, new entry way, and exterior improvements are also planned.

The condition of the building was at the center of a controversy here about a year ago, when its former owner, Isaac Dinewitz, was jailed for failure to adequately maintain the building.

Library goings-on . . .

Tax counseling for the elderly is available at all Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Libraries. Provided by volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons, tax counseling may be scheduled at the Coventry Library on Thursdays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

A beautiful and unique collection of Chinese tea sets is currently on display at the Library. On Sunday March 10 at 2:00 PM, Daniel Mantey, owner of the collection, will discuss his collection, serve a variety of fine teas, and perform traditional Chinese music on his collection of Chinese flutes. The performance and tea party are free and open to the public.

The special children's program for the month will be held Wednesday March 6 at 3:30 PM. Mrs. Florence Toledo, a Cherokee Indian, will be the featured guest. She will talk about her heritage, show a film, and display art work and tell stories.

Pre-school Storytime, an on-going program, has sessions for for ages three to five on Mondays at 2:00 PM, on Tuesdays at 6:45 PM, and on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM.

Once Upon a Time, for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, meets on Wednesdays at 3:30 PM.

Read Aloud Fun, for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, meets on Tuesdays at 2:30 PM.

If you have a child who will be between two and one half and three years old in April, come to the Library now to register that child for Toddler Story Time. An eight week session, with programs at 9:30 AM on Wednesdays, will begin on April 10. Pre-registration is required.

Coventry Village Library will honor National Library Week with special programs on April 14 and 17. The Library's Annual Book and Author Tea will be held on April 14 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. This is a chance to meet and talk with Coventry Village authors. Susan Heller, a rare book collector, will speak on "Book Collecting for Fun and Profit," at 3:15 as part of the Tea. On April 17, at 3:30 PM, Tricia Springstubb, a noted local author, will talk about her writing and will read aloud. Plan now to celebrate National Library Week at the Coventry Village Library.

City Manager . . . from page 1
the City for several years, praised recent improvements in the way workers in the Inspectional Services Department treat property owners. That questioner then said that problems with the reasonableness of the Code and the manners of the enforcement staff appeared to continue in the Building Department. He said that the office of Building Commissioner George Hills was characterized by the most vicious and constant expressions of racial, religious, ethnic, and sexual prejudice he had ever encountered. He said that Robinson and his lieutenants had brushed Hill's behavior off as "just the humor of the office."

He asked Downey whether Downey

thought Hill's behavior should be treated as just "humor," or whether it represented a real problem that should be dealt with.

Downey responded that he didn't want to say anything about any single employee of the City. He went on to say that Council, in its pre-employment interviews with him, had expressed concern about the general category of problems alluded to. He said that he had become aware of some behavior which "disturbed" him.

Downey left the CNI meeting amid friendly and cordial talk of his returning, perhaps to discuss some specific community issue.

--LB

Give to the Hunger Center

AROUND COVENTRY . . .

EATING OUT . . . Before long, this three-block commercial strip may have four new restaurants. Two of them began operations in February.

The menu at the new Faces, formerly bliss (1867 Coventry), has some of the most competitive prices in town. A broiled Boston strip steak is \$7.95, and it comes with onions and mushrooms, salad, potato, and garlic toast or dinner roll. A competing restaurateur says, "They can't make any money with prices like that."

The small bar at Faces offers what some will find a pleasant alternative to the usually crowded, smoky and loud environment of Turkey Ridge. An after-the-movie glass of draft beer can be had for \$0.75; a similar product costs \$1.00 at Turkey Ridge, and \$1.25 after 10:00 PM.

Coventry Cafe, on the northeast corner of Coventry and Mayfield, also opened in February. It was called Taj Mahal, and has now been modestly but effectively remodeled. Its offerings include a wide variety of sandwiches and a small but ample and fresh salad bar.

Thoung Chai, who prefers to be called simply T.C., bought the New England Clam House about a month ago. He has changed its name to Hunan in Coventryard. He hopes to open in mid-April, offering Hunan, Szechwan, Mandarin, and some Cantonese dishes. Before coming to Coventry Village, T.C. managed the Szechwan House at Pavilion Mall.

