



Coventry Village News

JULY 1988

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL 10, NO. 7

New Planning Director at July 8 CNI meeting

Mark Majewski, recently-appointed Cleveland Heights Planning Director, will meet with Coventry Neighbors, Inc., on July 8, 7:30 PM, at Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road.

He will display and discuss a set of very tentative plans for added parking in Coventry's commercial district. Majewski will also be available to answer questions about any aspect city planning in our community.

The recent Coventry Village Street Fair will be discussed.

Our meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend, but only dues-paid members may vote.

No CVN in August

The Coventry Village News will not be published in August. Omission of the August edition is traditional.

Constitutional Review

Each five years, according to the by-laws of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., the organization must review its constitution, and make changes if necessary. A committee to perform that review will be selected at the meeting of July 8.

CNI seeks volunteers for Heritage Tour

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., is joining other neighborhood groups in Cleveland Heights in providing volunteer workers for the Heights Heritage Tour, planned for September 27 and 28.

If you can help, please call CNI at 371-6095, or the Heights Community Congress at 321-6775.

City parking plans begin taking form; some relief already

As many twenty-four off-street parking spaces could be added to the City lot next south from Coventry Beverage and Pizza (1815 Coventry Road), just by reorganizing the place. Another eighty spaces could be added by razing three houses behind Pick-n-Pay, on the south portion Rock Court, and paving the area.

A very preliminary plan of these parking improvements will be displayed and discussed at the July 8 meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. All interested residents and merchants will have an opportunity to make suggestions. The meeting will be held at Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road, beginning at 7:30 PM.

The parking plan will likely be broken down into several phases. A first phase, which might be done as early as this summer, could provide a temporary, graveled surface on some of the flat, now-unused land behind Pick-n-Pay. Permanent improvements, like the removal of the houses from Rock Court and paving there, will have to wait until next summer.

City staff has not yet offered cost estimates, and financing remains uncertain. Merchants and landlords have expressed tentative willingness to pay at least some of the costs, probably through a real property assessment process. Owners of commercial buildings in Coventry's business district now pay a total of about \$122,200 in real property

[Continued on page 4]

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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.

ANYONE wishing to submit copy for the September issue may do so by sending it to the Editor, *Coventry Village News*, 2776 Hampshire Road #1-B, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106, no later August 16. While no unsigned items will be published, your name may be withheld on request.

Phone 371-6095.

Coventry Village . . .
where we all get along together
pretty well, usually.

Two cheers for CH, and boo for the *Press*; or, A matter of inches

a CVN editorial

The most troublesome department of our municipal government has just been re-organized. Bob Wilkinson, who brought reason and common sense to the housing inspection programs, has been appointed to head the new Division of Housing and Building.

In his new role, Wilkinson controls what was the Division of Building. That Division, under previous administrations, was a profound impediment to the economic development of this community. It had richly earned a reputation for foolish and destructive nit-picking.

Its routine performance even more outrageous than that of the *Sun Press*, which has recently attacked the City Cleveland Heights for having installed doors on a new jail which are one inch too narrow. A *Sun Press* lead editorial called the one inch deficit "bad planning." The story was on page 1, *twice*.

The old Division of Building regularly burned investors in our town for similar nonsense.

It does no good to have a respected newspaper encourage just this sort of untoward concern for inches.

Especially when the City is trying to mend its ways.

Interracial living is photo contest theme

The Heights Interfaith Council will sponsor a photo contest on the theme of interracial living. The purpose of the contest is to recognize and display visual images of the racial diversity of our community.

Competition will be divided into categories including children, youth, professional, and amateur. The deadline is October 15. Application forms are available at any area church, synagogue, library, or city hall.

Tom Paxton headlines Cain Park Arts Fest

Tom Paxton, a folk music performer and song writer national prominence, will perform at Cain Park Amphitheatre on July 12 at 8:00 PM.

Paxton's appearance is part of the ninth annual Cain Park Arts Festival. More than one hundred national and local artists will set up booths along the walk through the park.

