



Coventry Village News

January, 1987

The Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Volume 11, No. 1

CNI will meet January 13 at Coventry Village Library

Our meetings are held, usually, on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM, in the meeting room of Coventry Village Library. We hope to see you on the thirteenth.

Last month, CNI resolved to write to the Postmaster, complaining of slow delivery of the CVN, especially in the 44106 Zip code. Last month, several Hampshire Road residents--in 44106--never got this newsletter at all. Consistently, service there has been slow; the delivery of the CVN has often taken as long as two weeks. In other Zip code areas, the CVN arrives much sooner.

Last month's meeting also produced a resolution asking Jaguar Cleveland and the City of Cleveland Heights to share with us, as soon as possible, the developing plans for an expansion of the auto dealership. Recent discussions involve the sale of a portion of Cumberland Park to Jaguar Cleveland for the expansion.

Finally, CNI resolved to oppose the application Irv Gulko has made for a liquor license.

Pay CNI dues now

Unless you've paid your annual dues to CNI in the past month or so, your membership ran out when the new year began. Subscriptions to this newsletter also expired then.

Leaders of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., are talking seriously about a dues increase beginning next month. If you pay your 1987 dues today, you can be a 1987 member of CNI for the 1986 price.

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

Irv Gulko seeks a liquor license; City, CNI object

Irv Gulko, proprietor of Irv's Delicatessen, 1789 Coventry Road, has applied for a liquor license. Coventry Neighbors, Inc., has resolved to fight the issuance of that license with all the resources at its disposal.

Other civic organizations are expected to join the effort to prevent the issuance of that liquor license. The local option vote which closed Irv's bar in 1982 had the support of Coventry Merchants Association, Coventry Elementary School PTA, Coventry Merchants Association, and was endorsed by the *Sun Press*.

A formal objection to the issuance of the license has been filed with the State of Ohio by the City of Cleveland Heights. That objection will lead to a series of administrative hearings, first before a Cuyahoga County arm of the state agency that regulates liquor matters. Any decision at that level is sure to be appealed by the loser to the state level, in Columbus. Appeal from there is to the court system.

Errors in maps distributed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections led to the present situation.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections has distributed two versions of a map bearing the notation "REV FEB 1985 MAP REVISION JAN, 1983." One version of that map shows a line between two voting precincts coming right down the middle of Hampshire Road, to the center-line of Coventry Road. In a later version of that map, bearing the same revision dates, that line down the middle of Hampshire Road takes a new twist, to include Irv's and the neighboring building which houses Heights Hardware. The Board of Elections was distributing both versions of the map as recently as December, 1986.

It is on the later version of this map that Mr. Gulko bases his claim that he now

Continued on page 4

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Editor:
Larry Beam

Editorial Board:
Larry Beam, Charles Owen,
Jeff Solomon-Hess,
Marilyn Pryor, Bruce Hennes
and Julie Washington.

Editorial staff:
Bruce Hennes and F. David Gill

Production Staff:
Manasses Polaski, Joe Bunda, F. David
Gill, Bruce Hennes, J. Lawn, Betty
Sennenhof and the staff of the Heights
Community Congress.

All opinions and statements are strictly those of the respective writers, except where clearly identified as positions of **CNI**, **CVN**, or **HCC**.

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Phone: 371-6095

Coventry Village . . .
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Give to the Hunger Center

With the Holidays now behind us, don't forget that hunger continues in our city.

Two Coventry Village businesses, **Mac's Backs Paperbacks** (1785 Coventry Road) and **Metropolitan Savings** (1865 Coventry Road), accept donations. They are then passed along to the Hunger Center at Euclid Avenue Christian Church for distribution to the needy.

Gifts of money (checks preferred) may be sent directly to the Hunger Center care of Euclid Avenue Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

Volunteers are needed to help the Hunger Center do its work.

Call 381-0707 for further information.

HCC offers book on community heritage

In conjunction with the tenth anniversary Heights Heritage Tour, the Heights Community Congress has published *In Our Day*. The book contains all the material from *Heritage on the Heights* and *In My Day*, books published by the HCC in 1977 and 1978, plus new text and photographs.