Preliminary plans for Bistro de la Artist (1827 Coventry, across from Tommy's) show a neo-classical facade, an interior featuring a wood-beamed ceiling, and 110 seats, including 14 at a bar.

Alton Doody, the entrepreneur behind the Lindy's restaurants in Columbus and Beachwood, is apparently behind the venture. A liquor license has been obtained.

Formal application to the City's

Planning Commission is expected this month. The Planning Commission approved two other restaurant proposals for that site, but both of those fell through before construction could begin.

DRUG WIT . . . One February morning, as we sipped coffee in Arabica, we were approached by a young woman who said she'd like a moment of our time. She identified herself as Mary Lou Johanek, from Channel 8's evening news program.

Johanek said she was doing a news story about the dangers of coffee. As part of a lead-in to the story, she was seeking a volunteer whose hands would be shown playing with a small bit of ground coffee on a filter paper. A voice would say, "It's pure Columbian; there's enough here for several hits." We refused to participate. She found another volunteer, and proceeded.

Next Johanek stood behind the counter at Arabica, looking into the camera, and said, "How do you want your hit, sir, with cream and sugar?" That performance was repeated several times.

Then Johanek stood outside Arabica, and recorded a bit of tape in which she said, "It's 12:42 AM, and we have just learned that there is a big drug deal about to go down inside." The pawnbroker lamp, which is the basis of the logo on the mast head of this newsletter, was behind her.

Appalled at what we'd seen taped, and annoyed that Johanek would select Coventry to tape it, we phoned the station, and told a man there our feelings. He said he'd have Johanek call us. She didn't.

The story this cuteness dressed up contained no news, no report of new research or anything of the sort. It was as foolish as Johanek's lead-in. It reported only that coffee, if consumed in excess, can cause problems.

So can apple pie.

Street Fair plans . . . from page 1 requirement that booth tables have paper skirts of more-or-less uniform design has been suggested.

Earlier in the Fair Planning process, there had been talk of eliminating booths sponsored by political groups and non-profit organizations. That suggestion was voted down at the Committee's recent meeting; such booths will be dealt with this year pretty much as in past years.

There will be more variety in the musical entertainment offered at this year's Fair; there will be less rock-n-roll, and more jazz, reggae, classical, and popular music. There will also be more cultural presentations.

Musicians and groups wishing to perform at the Fair should send an audition tape to The Music Committee, 1985 Coventry Village Street Fair, 2504 Kenilworth Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106. The name of a contact person and a stamped return mailer should be included. The category of music--rock, classical, etc.--should be identified. The deadline is May 15.

The Committee needs all the help it can get to make this the best Fair ever. A typist is needed immediately. If you would like to be help plan this year's Fair, contact Kathryn Young at 321-3413.

Several key sub-committee chairmanships remain unfilled. These include Marketing, Booth Search, Fair Guide Distribution, Operations, Sanitation, Music Staging, and Cultural Presentations.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday March 20 at the apartment of Linda Mae (Mouse) Romak, 1808 Coventry Road, #11. All are invited.

Sub-committee assignments made to date are:

Fair Chairman, Kathryn Young; Secretary, Ivy Gantverg; Finance, Diana Cyganovich; Appreciation, Frann Washington; Banners, Jim Murray and Tim Smith; Booth Allocations, Gary Porcello;

Communications, Bruce Hennes; Fair Guide, Jeff Hess; Fair Guide Advertising, Steve Fishman and Skip George; Family Programming, Mary Pellegrini, Sue Gephardt, James Mc-Lemore, and Deborah Russell; Fine Arts and Crafts, Rich Turbow, Nancy Miller, Buddy Zelman, and Linda Romak; Information Booth, Deborah Russell and Darlene Barker; Legal Support, Tom Lee; Merchant Liaison, Phil Imperi; Music Committee, Michael Spiro, Tom Smith, and Edna Lemmers; Publicity, Bert Stratton; Safety, David Stokes and Kathryn Young; Street Performers, Vic Higgins; Traffic Control, Lisa Gitlin; Technical Support, Barry Bennett and Mike Borkan; Aides, Vicky Hunt, Jim Evans, Susan Haders, Marion Fisher, and Peter Goldsmith.

