



Coventry Village News

JUNE 1986

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL 10, NO. 6

Community Relations chief is CNI guest at June 10 meeting; Pot luck on June 15

Susanna Niermann, Community Relations Coordinator for the City of Cleveland Heights, will be the guest speaker at the June 10 meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

All are welcome to the meeting, which starts at 7:30 PM, at the Coventry Village Library, 1926 Coventry Road.

It is the responsibility of Niermann's office to facilitate communication between citizens and their municipal government. Niermann and her staff also help citizens find their way through the bureaucratic maze of City Hall.

Pot Luck

CNI's annual Pot Luck Dinner will be held on June 15, beginning at 5:00 PM on the balcony and in the courtyard behind Coventryard.

Everyone is welcome. Just bring a dish that can be shared. Beverages, plates, and utensils will be supplied.

Restricted Fund Committee screens ways to spend more than \$10,000

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., has more than \$10,000 ear-marked for permanent tangible improvements to the neighborhood's commercial area.

Here are some of the projects so far suggested: electric power for the stage at the tip of the playground, just north of the Library; a sprinkling system for the park in front of Coventryard; and a commissioned sculpture for that park.

Any reader who has an idea for those funds is invited to bring that idea to the meeting on June 10, or to call us at 371-6095.

—Ed.

Coventry Village Street Fair comes to life June 28 and 29

The annual Coventry Village Street Fair is now less than a month away. It opens on Saturday, June 28, at noon, and continues until 9:00 PM. On Sunday June 29, the Fair will open at noon and continue until 7:00 PM.

The Fair covers all of the Coventry Village commercial district, along Coventry Road from Mayfield Road to Euclid Heights Boulevard. Parts of the Library and School grounds, on the south-east corner of Euclid Heights and Coventry, will be alive with activities directed toward families.

There will be many new crafts and fine arts and displays this year. They'll be located in Municipal Lot Number 15, across from Turkey Ridge Tavern, and along the south side of Pick-n-Pay.

Many varieties of music will be offered on five stages. Among the groups and individual performers returning this year will be Earthforce, Orboros, First Light, Gusti, Jady Kurrent, Inspirations, and the Cleveland Klezmerim. Some others are returning after being away for a year or two: Mad Money, Seona McDowell, and Bosch. And some groups are new: Map of the World, from Ann Arbor, Michigan; the Columbus Jets, from Columbus, Ohio; and Fast Tracks, from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The Singing Angels, directed by Bill Boehm, will again be presented by the Kiwanis Club of Cleveland Heights. They'll be on the Euclid Heights Boulevard stage on Sunday afternoon.

Fair in a Fair will offer many activities for the entire family. There will be hands-on arts and crafts in

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ALL opinions and statements are strictly those of the writers, except when clearly identified as formal positions of CNI, CVN, or HCC. Circulation: 2000.

ANYONE wishing to submit copy for the July issue may do so by sending it to the Editor, *Coventry Village News*, 2776 Hampshire Road, #1-B, Cleveland Heights OH 44106, no later than June 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.

Meeting notes

Regular meeting of May 13

The resignation of F. David Gill from the Chair of CNI's Planning and Zoning Committee was accepted. Applications for that post were solicited; none were received, and the post remains vacant.

Charles Owen agreed to accept the Chair of the A**--Kicking Committee, provided that he be allowed to merge its function with that of the Environmental Concerns Committee, which he also chairs. Several persons suggested new names for the now-merged committees.

An expenditure of \$100 for dues contribution to Coventry Merchants Association was authorized. The Pot-Luck Dinner Organizing Committee was granted authority to spend not more than \$100; that event is set for June 15.

Letter to the Editor

I am a long-time resident of Coventry Village, and now for the first time, I feel uneasy at night on the street.

Some of the kids here just want to cause trouble. They seem to get their kicks harassing people.

I'm not talking about the kids with bright-colored hair that sticks out. I'm talking about those who break the law.

We have seen police police here, because of these problems. I hate to see our community's police resources spent on these jerk kids. And I fear that Coventry Village may take on at least the appearance of a police state in response to problems here.

This is our neighborhood. We must not let anyone, punks or cops, take it away from us. We must find ways to control the behavior of these groups who want to terrorize residents and visitors here.

Lisa Tokes
Coventry Village

Hampshire, Lancashire get trees and fix-up

Twelve new trees were recently planted on Lancashire Road, and the portion of Hampshire Road just west of Coventry Road. Several unsightly bushes and decayed planters were removed to make way for the new trees. A large retaining wall at the rear of a municipal parking lot on Hampshire was painted.

