



Coventry Village News

April, 1987

The Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Volume 11 No. 4

Overlook condominiums proposal to be shared with CNI at meeting on April 14 at Library

At the April meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., architect Robert Blatchford will present plans for a seventeen-unit condominium apartment building proposed for a steep bit of vacant land on Overlook Road near the Cleveland border, overlooking the Little Italy neighborhood. A somewhat larger development, called Turkey Ridge Condominiums, was proposed for the same site about four years ago.

The new proposal will go before the Board of Zoning Appeals for variances from set-back and height regulations.

That CNI meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14, at the Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road, at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

At the regular meeting of March 10, CNI resolved unanimously to amend its constitution by removing from that document any mention of the annual Street Fair. CNI voted last October that no Fair would be held in 1987.

CNI resolved to support the Turkey Ridge Tavern, 1864 Coventry Road, in its bid to get its liquor license renewed. Turkey Ridge proprietor J. Steele Matheny appeared before the organization to ask for its support. The City of Cleveland Heights last fall filed a formal objection to the renewal of Matheny's liquor license. The vote in support of the bar and restaurant business was unanimous.

First tour, on May 9, will visit the lanes

The first in a series of tours is set for Saturday, May 9.

Ken Goldberg, an architectural historian, will be the guide. The area south of Euclid Heights Boulevard, west of Coventry

Road, and north of Cedar Road will be seen. The area is about the same as that visited on the very successful "Lanes of Coventry" tour several years ago.

Participants in this first tour will meet at the Coventry Village Library at 2:00 PM on Saturday May 9. The group will return to the Library at about 4:00 for light refreshments. Tickets cost \$3.00.

On June 13, Mary Deal will lead a walking tour of Lakeview Cemetery. The tour will include a visit to Wade Chapel.

Other tours--six in all--are set for alternate Saturdays through the summer. Some of these tours will use trolley-style tour buses, so as to accommodate those who can't walk a lot.

For more information, call Barb Valis at 932-4647 or Charles Owen at 321-1268.

Sounds of Coventry is set for June 28

An afternoon of music and entertainment for children is set for Sunday, June 28. The Coventry Village Library and Coventry School PTA are joining with CNI to present this event.

A bluegrass band and a Renaissance group have been booked for the event. At this writing the committee organizing the event is still seeking a jazz group, a group that

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Street performers sought

Mimes, street musicians, jugglers, magicians, clowns, and face-painters who are interested in performing at the Sounds of Coventry and at the other events planned for this summer should contact Dave O'Konski at 932-0018. Some performers will be paid for their work. They will also, as always, be allowed to solicit contributions.

An editorial:
**Turkey Ridge license
 should be renewed**

The City of Cleveland Heights should withdraw its objections to the renewal of the liquor license at Turkey Ridge Tavern, 1864 Coventry Road. State liquor authorities should renew that license, even if the municipal government continues on its present course.

Turkey Ridge Tavern is fine place for lunch or dinner. Later in the evening, after 10:00 PM when popular local bands play there every night, it is one of the most popular spots on the East Side.

Suddenly last September, the Police Department recommended to City Council that the City fight the annual renewal of the liquor license without which the Turkey Ridge cannot do business. Members of Council first heard of the recommendation on a Friday. On the next Monday, Council voted to file a formal objection to the renewal of the license. The action came as a surprise to nearly everyone.

Members of Council refused at that time to discuss with CNI any details of the

charges brought by the Police Department against the bar and restaurant. All details of the reasons for the Council's action were tightly kept secret.

No one ever complained to Coventry Neighbors Inc. of any problems with the Turkey Ridge Tavern. We saw some foolish behavior on the sidewalks in front of the place, but little that was not to be expected, given the youth and size of the crowds attracted there.

Never did City representatives speak with the Turkey Ridge management about problems. Action against the liquor license was the first that folks at the business heard of the City's grievances. Some years ago, when there were noise problems with the business, City Community Relations staffers became involved, and the problem was resolved. That problem has not recurred.

The City itself issues an entertainment permit without which the Turkey Ridge would be a very different place, at least at night when most of the problems that Police authorities point to happen.

Why did not the City act first to seek resolution to the problem through negotiations? If that had failed, then perhaps the City might have been justified in suspending the entertainment permit. But instead of going through these reasonable steps, the City's first action was to go after the liquor license--the life blood of the business.

About forty jobs are at stake here. And worse, the entire economic development thrust of the City is damaged when potential investors in the community fear that they might be treated as the Turkey Ridge was. No restaurant investor is going to want to come into a community that might fight his liquor license renewal without warning, and with secret charges.

Home & Garden Show: April 23 through 26

The Cleveland Heights Home and Garden Show will return to the Coventry neighborhood this year. After a few years at Severance Center, the annual event will again be held at the Skating Pavilion, on the north side of Mayfield Road just east of Superior Road.