The festival runs from noon to 9:00 PM on Saturday July 12, and from noon to 8:00 PM on Sunday July 13.

Selected Cleveland Heights restaurants will operate food concessions.

Also performing that weekend will be Sam Finger's Dixieland Band, Seona McDowell, Trevor Guy Band, Reggie Pittman Latin Band, and Howie Smith and Band.

No tickets or reservations are necessary.

Country Fair August 24th at skating rink

Cleveland Heights will hold its fourth annual Country Folk and Craft Fest on Sunday August 24, 1:00 to 7:00 PM, on the lawn of the Recreation Pavilion on Mayfield Road between Superior Road and Monticello Boulevard. Admission and parking are free.

Fifty crafts vendors will offer wares including quilts, teddy bears, folk art dolls, woven baskets, and much more.

Hotfoot Quartet and Clear Fork will provide blue grass music.

There will be prizes for the best pies, cakes, and tomatoes.

A pet show will give children a chance to win ribbons and show off their animal friends. Pony rides and a hay ride in the park are planned.

For further information call Janet Fogle, 291-5644; or Noreen Fox, 291-5825.

"Birdhouse Park" is rejected by HUD

The City of Cleveland Heights had planned to spend between \$18,000 and \$20,000 rebuilding a small park in front of the Baskin-Robbins store at 2476 Fairmount Boulevard, at Cedar Road.

James Black, a Program Specialist at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), has informed the City of Cleveland Heights that the project cannot be built with funds from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Mr. Black's responsibilities include monitoring the HUD-funded GDBG program in Cleveland Heights.

The City is expected to take formal steps to withdraw the "Birdhouse Park" proposal in a few weeks, when Mr. Black's determination that it is not eligible for CDBG funding is formally communicated to the City in writing.

Mr. Black's action occurred at about the same time that Coventry Neighbors, Inc., wrote to him, expressing the organization's belief that the project was ineligible for GDBG funding. Such funds are to be spent, according to federal regulations, only in areas that are "slum and blighted."

The site of Birdhouse Park is already a pleasant small park, with benches, trees and a flower bed. It is located in front of one of the most elegant antique shops in town. The Cedar-Fairmount business district, in which it is located, has far fewer urban problems than most older business districts in Cleveland Heights. The area has already received about a half million dollars in CDBG funds. Most of that money went to a parking deck, with space for nearly one hundred cars.

---Charles J. Owen

*We need art to fill spaces like this.
If you can help, call 371-6095.*

Thanks

PARKING . . . continued from page 1 taxes each year. Financing a \$100,000 parking project would add perhaps 10% to that tax bill.

Additional funds will be sought through the City's Community Development Block Grant program, and from other sources.

The construction of a large parking deck—containing perhaps several hundred spaces—remains at least a few years in the future. Spaces in surface lots can be constructed for an average cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000; spaces in a parking deck are expected to cost at least twice as that.

Some changes in the rules governing parking have already added a bit to the supply of parking spaces here. Some "no parking" signs have been removed from Lancashire Road, and nine parking meters have been installed there. Some spaces once reserved for permit-holders have been converted to metered spaces in the municipal lot across from Turkey Ridge Tavern. To the west along Euclid Heights Boulevard, near Kenilworth Road, regulatory changes have eased the parking problems of residents.

Coventry Merchants Association (CMA) continues in the meantime to encourage merchants and their employees to park outside the area, leaving the more convenient spaces available for customers.

Tommy Fello, proprietor of Tommy's Restaurant, estimates that nearly one-third of the parking spaces in the business district are now routinely filled by merchants and their employees. Merchants and employees who insist on parking in the most convenient spaces, closest to their stores, could provide a large part of the solution to the parking problem simply by parking farther out, and walking for a few minutes.

Preliminary results of a parking study being conducted by CMA indicates that the demand for parking in Coven-

Library goings-on

Hurrah for the U.S.A., this summer's reading program, is off to a great start. The grand opening, held on Saturday June 14, included film strips, crafts, and an American sing-along with Julie Alandt. Joy the Clown was special guest.

