



# Coventry Village News

July, 1987

The Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Volume 11 No.7

## *CNI meetings set for July 14 and August 11*

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) will hold its monthly meetings as usual this summer on Tuesday, July 14, and Tuesday, August 11. Both meetings will be held, as most CNI meetings are, at the Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road at Euclid Heights Boulevard. Everyone is welcome.

In order to provide its Editor with some time off, this newsletter will not be published in August. Its publication will resume in September.

At the June 9 meeting of CNI, an additional \$1,000 was allocated to the events planned for this summer. That brings to

## *The CVN won't be published in August*

\$2,000 the total allocation of organizational funds to the Events Committee.

CNI resolved to again communicate to the Ohio liquor authorities the organization's support for the Turkey Ridge Tavern. The Turkey Ridge is appealing a decision of the Ohio Department of Liquor Control that its license not be renewed.

## *Coventry Village Tours on July 11 and August 8*

Two more tours in the series of six offered by Coventry Neighbors this summer will be held on July 11 and August 8.

The July 11 tour will visit the area known as the Mayfield Heights Development, east of Coventry Road and north of Euclid Heights Boulevard. The area includes the oldest house in Cleveland Heights, and a wide variety of architecture. The tour will be led by architectural historian Ken Goldberg. Participants will meet at the Coventry Village Library at 2:00 PM. Tickets cost \$3.00. Join us. We'll be back at 4:00 for refreshments.

On August 8, 2:00 to 4:00, join us for a trolley tour of beautiful and historic Lakeview Cemetery. The CNI-sponsored walking tour of Lakeview was a hit on June 13, but that much walking is excessive for many people. Tickets for the trolley tour are \$6.00.

Call 932-4647 or 321-1268 for more information.

## *Arts Festival is set for Sunday, August 2*

Local artists will display and sell their work in Coventry Village on Sunday, August 2, from noon to 6:00 PM. The event will be held in the parking lot across from Turkey Ridge Tavern, just south of Pick-n-Pay.

## *Sounds of Coventry: tasteful family fun*

Sounds of Coventry, a series of seven musical performances held on Sunday, June 28, drew only a small crowd, but the 1,000 or so people who wandered through the event were pleased.

Coventry Village Library and the Music School Settlement produced programs for children, and many families were attracted to the event.

Costs of the event were paid, in part, by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

Mary Raynor and David O'Konski managed the event. Allison Kaslow booked the bands. Thanks is also due to numerous individuals and businesses who made contributions of time, goods, and services. Among these were: Spencer Caress, Julie Alandt, and Susanna Niermann, and other administrative staff members for the City of Cleveland Heights; The Bistrot des Artistes; Mayfield Music; Coventry Village Library; Coventry Elementary School; and the Coventry School PTA.

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

## ***Bikes, skateboards are not allowed here***

Neither bikes nor skateboards may be ridden on the sidewalks of the Coventry Village Commercial district.

The regulation is intended to promote the safety of all pedestrians on our busy street. The law will be enforced.

## **Join Coventry Neighbors today**

*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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Larry Beam

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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 be withheld from publication at the writer's request.

Phone: 371-6095.

**Coventry Village . . .  
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## ***Library goings-on***

When you go on vacation this summer, take along a stack of those books you've been wanting to read. The Library will gladly extend the period on most books if you are going to be away for more than three weeks. Make it a point to relax and read this summer.

There is still time for children to join the Summer Safari Reading Club. Library staff will be glad to help children start on a summer reading.

There is still plenty of time to register your child for Make-It-Yourself, a program to be held on Wednesday, August 5, at 2:30 PM.

Exploring Your Emotions is a program for the whole family. It has two parts: Exploring Your Emotions Through Art, with Buff Josza, will be held on July 23, at 7:00 PM; and Exploring Your Emotions Through Stories, with Becky Hill, will be held on July 30, at 7:00 PM. This program will have sign-language interpretation for the deaf.

Poetry readings are held on the first Sunday of each month, at 2:30 PM. Readers on August 2 will be Henry Green and Christopher Franke.

An American Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit the Main Branch of the Library, 2345 Lee Road, on August 10. It's there on the second Monday of alternate months--February, April, June, August, October, and December.

New fiction at the Library includes: *The Choice*, H. Denker; *Close Quarters*, W. Golding; *The Curious Case of Sidd Finch*, G. Plimpton; *Empire*, G. Vidal; *Heiress*, J. Dailey; *In Every Woman's Life*, A. Shulman; *The League of Night and Fog*, D. Morrell; *More Die of Heartbreak*, S. Bellow; *Moscow Metal*, R. Boyer; *The Rat*, G. Grass; *Satisfaction*, R. Lawrence; *Sphere*, M. Crichton; *Stolen Goods*, S. Dworken; *The Velvet Jungle*, J. Ellis.