The work was done by City crews. Part of the costs were paid through a grant obtained by the City's Apartment Improvement Program from the federally-funded Neighborhood Reinvestment Corp.

Volunteers needed for annual Heritage Tour

The annual Heights Heritage Tour will be held on September 27 and 28. The Heights Community Congress (HCC), sponsor of the Tour, is asking individuals and community groups to help staff the homes on the Tour. Call the HCC at 321-6775 if you or your group can help.

This year's Heritage Tour will offer fourteen houses and two landmarks that were especially popular when they were on the tour during the past nine years.

Bistrot des Artistes gets Sunday sales

Bistrot des Artistes, 1825 Coventry Road, will soon be allowed to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption on Sundays.

A local option question, on the ballot only in precinct 3-G where the Bistrot is located, passed by a vote of 86 to 20 at the May 6 primary election.

Proprietor Alton F. Doody plans to make the restaurant available for private parties as soon as his Sunday sales privileges become official. Later, he plans special events, and perhaps brunch and dinner.

Flowers are planted by shops, volunteers

More than 800 marigold and petunia plants have been planted around the Coventry Village commercial district.

Most planters and the cut-outs around many trees have been filled with flowery life. Volunteers and merchants have pledged to finish the plantings, and to maintain them through the summer.

Society National Bank did an especially nice job with the planters near its doors at 1836 Coventry Road.

David Grumbach, proprietor of Grum's, planted impatiens in around the two trees in front of his sandwich shop at 1776 Coventry Road.

Other participating shops include The Corkscrew, Lee Allen Salon, Mac's Backs Books, Delphic Books, Tommy's, Passport to Peru, Phil Imperi DDS, Coventry Laundromat, Bistrot des Artistes, Record Revolution, High Tide/Rock Bottom, and Caroll Drug.

Flowers were supplied at cost by Mark Siegel, of Tom Rini Brothers, a produce supplier. Tommy Fello, proprietor of Tommy's Restaurant, arranged the purchase.

Peggy Swinarski found volunteers, most of them poets and artists, to help with the planting effort. Among them were Carol and Steven Kraig, Joe Moody, Jacques Grant, Joyce Porcelli, and Sara Crowley.

Metropolitan Savings Association has, as in years past, done a fine job of landscaping around the its building at 1865 Coventry Road.

Readers can help with the flower planting effort. We badly need a collection of gardening tools--a wheel barrow, lawn mower, a shovel, a watering can, an edging tool, etc. Anyone who can donate tools, money, or volunteer time, should call 371-6095.

--LB

Help with the Street Fair.
It is fun. It is a challenge.
Call 321-2510 for information.

Street Fair . . . [continued from page 1] front of the Library. There will be balloon-twisting and clowns.

The Jewish Community Center will offer crafts activities, games and a sing-along on Sunday.

Boy Scout Troop 83 will give a camping demonstration, and will be selling some camping supplies.

Food offerings in Municipal Lot 15 will be expanded to give fair-goers a wider selection.

Wanted: volunteers

It takes a tremendous amount of volunteer energy to make the Fair work. We still need volunteers to tend the barricades, to sell t-shirts, and for many other tasks.

Help is also needed for the family activities, the Fair in a Fair.

Please call the Fair office at 321-2510 if you are available.

Booth Space: still available

Space is still available for booths at the Fair. Contact Marion Fisher or Julie Washington at 321-2510.

Parking, bicycles, and dogs

Parking is never easy for the Fair. We suggest the parking lots at the old City Hall, 2953 Mayfield Road, and at the Civic, at Mayfield and Lee Roads. Even Severance Center is just a quick bus ride away.

The usual parking regulations will be enforced in the areas surrounding the Fair. So obey the law, or risk getting a ticket. And folks who park on the median strips of the boulevards risk being towed.

Please don't bring dogs, bicycles, or skate boards to the Fair itself. It's just too crowded.

See you at the Fair!
—Kathryn J. Young, Chair

**Join Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
right now, before you forget.**

New Hall is dedicated; old one to be razed

The new Cleveland Heights City Hall, at 40 Severance Circle, was dedicated on June 1. Motorcars Honda became the legal owner of the old City Hall, at 2953 Mayfield Road, on June 2. The auto dealership expects to raze the old Hall in mid-July.

Construction will then begin immediately on the automobile sales and service facility described in these pages in January. A conditional use permit must be obtained from the Board of Zoning Appeals, and the design must be negotiated with the Architectural Board of Review.

Most City offices were moved to the new location on St. Patrick's Day. Only the Police Department now remains at the old Hall. That Department is expected to move to the new Hall about July 1.