There is still time for school-age children to join the program, which continues until August 15.

Family storytime will be held on July 24 at 7:00 PM. Bring the whole family for an evening of storytelling.

The Saturday Afternoon Special Film Program will be held on each Saturday in July at 1:30 PM.

Preschool Storytime meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM and on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. Registration is required.

Regular hours at the Coventry Village Library are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, noon to 8:30 PM; Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM; Sundays, 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The Library is closed on Mondays.



LIBRARIES:
Learning for Life

try's business district has increased sharply in the last three years. The increase is attributable to longer hours for Pick-n-Pay, the change in format at Coventry Cinema, opening of the Bistrot des Artistes, and general increase in the level of economic activity in Coventry Village.

Construction of a new restaurant in the lower level of Coventryard began recently. Yet another new restaurant, in the former book store space at 1824 Coventry Road, has received zoning approval, and will probably be open next spring. The former site of Faces Restaurant will also likely be open again for business by then.

These changes imply a significant worsening of the already-desperate parking situation.

—Larry Beam

Around Coventry

SIDEWALK CAFE . . . There will soon be a sidewalk cafe in front of Coventryard, Arabica, and probably other tenants of Coventryard, will be allowed to put tables on the concrete oval in front of the building. Only details of the project remain to be worked out, according to City officials.

PRIME RIBS . . . Work began in mid-June for a new restaurant on the lower level of Coventryard. Opening is expected in September. The restaurant will specialize in prime beef ribs. There will be a bar, and a dance floor. A zoning variance, allowing 162 seats, was approved last August. The business was presented as an Italian restaurant at that time.

A liquor license was transferred to the site under the name Red Suspenders. More recently, a source says the place will be called The Rib Works in Coventryard.

BEADS MOVE . . . Marcia Polevoi, proprietor of High Tide/Rock Bottom, the gift shop at 1814 Coventry Road, has sold the bead department of her shop to Bobbie Littell, who managed it for years.

Ms. Littell, a former editor of this newsletter, has opened her own shop in the basement of the Murray Hill Gallery, once an elementary school on Murray Hill Road in Little Italy. The shop is open noon to six, except on Sunday. In addition to beads and supplies, Ms. Littell offers classes in jewelry design.

BEACHWOOD BUST . . . Beachwood Place has been a much less prosperous place to do business than Coventry Road for several merchants. Recently, Marcia Polevoi rented a small stand in a public area there.

Mrs. Polevoi's husband Joe, who retired recently from a job as a graphic arts honcho with Ohio Bell, sold kalei-

doscopes from that stand. He was able to sell just enough to pay the rent for the few days that the venture lasted. That left nothing for wages or other costs.

"People just walk around; they don't spend," Marcia says. "I don't see how retailers there make it. My Coventry shop is always busier than any shop I saw there--and the rent is much lower." She also reports a problem with young folk at Beachwood Place that rivals that here in Coventry Village. "There are fewer young people there, and they're more contained, because security is better," Marcia says, "but they make just as much noise, and cause as much disruption, especially at mid-day."

BIKERS . . . We counted twenty-seven motorcycles parked in front of the Saloon (1765 Coventry) on the evening of June 21. The scene resembled something from the 1960's.

But much was different: the cars parked in front included a Corvette, a Bricklin, and two Mercedes. The bar was packed with bikers--but the mood of the place was far more friendly and cheerful than most gatherings of, say, local politicians. No roughness, and no colors, were visible--a big change from the 1960's.

The evening was a one-time thing, an effort to raise money for Scott Sawyer, a biker who lost a leg in a collision with an automobile. Many area bars, restaurants, and retailers contributed. More than \$3,000 was raised.

STREET FAIR . . . Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the thirteenth annual Coventry Street Fair run smoothly on the week end of June 28 and 29.

Now, while memory of this year's Fair is fresh, is the time to start thinking about next year.

If you have any thoughts about the event, please call us at 371-6095, and share your views and suggestions. --Ed.

Coventry Village News
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ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED

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

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, August 7, 8:00 PM at 2929 Washington Boulevard. 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.)

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