Interview: ALAN RAPOPORT, COUNCILMEMBER-ELECT

Attorney Alan Rapoport, past president of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., and former editor of the Coventry Village News, was elected to Cleveland Heights City Council on November 6. Conceding after a small struggle that he had graduated from a conveyor of news to a subject of same, Mr. Rapoport granted an interview to a CVN reporter and responded to three major questions put to him.

CVN: What committees of Council do you hope to serve on, and why?
AR: I have requested to serve on the Public Safety and Health Committee, and would like to be chairman of that committee. As to why, this is the committee that deals with the City's inspissional services, which is an area of interest to me. I have also asked to serve on the Planning and Development and the Municipal Services committees. I am concerned about the planning process and about the way decisions are made in that area; and after managing three successive Coventry Street Fairs I have developed a kind of a thing about solid waste disposal.

CVN: As a Councilmember, will you be able to help the Coventry Library more?
AR: I think the Library is an appropriate use for Community Development (CD) funds. There's a question over whether it would be the most appropriate use. But the (present) Council took quite an absolutist negative position against putting any CD money into a community room for a library located in Coventry Yard. But that and lots of things would be eligible (for CD money under Federal Regulations).

The Library is important to the area. It's important to the whole system, because when one branch starts to slide the other branches can go, too.

CVN: How do you feel about financing the City?
AR: I'm all in favor of it. The City should get lots of money, provided it doesn't take too much of anybody else's. Seriously, Jack (Boyle, Councilmember and Finance Chairman, re-elected November 6) has put a lot more rationality into the budget process. Bill Downing, one of the (staff finance) people Rich (Robinson, City Manager) brought in, is very good. (Continued on Page 2)

NEW DUES STRUCTURE FOR COVENTRY NEIGHBORS

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. has acknowledged the cruel fact of inflation. Dues to become a voting member of CNI for the year 1980 will be $5.00. For senior citizens, a special rate of $3.00 applies, and we have a new family rate of $7.00 per family. Your dues are tax deductible, and give you voting status in one of the most vital neighborhood associations in many a mile. Dues may be paid at the December meeting, or sent by mail using the tear slip on the opposite side of this notice to Coventry Neighbors Inc., 3 Charles Owen, 2745 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights 44106. Please make checks payable to Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
HOLIDAY DINNER

Reservations are now being accepted for the fourth annual "Holiday Dinner" to be held on December 25, 2:30 P.M. at St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church, 2175 Coventry Road. This meal is getting to be a tradition in Cleveland Heights. Last year over eighty CH residents attended and plans are being made for even more this year. A fine meal of turkey and all the trimmings, plus favors and special entertainment are being planned. Cost will be $2.00 per plate. For reservations phone 371-8280, deadline is December 20.

This event is sponsored for adult residents of Cleveland Heights by the Cleveland Heights Interfaith Council and the Office on Aging, City of Cleveland Heights.

RAPOPORT Interview (Continued from Page 1)

In my 1977 literature (for Mr. Rapoport's first, unsuccessful try for a Council seat) I put in something about zero-base budgeting. I dropped it from my 1979 piece because, in those two short years, the City has actually adopted something very much like zero-base budgeting.

People expect wonders of economy from government when the government is up against the same problems that make the individual's budget difficult. But I'm not advocating any wild spending!

CVN: Thank you, Mr. Rapoport!

--Dave Burwasser

HELP WANTED: SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS (part time: 20-25 hrs. weekly). REQUIREMENTS: ability to develop & maintain effective control relationships with children. Dependable & punctual. RESPONSIBILITIES: Controls flow of traffic for safety of children. Controls movement of children at designated locations prior to school, during lunch, and after school. APPLY AT: City of Cleveland Heights, Personnel Office, 2953 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/H

Enclosed please find my check for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual membership(s)</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior membership(s)</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family membership</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name(s) ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Phone ____________________________

Are you now getting the COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS by mail? __________
LIBRARY UPDATE

BOARD MAY BUY BACK BUILDING

At its November 19 meeting the Library Board authorized the Building and Grounds Committee to begin negotiations to buy back the Fairmount Center building. Purchase will be conditional on 1) paring the renovation estimates to the range $150,000 – $200,000; 2) availability of block grant money from the city of Cleveland Heights to help finance renovation of the landmark building; 3) purchase price of the building being within a possible range (around $100,000); 4) availability of tenants to share building space and maintenance costs; 5) provision of zoning and parking permits for the Library and its tenants.

RENOVATION SUGGESTIONS

Prior to the vote, Arlyn C. Neiswander, architect, presented tentative ideas for renovation and estimated costs thereof. Renovation possibilities include: the Library’s use of the two large rooms presently occupied by the Dance Center and by Theater of the Deaf, amounting to 4,790 sq. ft.; space currently used by Coventry Library would be available for lease, as would space downstairs; an additional entrance on the Washington Blvd. side of the building, into the basement level where lobby space and an elevator might be located; installation of two enlarged lavatories on the basement level (these and the elevator being necessary to accommodate the handicapped) and a small lavatory on the second floor; an additional exit and small vestibule at the rear of the building; an interior courtyard or atrium made by skylighting the space already open to the air at the center of the building where there is currently a small courtyard.