The hours are: Thursday, April 23, from 4:00 to 9:00 PM; on Friday, April 24, 4:00 to 10:00 PM; Saturday, April 25, 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM; and Sunday, April 26, noon to 6:00 PM.

The Coventry Village News is published monthly, except in August, by Coventry Neighbors, Inc., in cooperation with the Heights Community Congress.

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Opinions expressed in these pages are strictly those of the respective writers, except where clearly identified as those of CNI, CVN, or the HCC.

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 Anyone wishing to submit copy to the *Coventry Village News* may do so by sending it to the Editor, Coventry Village News, 2776 Hampshire Road, Apt. 1-B, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44106.

The deadline for each month is the 16th day of the preceding month. While no unsigned material will be used, names may generally be withheld from publication at the writer's request.

Phone: 371-6095.

City's new AIP assists building renovations

The apartment building at 2773 Hampshire Road, just a few doors west of Coventry, is on its way to thorough renovation. The work will be assisted with cash grants, totaling \$27,500, from the Apartment Improvement Program (AIP), an arm of the City's Community Development Block Grant program.

The building, recently acquired by Alan Rubenstein, proprietor of Rubenstein Plumbing, contains eleven one-bedroom suites. All of them will be converted into two-bedroom units. New bathrooms and kitchens will be installed.

The exterior brick of the building will be cleaned, and all windows will be replaced with new ones of an energy-efficient design.

The building's balcony doors will be replaced, and the front steps, with the walls next to them, will be rebuilt. The landscaping will be completely re-done.

Early plans for the renovation called for the removal of balconies from the building. Because of the cost of their maintenance and repair, similar balconies have been removed from many neighborhood buildings. Negotiations over the AIP's financial assistance to the project resulted in the saving of the balconies.

Work will begin soon on improvements to 2469-2473 Overlook Road. Painting, landscaping, and the replacement of 148 windows are planned, along with improvements to lighting. No work on the interiors of apartments, which in this building are generally in quite good condition, is planned.

AIP assistance to this building, which is owned by Larry Davis, is expected to exceed \$20,000.

Jay Gardner, who serves as staff to the AIP from the City's Planning Department, expects as many as twelve buildings to become involved in the AIP this summer.

The AIP funding can be used only for exterior improvements--such things as, for example, landscaping, building cleaning, and new windows. In this and in many ways, the new AIP closely resembles the Local Development Corporation's storefront improvement program, which has had a dramatic effect on commercial areas in all of Cleveland Heights.

Any apartment building owner who wants more information about the AIP should call Mr. Gardner at 291-4817. --Larry Beam

F. David Gill is named to City's zoning board

F. David Gill, an activist in Coventry Neighbors, Inc. for a decade, was appointed to the Cleveland Heights Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) by City Council on Monday, March 17. Terrence Copeland, a Harvard-trained lawyer who has served as a councilman in Cleveland, was also appointed to the BZA.

One of these two vacancies on the five-member BZA was created last month when City Council removed the City Manager from the Board. The other vacancy existed because the four-year term of board member Robert Asman had expired.

Mr. Gill has served CNI as Vice President, Secretary, and as a Trustee. He was Chairman of Street Fairs 1980 and 1981. Through the years, Gill followed the BZA closely, and he became an authority on the community's traditions of land use regulation.

Gill served seven years on the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation, and was its President for two years.

In 1985, he headed the committee which selected the houses on the the annual Heights Heritage Tour.

Gill is a computer software consultant by trade. He and his wife, Lyn Cooper Gill, reside on Washington Boulevard in Coventry Village.

*Coventry Village . . .
where we all get along together
pretty well.*

HCC offers a book on community heritage

Copies of *In Our Day*, published by the Heights Community Congress last fall, are still available. The book contains all material from *Heritage on the Heights* and *In My Day*, books published by the HCC in 1977 and 1878, as well as new text and photographs.

The 96-page soft-bound book measures 8.5 by 11 inches. It makes a great coffee-table piece, and is packed with fascinating lore about the history, development, and people of Cleveland Heights.

Copies may be obtained in local book stores, or by mail from the Heights Community Congress, 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44118. The price: \$8.95 plus \$1.33 for tax, postage, and handling.

Events . . . continued from first page

performs music from the 1960's, and a brass quintet.

Entertainment for children will include a sidewalk-chalking contest, in which youngsters use special chalk to draw on sidewalk squares. This contest was a big hit at a Street Fair several years ago.

There will be a scavenger hunt for children, and an opportunity for children to try out various musical instruments. There will be other musical presentations especially for children.

Arts Fest: August 2

An arts festival will be held on Sunday August 2. Painting, photography, fiber art, jewelry, stained glass, pottery and sculpture will be shown.