## ***Hours of curfew will be enforced***

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, and other legitimate business.

## *Honor Roll of contributors*

The first attempt by Coventry Neighbors to raise money through contributions has so far raised about \$4500. In addition, we were granted \$1,200 by the Ohio Arts Council. With no Street Fair to generate income for the organization, and with expenses substantially increased this year, an appeal to supporters was the only way we could raise the funds necessary to maintaining Coventry Neighbors as strong and effective advocate of the Coventry neighborhood and Cleveland Heights.

Without the generosity of our supporters, Coventry Neighbors could never have hoped to produce the tours, concerts, and arts show of this summer.

More important is what these gifts mean to our emotions, to our motivation, and to our will and ability to lead. Your help and kind words keep us going, willing to continue the fight for an improved Coventry neighborhood and a sound, stable Cleveland Heights community.

If you have not yet contributed, please do so soon. Contributions may be sent to Coventry Neighbors, Inc., c/o Jeff Solomon-Hess, Treasurer; 2744 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Apt. #1; Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106. It's tax-deductible.

We'll publish a list of additional contributors in the next *Coventry Village News*, to be dated September.

--Larry Beam and Bruce M. Hennes

### **Angel**

Marcia Nolan

### **Benefactors**

Chip Bromley  
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### **Friends**

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### **Sponsors**

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John Lawn

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**Support your  
neighborhood.  
Give to CNI**

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## Save our brick streets

by Bert Stratton

Middlehurst and Radnor Roads may not be red brick much longer. The City is studying the feasibility of covering those streets with asphalt next summer.

Isn't that stupid? Doesn't that run totally against the grain of every aesthetic consideration--ambience, quaintness, historical character--that Coventry Village and Cleveland Heights tout in their ads, promotions, and activities?

Cleveland Heights Service Director, Domonic Tomaro, told us that he is "open-minded" about the feasibility study, and would like to keep the streets brick if he can afford to. He also said he would like to hold a neighborhood meeting this fall to talk over his findings. He said he was "pessimistic" about the matter.

Bag the feasibility study. The 89-year-old bricks are sacrosanct. This is a Mom-and-apple-pie matter. Coventry Village is one of the few areas in suburban Cleveland with real character. Character is priceless. It takes 89 years to build, and a day to destroy. Middlehurst and Radnor Roads are part of the original Mayfield Heights Development, begun in 1898. This is the heart of historical Cleveland Heights. Mayor Frank Cain lived on Radnor.

The Service Director said that there are problems with sewers and curbs on Middlehurst and Radnor. But if he puts a coating of asphalt over the brick, what will be gained? We all know that the red bricks aren't going to be removed. Furthermore, I've lived on Radnor seven years, and have never heard anybody mention sewer or curb problems. I have heard many people say that they like the red bricks a lot.

Don't put black "icing" on our red bricks. Bury the idea of this so-called improvement. The City and its Coventry residents don't need this senseless aggravation. There will be serious bickering and gobs of negative publicity if this goes further. At worst, people will be lying down in front of asphalt trucks. No kidding. The *Plain Dealer* will use terms like *elitist snobs* and *hippie crazies* in its photo captions, and we'll all look like fools.

Red bricks have done great for 89 years, and likely will still be here when we're all dead. Let 'em lie. Why fix something that doesn't need fixing when there are clearly other ways the City can spend its resources?

If you are annoyed by the threat of

asphalt covering brick pavement, I recommend your calling or writing to Council President Alan Rapoport of Hampshire Road, Councilman Richard Weigand of Euclid Heights Boulevard, or the Service Director, Dominic Tomaro.

## More changes for apartment program

The Apartment Improvement Program (AIP) has a new name: it's now the Apartment Renovation Rebate Program (ARRP).

The program is a city-wide effort of the Community Development Block Grant program. It is of special importance to Coventry Village because most of the apartment buildings in Cleveland Heights are here. After years of offering a weak and ineffectual set of incentives, the ARRP was recently given a new, much-strengthened program. It now offers rebates of as much as \$2,500 per suite, plus \$1,000 for architectural design services. A match of private spending at least equal to the governmental subsidy is required, and only improvements that are visible from the building's exterior are eligible.

Several owners of apartment buildings, who until recently were members of the board that guides the ARRP, have resigned. Their resignations follow recommendations by the City's administrative staff and the Citizens Advisory Committee that landlord participation might constitute conflict of interest if a landlord were, at some future date, to seek rebate assistance. Landlords may continue their participation in the ARRP as advisory, non-voting members.

Owners of several Coventry-area buildings are now seeking financial assistance through this program. Work on three buildings owned by Louis Zipkin may be assisted by the program. These are located at 2764 and 2768 Lancashire, and at 2713 Hampshire. The building at 2764 Hampshire stood vacant for about five years after it was gutted by a set fire. Other area buildings which may be improved through the program are: 2441 Overlook, owned by Ed Silver; 2460 Overlook, owned by Jeff Glass; and 2469-73 Overlook, owned by Larry Davis.