The City's garage and solid waste transfer facilities will remain at their present location, behind the old Hall on Mayfield. The Police Academy, on Superior Road near Mayfield, will also remain where it is.

Improvement Award nominations sought

The Heights Community Congress is seeking nominations for its annual Community Improvement Awards.

These awards are given to property owners who have done especially fine visible work to improve homes and other buildings in Cleveland Heights.

Nominations will remain open until August 1, but now is the time to start the search for the best improvements.

There several categories of awards, including commercial buildings, single-family homes, and multi-family dwellings. Street Awards are given to streets that have shown large amounts of improvement.

Call the Heights Community Congress at 321-6775 for details.

Around Coventry

MORE THAN ICE CREAM . . . The ice cream shop at Coventryard has its third ownership. They are the folks who run Hot and Chili, on the corner of Mayfield Road and Euclid Avenue. The Coventryard shop will add sandwiches, pizza, chili, and hot dogs to its offerings. Despite severe space limitations, the business also plans to begin making its ice cream in Coventry Village.

SITTING . . . The City of Cleveland Heights is now willing to allow Arabica, the coffee house, have tables and seating in the park in front of Coventryard. Details of the plan—which may involve other Coventryard tenants—remain to be worked out. The plan is to allow seating that will resemble closely the arrangement that several businesses—including Arabica—have at Shaker Square.

YUPPIE BIKES . . . Marvin Rosenberg, proprietor of Coventry Village Bike Shop, formerly known as Pee Wee's Bikes, has opened a new retail shop at 1914 Lee Lee Road.

The shop will offer relatively sophisticated and expensive bicycles. Rosenberg's old shop, at 1791 Coventry Road, will continue as a repair shop. Rosenberg is seeking an aggressive, young person to run the Coventry Village shop for him, and eventually to buy it from him.

NO DISH ALLOWED . . . An upwardly-mobile friend, who lives in a Hampshire Road apartment, wants to put a satellite receiving dish on the roof of his building. The dish would allow our friend to add to his collection of audio and video equipment.

But the City's zoning code prohibits such devices on the roof of any building less than twelve stories high. Like most apartment buildings here, his building has just three floors. Even though the dish would be quite out of everyone's sight, it can't be installed in Cleveland Heights. Asked for a reason for the prohibition, City officials just shrugged.

NOT SOLD . . . Irv Gulko, proprietor of Irv's Deli and Fat Choy Chinese Restaurant, both at 1798 Coventry Road, says that there is no truth to widely-circulated rumors that his business has been sold. Gulko says that he has spoken with several potential buyers, but none of them has offered an acceptable price.

Gulko says that he has regained the services the Paris-trained Chinese chef who ran Fat Choy when it first opened. Gulko expects a substantial improvement in his Chinese fare.

ENVIRONMENT . . . The Ohio Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) has opened an office at 2800 Mayfield Road, at Coventry. The group purports to work for the betterment of the environment.

OPIRG has made its local presence known with many posters stapled to phone poles and taped to the outside of shop windows. It has offended some residents with rude, door-to-door hard-sell tactics.

Local law forbids the posting of materials in these ways. Posters on phone poles are an insult to the environment of Coventry Village.

When we stopped at the OPIRG office to complain about the posters on phone poles and windows, the young woman there said that her group had a right to put such posters up, because it is a "public interest group." She expressed anger with us for having removed numerous of group's illegal posters. Despite our talk with her, and our efforts to remove the posters as soon as they go up, OPIRG persists with its posters.

It's odd that a group that claims to be concerned about the environment of our nation and our world should have so little concern for the environment, laws and manners of our community.

THANKS . . . to Thomas Morgan, the new Forester for the City of Cleveland Heights, and to his boss, Spencer Caress, for speaking to the May meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Picking a Kindergarten

by Bert Stratton

Kindergarten is a jungle. Not for the kid, but for the parent who has to pick one.

A surprising number of parents in Coventry Village talk about kindergarten. They also talk about class size, teachers, aides; I don't mean the disease AIDS.

There are three kindergartens at Coventry Elementary School: 27 students, 28, and 30.

Coventry's kindergartens are the most crowded in the system, tied with Fairfax's. Coventry's kindergartens are too big. The average in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights system is 23.

The Board of Education has required that if a lower elementary school class (kindergarten through second grade) has more than 25 students, an aide must be hired.

The schools in Lakewood, Shaker Heights, and South Euclid-Lyndhurst have aides too, but few of them have teachers' certificates. Most aides in the CH-UH system are certified teachers.

Before I looked into the matter, I assumed that these classroom aides were helpers who poured the chocolate milk.