A committee of working local artists will determine which applicants to the event are allowed to show their wares.

Anyone wishing to participate should contact Nancy Miller at 291-0900.

Hours of curfew

The City of Cleveland Heights requires that children less than 12 years old be off the streets between darkness and 6:00 AM.

Those between 12 and 16 years of age must be off the streets 10:30 PM to 6:00 AM.

Those aged 17 and 18 years must be off the streets between midnight and 6:00 AM.

The law allows for certain exceptions, as for youngsters accompanied by a parent, engaged in gainful employment, or on other legitimate business.

CYC Dinner Dance set for Saturday, May 9

The Second Annual Dinner Dance will be held by the Coventry Youth Center on Saturday, May 9, at the Civic, on Mayfield Road near Lee.

An open bar begins at 7:30. There will be dancing and a cash bar after dinner. Music will be performed by the Bottom Line.

The price is \$25 per person. Call 932-9785 for further information.

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Library goings-on

The Coventry Village Library now has video and audio tapes for circulation. Stop in often to see the rotating collection. Two videos may be checked out per family for a loan period of three days.

Long-time library users may remember former Coventry Village librarian, Nancy Nyren. Mrs. Nyren will be at Coventry Library on Saturday, April 11, for an all-day open house in honor of National Library Week. At 2:30 she will speak on "1987: the Year of the Reader," and will tell stories as well. Bring the whole family for an enjoyable afternoon at Coventry Village Library.

On April 7, at 2:30 PM, Young Audiences presents the Fairmount Theatre for the Deaf. At 7:00 that day, the second annual After-nap Book Ball, for pre-schoolers and their parents, will be held.

On April 28, at 2:30 PM, the last School-Age Storyhour for the season will be held. A musical rendition of "The Wonderful Shrinking Shirt" will be presented by Scales and Tales.

New fiction at the Coventry Village Library includes: *Ambitions*, A. Howard; *American Dreams*, N. Klein; *Bolt*, D. Francis; *Catch the Wind*, H. Segal; *Destiny*, S. Beauman; *The Enigma of Arrival*, V. S. Naipaul; *The Ladies of Missalonghi*, C. McCullough; *The Messiah of Stockholm*, C. Ozick; *The Missalliance*, A. Brookner; *Murder on a Mystery Tour*, M. Badson; *Nadine*, M. Cohen; *One Fine Day the Rabbi Bought a Cross*, H. Kemelman; *Only When I Laugh*, L. Deighton; and *State Scarlet*, D. Aaron.

Hunger Center needs your continued support

The Heights Emergency Food Center needs donations of food, money, and volunteer time.

Gifts of non-perishable foods may be left at Mac's Backs Paperbacks (1785 Coventry Road) or at Metropolitan Savings (1865 Coventry Road).

Gifts of money (checks preferred) may be sent to the Heights Emergency Food Center, c/o Euclid Avenue Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44118.

Join
Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
today!

Tour Historic Coventry Village

A Production of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

SAT. MAY 9 (2-4 PM) Tickets \$3
 Walking tour of the old Euclid Heights Development and the country lanes of Coventry. Planned as a luxury suburban community in the 1890's, Euclid Hts. features beautiful homes, country lanes, and spacious gardens and lawns. Tour starts at Coventry Library. Refreshments.

- Tour Guide: Ken Goldberg

SAT. JUNE 13 (2-4 PM) Tickets \$3
 Walking tour of Lakeview Cemetery and special visit to Wade Chapel. Lakeview is recognized as a classic Victorian garden cemetery. Assemble at the recently restored Garfield Monument.

- Tour Guide: Mary Deal

SAT. JULY 11 (2-4 PM) Tickets \$3
 Walking tour of Coventry's "Mayfield Heights". Originally plotted in the 1890's, the Mayfield Hts. section features many homes influenced by the arts and crafts movement. Site of Cleveland Heights' first house. Assemble at Coventry Library. Refreshments.

- Tour Guide: Ken Goldberg

SAT. AUGUST 8 (2-4 PM) Tickets \$6
 SAT. OCTOBER 20 (2-4 PM) Tickets \$6
 Trolley tours of the beautiful Lakeview Cemetery. A leisurely way to see this fine example of a Victorian garden cemetery. See Garfield Monument. Assemble at Coventry Library.

- Tour Guide: Lakeview Docent Program

SAT. SEPTEMBER 12 (2-4 PM) Tickets \$3
 Walking tour of Southeast Coventry, which was originally developed as part of the old "Forest Hill" allotment from John D. Rockefeller's property. Tour is concentrated between Coventry, Edgemoor, Lamberton, Woodward, and E. Derbyshire. Assemble at Coventry Library. Refreshments.