This 96-page, soft-bound book measures 8.5 by 11 inches. It makes a wonderful coffee-table piece, and is packed with fascinating lore about the history of our community.

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

Funds still available to keep homes warm

Local programs still have money available to help with the costs of insulating one's home against winter's cold.

For further information, call the City's Housing Preservation Office at 291-4896, or the Heights Community Congress at 321-6775.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Coventry Village has been getting exposure in the international fine arts community through the efforts of photographer Herbert Ascherman, Jr.

About a year ago, in the 1986 edition of the industry bible *Musical America*, Ascherman ran a series of advertisements featuring photos from his *Fanfare--Portraits of the Cleveland Orchestra*. Coventry Village was identified as the location of his studio.

In the recently-released 1987 edition of *Musical America*, Coventry Village is again identified beneath a full-page, four-color advertisement featuring Mstislav Rostropovich, the musical director of the National Symphony Orchestra. Ascherman was also responsible for two other pages of photos, and the cover photo.

Coventry Village has also appeared under Ascherman photos in such local and state-wide publications as *The Gambit*, *Nova*, and the *Ohio Orchestra Organization* newsletters. --Lee Batdorff,

Words & Pictures Productions,
Coventry Village

Letters welcome

The Editor of this newsletters likes to get letters from readers. Letters to the Editor make it possible for the *CVN* to contain a far wider collection of points-of-view than would otherwise be possible. We don't promise to publish all letters, but in the past two years we've published every letter we received. The rules are simple: keep it clean, short, and clear. We can't use, in the next month's *CVN*, anything received after mid month. Our address is 2776 Hampshire Road, #1-B, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

Library Goings-on

Adult programs:

"Skid into the Library Habit!"

Everyone is welcome for coffee and browsing on the first Thursday of each month, at 7:15 PM. We hope to see you on January 8.

Poetry readings are held on the first Sunday of each month. Luigi and Charlotte Pressler will be featured on January 4.

Children's programs:

"Reach for the Sky," January 12 to February 28, is a program in which children must read and report on six books. Children who complete the program will be invited to a recognition program on Saturday March 7.

Development round-up: some unfinished stories

Rib Works, the new restaurant promised for the lower level of Coventryard, appears to be moving, ever so slowly, toward completion. Equipment has been installed in the kitchen, and the bar and dining room are taking shape.

In the early fall, opening by Thanksgiving was promised, as it had been a year earlier. A spokesman for the project, contacted by the *CVN* in November, refused to predict an opening date. He said that he no longer wished to speak for the project, and refused to identify anyone who could speak for the Rib Works.

Just down the street, where Faces restaurant was located (1860 Coventry Road), a substantial demolition work was recently completed. That work will make room for Hunan in Coventryard to expand in a new location. Hunan is now located in a much smaller space in the courtyard behind Coventryard. The present Hunan location will eventually become a Thai restaurant, under essentially the same management as Hunan.

At 1824 Coventry Road, the former home of Coventry Books, a new restaurant was proposed in the spring by Alton Doody, proprietor of Bistrot des Artistes (1825 Coventry Road). Approval for the project was gained from the City's Board of Zoning Appeals. Work on the project was first delayed until a local option vote could be conducted to allow the sales of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises there. The necessary local option questions were approved by the voters in November, but the future of liquor sales in that precinct is now clouded by the possibility that the local option election might be ruled invalid on account of errors in maps distributed by the Board of Elections. (See the story about Irv's liquor license, beginning on page 1.)

Work will begin in the next few weeks on the Motorcars Honda facility planned for the former location of Cleveland Heights City Hall, at 2953 Mayfield Road. The start of work was slowed because of delays in the completion of the Motorcars Acura dealership in Bedford. --LB

Join
Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
today!

Irv's . . . from page 1

has a right to a liquor license. Authorities of the Board of Elections support Gulko's contention. They say that a list of addresses, known as "fly sheets," actually identifies the precinct of any location. They say that the maps they distribute and show to visitors are meaningless. These maps bear no disclaimer, nor does a booklet called "Instructions to Local Option Petitioners," signed by State Attorney General Sherod Brown, and distributed by the Election Board, contain any indication that the maps can't be trusted.