A neighbor told me she was "horri-fied" when she heard that 27 kids were in her son's kindergarten class at Coventry. She became less horrified when she learned that a full-time, certified aide worked with her son's teacher.

My son is going to a Cleveland Heights kindergarten next fall.

His other options--private schools--didn't appeal to his mother and me.

His grandfather recommends a move to Beachwood if the boy's father--me--believes so strongly in public education.

Beachwood has the fourth-highest tax valuation per pupil in Ohio. Beachwood has more money than it knows what to do with.

But where would I go for a walk in Beachwood? Along the berm of I-271? I

could get hit by a car, and then where would my son be?

I like Coventry Village. (And by the way, Heights High SAT scores, averaging 941 combined, were about the same as Beachwood's 944, for 1984-85.)

Well, how about Shaker's? Shaker's school system is probably better than Cleveland Heights'. The average size of an elementary school class in Shaker Heights 19; Cleveland Heights, 25. Shaker's property taxes are 22% higher than Cleveland Heights'.

I'll stick with Cleveland Heights. I figure Cleveland heights schools are better than those in South Euclid (where I attended) or Lakewood. Those two systems are bare-bones. They have little support staff, like music, art, and enrichment teachers, therapists, and counselors.

But even those bare-bones systems have one thing going for them: smaller elementary school classes than Cleveland Heights. South Euclid, 22; Lakewood, 24; Cleveland Heights, 25.

Coventry's huge kindergartens--even with the aides--are a turn-off. The school system loses many potential new "customers," kids whose parents begin to look at Montessori, Agnon, Hawken, and the other cocoons around town.

In May, 1984, the School Board reduced the class size in the lower grades because of parental pressure. That can happen again.

There is a large pool of not-entirely-burned-out, concerned parents in Cleveland Heights, who can change things. Many, like me, are newcomers to the system.

Join up. The more the merrier.

Wanted: Art

This newsletter could be better if we could find an artist willing to contribute drawings to fill small spaces like this one. Call 371-6095 for details.

Curfew Reminder

Here are the hours of curfew for the young in Cleveland Heights:

Under 12 years old: dark to 6:00 AM.

Twelve to 15 years old: 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM.

Sixteen and 17 years old: midnight to 6:00 AM.

Certain exceptions are allowed, as for gainful employment.

Ice cream social at School June 5

An icecream social will be held on Thursday, June 5, at Coventry Elementary School, 7:00 PM.

Ice cream sundaes are 50 cents. Balloons are free.

Kids' Festival plays are free at Dobama

The eighth annual Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival opens Wednesday, June 4, 8:00 PM. Tickets that night are \$10.

Six free performances will follow, on June 5 and 6 at 8:00 PM; on June 7 at 7:00 and 9:30; and on June 8 at 2:30 and 7:00. No reservations are accepted for the free performances.

Ten brief plays by kids in grades one through eleven are being produced.

Kids' Festival productions have met favorable reviews in past years. This year's festival has been the subject of a prominently-placed story in the *Plain Dealer*. So get there early.

Life guards wanted

The City of Cleveland Heights is seeking applicants for life guard positions at the City's pools. Applicants must have Red Cross certificates in Water Safety or Advanced Life Saving, and must be at least sixteen years old. Applications may be obtained at the Personnel Department, 40 Severance Circle, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

Baker's Wife and *Cabaret* at the Cain Park theaters

Baker's Wife will open on June 20 at the Alma theatre in Cain Park. The musical, by Steven Schwartz with music and lyrics by Joseph Stein, plays on Thursday through Sunday nights through August 16. Charles Kondak will direct.

Cabaret will open at the Amphitheatre on August 1, and will continue through August 23. It's by Joe Masteroff, with music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb. Performances will be on Wednesday through Sunday Nights. Michael LiBassi will direct.

It's block party time, and the City will help

Block parties are a summer tradition here. These parties are a great way for neighbors to get to know each other better.

The City of Cleveland Heights will provide barricades to keep traffic off your street. The City will also lend athletic equipment, like volleyballs and nets, to organizers. And the City will print fliers. It's already been paid for with your taxes.

For details, call 291-2323.

Letters welcome

The Editor of this newsletter welcomes letters. He especially likes letters that disagree with the values and opinions expressed in these pages, or which deal with subjects overlooked here.

Letters should be sent to the Editor, *Coventry Village News*, 2776 Hampshire Road, #1-B, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44106. We'll print nearly anything that fits and won't get us in too much trouble. Names may be withheld on request.

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TIME VALUE -- PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1986

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General Meeting, Tuesday, June 10, 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Library. The public is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, July 3, 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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