No holiday for hunger

With donations from Coventry Village residents, the Heights Hunger Center was able to help many needy folk during the holiday season. Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) would like to thank those who contributed food and money through the drop-off at Quality Quilt. Special thanks is due Hy Herman, proprietor of Quality Quilt, who let us use his storefront.

At its February meeting, CNI voted to donate \$100 from last year's Street Fair profits to the Hunger Center.

Because hunger never takes a holiday and because the need for food continues throughout the year, CNI has decided to continue its food drive all year. Quality Quilt, 1811 Coventry Road, will remain as the convenient place in Coventry Village to bring donations. These will be taken directly to the Hunger Center in the Euclid Avenue Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road. Donations of food and paper products are distributed to those in need.

Maximum benefit is obtained from donations of money because the Center can buy bulk quantities of basic food items at very reasonable prices. Food thus purchased is then distributed to the needy through the Center.

HCC fund-raiser auction is on Saturday March 9

The Heights Community Congress will hold an auction of donated goods and services on Saturday March 9. The event is called "A Reel Auction."

An informal night of of fun is planned. There will be contra dancing, beer, and chili. A silent auction will cap off the night.

It will be held at Sts. Helen and Constantine Greek Orthodox Church, 3352 Mayfield Road, beginning at 8:00 PM. call the HCC at 321-6775 for more information.

Pre-school program

A Crafts Day for children between the ages of three and five will be held on March 15 from 9:30 to 11:00 AM in the All-Purpose room of Coventry School. There will be several crafts; children can participate in one or all of them.

Low-interest loans are still available

Home improvement loans, with interest rates as low as 5.5% are still available through the Cleveland Heights Housing Preservation Office and Continental Federal Savings and Loan.

The program, financed by slightly less than \$300,000 from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, was designed to be especially attractive to residents of North Coventry--the part of Cleveland Heights north of Mayfield Road and west of City Hall. In that area, owner-occupants with incomes of less than \$42,938 may qualify for loans at 5.5%.

In other parts of Cleveland Heights, owner-occupants must have an income (for a family of four) of less than \$24,100 to qualify for the 5.5% loans. Households with incomes between \$24,100 and \$42,938 may qualify for loans at 11.5%.

For more information, contact the Housing Preservation Office at 371-6693.

Unitarian Society offers special musical program

The Unitarian Society of Cleveland has announced a special musical program to be held at the church, 2728 Lanca-shire Road, on Sunday, March 24, at 4:00 PM.

Music of Gustav Mahler, Paul Bowles, and Samuel Barber will be performed by Ann Bill, soprano, and Laura Silverman, accompanist. Bill is soloist at Trinity Cathedral and a member of the faculty at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Silverman is also a member of the Institute faculty, and is Director of Music at the Unitarian Society.

This program is the first in a series of programs to be held at the Unitarian Society church.

Refreshments will be served.

Donations are welcome.

Girl Scout cookies will be for sale at Daffy Dan's

Girl Scouts will again be selling their famous cookies at Daffy Dan's T-Shirt Shop, 1812 Coventry Road.

Cookies will be sold on Fridays (March 8, 15, and 22) from 4:00 to 8:00 PM, and on Saturdays (March 9, 16, and 23) from 11 AM to 7:00 PM.

There are seven different kinds of cookies to choose from: Juliettes, Samoas, Thin Mints, Do-Si-Dos, Tagalongs, Trefoils, and Chocolate Chunks.

Citizens for Recycling plan bottle and can collection

Heights Citizens for Recycling will hold a collection drive on May 4 and 5, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at the Cleveland Heights Recreation Pavilion on Mayfield at Monticello.

Glass containers, aluminum beverage cans, and plastic milk jugs will be collected. All contributions should be rinsed; lids should be removed from glass containers; and plastic milk jugs should be flattened.

Coventry Village News
Heights Community Congress
2163 Lee Road
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TIME VALUE -- PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1985

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General Meeting, Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Library. The public is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, April 4 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

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