It was on the authority of that original map that Larry Beam, acting entirely as a private citizen, took out petitions which ultimately resulted in the "wetting" of the precinct in which Irv's is located. Voters in the precinct, basing their decision on the maps distributed by the Board of Elections, voted last November to allow liquor sales, for on premise consumption, in the precinct.

The point of the local option move was to facilitate the issuance of a liquor license to a new restaurant proposed by Alton Doody, proprietor of the Bistrot des Artistes. Mr. Doody's new venture is proposed for the former location of Coventry Books, at 1824 Coventry Road, directly across Coventry from the Bistrot.

The discrepancy between map and address lists apparently goes back at least a decade, and results from a genuine human mistake; no foul play appears to be involved. The precincts in question were modified after Musicians Towers, the neighborhood's largest building, was completed. The Board of Elections sought to reduce the number of voters in the precinct containing Musicians Towers. So it moved the line between precincts from the back lot line of properties on Hampshire and Mayfield to the middle of Hampshire Road.

The worker whose job it was to construct lists of addresses corresponding to the maps looked in the then-current Criss-Cross directory. There the intersection of Hampshire Road with Coventry is listed--but the addresses are for the "upper" Hampshire--the part of the street east of Coventry. That Criss-Cross directory lists no addresses for the intersection of "lower" Hampshire with Coventry Road, the west side of the street, Irv's side. That worker was apparently unaware of the jog that Hampshire takes at Coventry. Thus, the list of addresses for the precinct shown on the map to include only the side of Hampshire away from Irv's, came to include Irv's address.

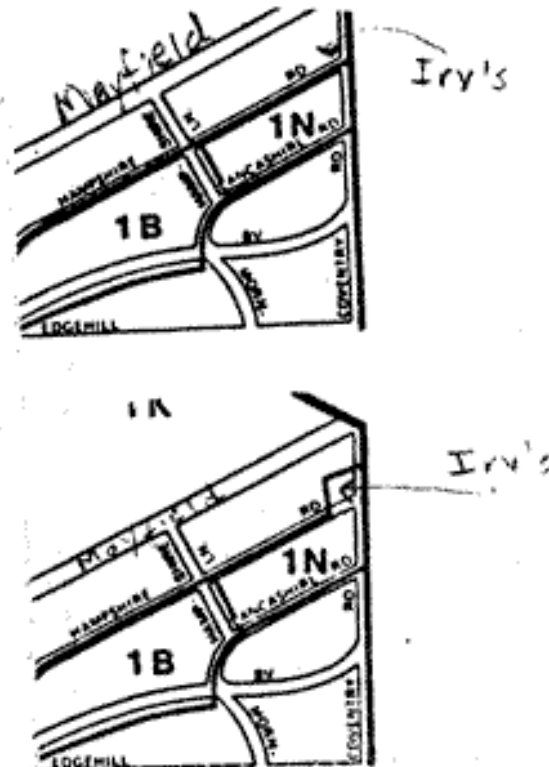
Despite the history that got us to the

present situation, Gulko may actually get his license. Gulko will be well and competently represented in the coming hearings. His attorney will be none less than Russel Baron, the former President of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education, and one of the most respected lawyers in this community.

In a seventeen-month period before voters took away Irv's liquor license in 1982, there were 140 police calls to the location, and thirty-three arrests there. Among the police calls were seventy disturbances or reports of disturbances, eleven thefts, ten fights or reports of fights, five assaults, one shooting, one attempted abduction, and one drug overdose.

In supporting the drying-up of Irv's, CNI sought an end to the fights, the 2 AM loudmouths, the boozers, the knives, the harassment of women, and the truculent sore-heads looking for someone to push around. The drying-up relieved these problems substantially, but not completely.

Gulko is now trying to sell his establishment. If he finds a responsible buyer, objections to the license issuance would probably be withdrawn. --Bruce M. Hennes



Top : a portion of the voting precinct map distributed by the Board of Elections as recently as early December, 1986. **Bottom** : the map which the Board of Elections now says is correct.

Around Coventry . . .