Further information is available from Jay Gardner, who administers the program from the Planning Department at Cleveland Heights City Hall. Gardner can be reached at 291-4818.

--LB

Join CNI today!



## Around Coventry . . .

**Saloon blues** . . . The Saloon (1765 Coventry Road) closed for six days, and is now open again.

The closing, on June 27, came after a long struggle by proprietor Phil Imperi to turn the place into a profit-maker. The hours during which food was offered were extended last fall. Imperi, who by day practices dentistry in a Coventry Road office, brought in some of the finest blues bands to be found: Robert Jr. Lockwood, a Cleveland of national reputation, Hollywood Slim, Aces and Eights, and others.

The bands made the Saloon a lively musical venue, but they didn't do quite enough for its financial fortunes.

The Saloon has been on the market for about a year. The closing followed the collapse of a deal which would have transferred the business to a new owner. Dr. Imperi, who had planned to sell the place for parts after closing it, says now that he believes he'll be better able to sell an open, operating business. Dr. Imperi says that the business is available for a "fire sale price."

There will be no bands, and the hours of its operation will be reduced, at least through mid-July.

**Grand opening** . . . The Rib Works, in the lower level of Coventry Yard, held a grand opening on Friday, June 12. It first opened about three months ago, without fanfare.

The event marked a fresh start for the business under its third management. The new managers, Lou Krivda and Christene Zaj, seem already to have brought life to an enterprise that was having a terribly hard time getting started. The bar, quite without patronage until recently, is now lively. The menu and food have improved in interest and quality.

Live jazz is offered on Friday and Saturday nights, 9:00 to 1:00, and there is acoustical music on Wednesday nights from 9:00 to 11:00. Musical groups scheduled to perform there in July include the Kenny Davis Quartet, the Gerri Brown Quartet, the Chuck Braman Trio, and the Ernie Krivda Quartet. Free hors d'oeuvres are offered while the bands are playing.

A failure of CEI equipment ended the June 12 opening sooner than intended. The lights went out at about 9:30 PM. But the Rib Works--and other businesses in Coventry Yard--remained open for another hour or so, until City fire officials, having learned that power could not be restored for several hours at least, ordered the public out of the building.

For that hour, the place was lighted by battery-powered emergency lights, and lots of candles. Coventry Yard and the businesses it contains never looked better than during that hour. The interior lights there are far too bright and glaring. Something should be done to soften the lighting in all the public parts of Coventry Yard.

**Irv's** . . . Irv Gulko, proprietor of Irv's Delicatessen, 1798 Coventry Road, will not get a liquor license.

Gulko applied for one early this year. The City of Cleveland Heights, with the encouragement and support of Coventry Neighbors and Coventry Merchants Association, immediately objected to that license application through the Ohio Department of Liquor Control. The Department rejected Gulko's application late April. A month later, a deadline for appeal from the Department's decision passed without an appeal from Gulko.

Meanwhile, the problems Gulko has had managing his business--the same problems that led the City, merchants, and neighbors to protest his request for a liquor license--continued. On May 14, accumulations of grease on surfaces in the kitchen caught fire. Fire officials ordered the kitchen closed for several days, until the place could be brought into compliance with fire safety laws. Damage was estimated at \$1,000. It was the second such fire in a year, the eleventh since 1962. One of those fires destroyed the building, which was rebuilt.

After this most recent fire, fed-up City officials ticketed Gulko, charging him with allowing hazardous conditions likely to cause or spread a fire. On June 10, Gulko was fined \$325 plus court costs.

**A new garage** . . . Alex Shiller, who for a decade operated a Mobil gas station at 2925 Mayfield Road, has opened Quick-Fit Muffler & Brakes in a new building at the same location where his gas station once stood, on the north-east corner of Mayfield and Hillcrest Roads.

Doug Wist, who until recently operated Doug's Garage at 2100 Lee Road, is working with Shiller to provide a full range of auto repairs. --Ed

### **HCC wants its pledges**

If you made a pledge of financial support to the Heights Community Congress (HCC) during its recent Phone-A-Thon fund raising effort, but haven't yet sent that pledge in, you can avoid a follow-up by mailing the pledge today to the HCC, 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

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

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DATED MATERIAL--PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY JULY 10

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. General Meetings. Tuesdays July 14 and August 11, both 7:30 PM, at Coventry Village Library. Everyone is welcome.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Trustees meetings, Thursdays August 6 and September 3, 8:00 PM, at 1641 Hillcrest 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 expire at the end of each year.

Please indicate the class of membership you want:

\_\_\_ Individual (\$3.50) \_\_\_ Family (\$5.00) \_\_\_ Senior (\$1.50)  
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