- Tour Guide: Ken Goldberg



ORDER FORM

With the cooperation of the Coventry Merchants Assn.

Name: _____ () 5/9 Euclid Heights \$3
 _____ () 6/13 Lakeview Cemetery \$3
 Address: _____ () 7/11 Mayfield Heights \$3
 _____ () 8/8 Lakeview Cemetery \$6
 Telephone: _____ () 9/12 S.E. Coventry \$3
 _____ () 10/10 Lakeview Cemetery \$6

() See all tours for only \$20

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Please mail to: CNI Tours, P. O. Box 18018, Cleveland Hts. 44118
 Information Line: 932-4647 / 321-1268

Around Coventry . . .

Coventrivia . . . The Coventry Youth Center (CYC) has published a newsletter. Called *Coventrivia*, it contains "news and views of and about the board, staff, and kids of the Coventry Youth Center." Over five thousand copies were printed and sent, mostly, to folks on the CYC's mailing list.

June Wortman, founder of the CYC and now its First Vice President, is editor of *Coventrivia*. Wortman plans to publish it twice each year.

Discount shop . . . Anna and Sam Friedman, who owned and operated Coventry Discount (1813 Coventry Road), have sold the business and retired.

The new owner-operators of the shop are Al Kay and his mother, Mina. Like Mr. and Mrs. Friedman, the the Kays are Russian émigrés.

Ownership of a retail business has been a dream to Al and Mina for years. Mina worked before buying the shop as a manager of a similar discount store, and Al managed a Union 76 gas station.

The shop offers a wide variety of wares, from watches and radios, through housewares and a few articles of clothing. For many things, including cigarettes, the shop's prices are the lowest in Coventry Village.

Flowers . . . Winter is past us now, and it's time to plan for warm weather.

People who live in apartment buildings often complain that there's no place for them to have a garden. Potted plants on balconies and fire escapes are fun and easy, and they can be enjoyed by many neighbors. There are many opportunities for window boxes.

For those who really want a place to grow things, there is space in front or along the sides of many apartment buildings. Planting flowers around apartment buildings has many special rewards, due to the public view to which one's work is subject. Pride in handiwork becomes pride in community. Folks who plant flowers in the relative privacy of back yards of single family houses are missing a lot.

Vegetable gardens can be planted in the public gardens on Hampshire Road.

Gardening in the commercial district presents some special challenges, frustrations and rewards.

We are once again looking for folks who are willing to help plant flowers in the planters and around trees in the business district of Coventry Village. No date has been

set for the planting; we'll announce that in the May *Coventry Village News*. But if you can help in any way, or are interested in helping to plan and organize the planting, please call us at 371-6095. Financial contributions to support the commercial-area planting effort may be sent to CNI at 2776 Hampshire Road, Apt. 1-B, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

Parking . . . City staff members are expressing strong confidence that some additions will be made this summer to the supply of parking in the commercial area. This year's budget for the City's Community Development Block Grant program contains \$70,000 for parking here.

About \$60,000 is intended for modifications to the municipal parking lot across from Tommy's Restaurant and just north of the Bistrot des Artistes. That area, and other near-by land, is being studied to determine how it might be used more efficiently. Preliminary studies, done last year, indicated that as many as twenty-five additional parking spaces might be created there, just by moving things around. An additional \$10,000 is ear-marked for a feasibility study for a decked parking structure.

Merchants and commercial landlords will probably be asked to pay much of the price of a parking deck or other substantial additions to the parking supply. Relatively new Ohio law allows city governments to create a special sort of assessment district, under which additions to real estate taxes would be used to finance new parking.

City Planning Department staff members are now gathering data that's necessary to a clear understanding of just how much money might be raised in this way. --Ed.

Home energy program gets a year's funds

The Heights Conservation Program (HCP) will be able to operate for another year. It has received a grant of \$11,394 from the Community Energy Outreach Program of the Ohio Energy Action Corporation.

HCP provides energy conservation workshops, home energy audits, bargain-rate loans for energy-related home improvements, and some grants of up to \$500 to clients of the Home Energy Assistance Plan (HEAP) and the Percentage of Income Program (PIP).

HCP is a joint effort of the Heights Community Congress and the Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
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DATED MATERIAL--PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY APRIL 10

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. General Meeting. Tuesday April 14. 7:30 PM. at Coventry Village Library. Everyone is welcome.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Trustees meeting. Thursday May 7. 8:00 PM. at 1641 Hillcrest Road. The meeting is open to all dues-paid members of CNI.

JOIN Coventry Neighbors, Inc., **NQH**. You must be a member to vote on the issues decided at our meetings. Join now. All memberships and subscriptions expire at the end of each year.

Please indicate the class of membership you want:

___ Individual (\$7.00) ___ Family (\$10.00) ___ Senior (\$3.00)
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