Bike shop . . . One Coventry merchant rented the space in front of his shop each Street Fair, and made the space available to local folk who couldn't afford the usual cost of booth space. Each Christmas, he held a party to which he invited everyone, but especially the street people and the homeless for whom the holiday season was often especially difficult.

That merchant was Marvin Rosenberg, who ran a bicycle shop once called Pee Wee's, and, more recently, Coventry Cycle. He recently sent us this note:

"After 17 years as a merchant on Coventry Road, time has come for me to leave. But can anyone really leave? I don't think I can. Physically, yes--but my, oh my, such wonderful memories! They will be with me forever.

"Taking over my Coventry Bike Shop, (1791 Coventry Road) will be a young man named Andy Stewart. Andy has twelve years bicycle experience, and is very excited about becoming a Coventry merchant. He will call the shop Bike 1.

"I will continue to operate my new shop, High Tech Cycles, at 1904 Lee Road.

"The new arrangement will allow me to spend more time with my wife Celia and our three-and-a-half year old son, Michael.

"I am now 61 years old. I would like to meet and talk with other first-time fathers who began families so late in life."

Antiques . . . One of Coventry's most attractive shops, Antique World (1771 Coventry Road), will close as soon as proprietors Maurice and Marianne Schwartz are able to sell their present inventory. Their antique shop is always neat and orderly. Its window displays are among the most attractive here.

Maurice and Marianne plan to spend some time traveling, and then return to the Cleveland area. They plan to retire from the antique retailing business, but they'll continue repairing stained and beveled glass. Their shop has been on Coventry for more than eleven years.

Folks interested in a neat and clean Coventry Road will especially miss Maurice. Each morning, Maurice sweeps the sidewalk, curb, and gutter in front of his shop--and in front of several shops on either side of it. He collects the trash on a dust pan, and disposes of it. (Most merchants who sweep at all just push the refuse in to the street.)

With half a dozen more merchants like

Maurice, Coventry Village would solve its litter problem--without need for a merchants group clean-up program.

Yuppie . . . In October, when a *Plain Dealer* headline suggested that it was yuppies who sought to end Coventry's annual Street Fair tradition, we began asking folks if they thought of themselves as yuppies. We found only one person who'd accept the term when applied to himself; this man spends a great deal of time working on civic matters. Several others said they'd like to be yuppies, but didn't feel that they qualified.

Many with whom we spoke angrily rejected the term. These folks feel that the term has a strong sense of selfishness, of self-centeredness. We noted a strong correlation between the degree to which people seemed to fit the yuppie model, and the force and anger with which they reject the term.

For instance, we spoke with one man who trades his car in each year for a new one, always elegant and chic. He's in his 30's, and lives in a elegant Cleveland Heights home. He vacations in the Carribean in the winter, and in Europe each summer.

Yet this man rejects the term applied to himself--with anger, as if it were some sort of vile insult, or maybe an accusation of perversion.

A friend, who has few of the trappings of the wealth, works as a legal secretary in a large downtown firm. She, too, rejects the term yuppie, because she thinks it's an inaccurate description of herself. A yuppie, though, is what she aspires to be if ever she gets more income, and generally better circumstances. --Ed.

In Memorium
Tony Wagner
1958 - 1986

Bistrot des Artistes teas for seniors continue

All senior citizens, whether they live in Coventry or elsewhere, are invited to the Bistrot des Artistes, 1825 Coventry Road, for complimentary tea on the first Wednesday of each month.

The next tea is on January 7. Coffee, tea, and pastries will be served. The event is free.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
c/o The Heights Community Congress
2163 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights OH 44118

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ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. General Meeting, Tuesday January 13, 7:30 PM, at Coventry Village Library. Everyone is welcome.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Trustees meeting, February 5, 8:00 PM at 2745 Hampshire Road. The meeting is open to all dues-paid members of CNI.

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

Please indicate the class of membership you want:

___ Individual (\$5.00) ___ Family (\$7.00) ___ Senior (\$3.00)

___ Just a Subscription to the Coventry Village News (\$5.00)

I would like to make an additional tax-free donation of \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Are you now receiving the CVN by mail? _____

Please return this form with your check to

Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
2163 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118