Estimated cost: $356,200, excluding purchase price of the building, architect’s fees, furnishings or additional books (projected collection of 20,000). Without air conditioning: $231,200; without A/C or atrium, $215,600; without A/C, atrium or selective re-wiring, $197,650. (Numbers taken in notes from a rapid and complex oral presentation; the Library Board does not release working papers.) Maintenance costs are estimated at $47,000/year; income from tenants, $20,000/yr.

Funds Available

The Building and Repair Fund currently amounts to $227,599. The Library has just received $115,772 of intangibles tax revenue and the Board has not yet decided what to do with it. In previous years this revenue was put in the B&R Fund, when the Board was accumulating funds for the addition to Main. If this were done, the B&R Fund would total $343,371. Not all of this can be spent on Coventry Library, of course, as the other branches have maintenance and repair needs too. Next Board meeting! December 17.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY DONATIONS

The Friends of the Library have put aside $2,500 as a gift to the new Coventry Library. They have also purchased for the Library system a one-year subscription (costing $5,900) to Magazine Index, a computerized indexing service on 16mm microfilm. The Friends welcome anyone interested in joining them – yearly dues being $3.00. They also could use help in sorting the used books brought in by interested citizens for the Friends' book-sale, through which they raise the money to finance the above mentioned donations. Ann Cook, president of the Friends, can be reached at 381-9003.

--June Wortman
COVENTRY UPDATE: SILENCE

The bones of Coventry stand as a silent reminder that there once was a building in this location. Nothing has happened for over a month, and after an initial surge of activity the reconstruction project has come to a seeming halt.

The Coventry Village News reported last issue that structural steel was on order and due to arrive in mid-November. As of press date this issue, no steel has arrived.

City officials state that the reconstruction project's building permit was issued on July 6. The City granted the builders an easement—a temporary, conditional property right—to use the once and future mini-park as a staging area for the project. This easement expires six months from the date of building permit, about January 6. When the easement expires, the builders may lose the right to use the mini-park, a serious obstacle to continuation of the project.

After the easement expires, the builders have until May 1 to restore the mini-park to its prior condition. A letter of credit signed by the builders assures that money to pay for this restoration will be forthcoming.

January 6, 1980 is the magic date for Coventry Yard. January 7, 1980, is the installation date of a new Council that may have to deal with Coventry Yard.

--Alan Rapoport

TOWARD A CLEANER COVENTRY

It's no secret that the Coventry commercial strip leaves a lot to be desired in the cleanliness department. It's certainly not a secret from Coventry Neighbors, Inc., nor from the folks who shop in Coventry.

Earlier in 1979, the CH Local Development Corporation surveyed Cleveland Heights shoppers about the city's commercial areas. Every one of the neighborhood shopping areas (excepting Severance) took flak for at least one major shortcoming—diversity, security, etc. Coventry, uniquely, had two: parking first (no surprise) and cleanliness second; and the complaint level for Coventry's Number Two problem was of the same order of magnitude as any other neighborhood shopping area's Number one.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., is sponsoring formation of a Coventry clean-up program. At the November 13th meeting, Kathryn Young informed the organization that there are several Scout groups in the areas whose members are seeking opportunities to earn merit badges. Scouting offers merit badges in taking care of one's urban environment; the Scouts can earn such badges by staffing a neighborhood cleanup crew. Alan Rapoport noted that Coventry Neighbors possesses street cleaning supplies aquired for the Street Fair, which supplies could be used by such a cleanup crew.

Coventry Neighbors will explore sponsorship of such a crew. As a first step, the November 13th meeting authorized use of CNI's supplies for use in a cleanup sponsored by either CNI or the Coventry PTA.
I found the following note in my mailbox the other day, from Debbie Graves, the new librarian at the Coventry Village Branch Library. This sounds like great fun for the whole family.

All of our Coventry neighbors are invited to Coventry Village Library’s Open House and Celebration of the Community, Sunday, December 9 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. "Boss Clown," also known as Lane Stewart will be performing at 1:30 and 3:00 PM courtesy of the Friends of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library. Refreshments will be provided by Coventry Library Advisory Committee. We have received some new games – Chess, Backgammon, Go and Dragons and Dungeons – which area residents will demonstrate. The library will also begin the Golden Buckeye card application service. The staff of the Coventry Village Library hope to see a lot of the Coventry Neighbors there.

Checking into the "Golden Buckeye" program I find that it is a state wide program for senior citizens. Merchants participating in the program will indicate that by displaying a "Golden Buckeye" decal on their door or window to show that they give discounts to senior citizens 65 years of age or over. Identification cards for the seniors, as indicated above will be available through the library.

With the Holiday Season on us I thought I would check with the local churches to see what they will be doing. St. Albans will have a Christmas Tea and Gift Sale sponsored by the Women's Guild on December 11 at 1:30. On Sunday the 23 the regular morning service will be "Carols & Lessons" at 10:30 AM, there will be a Family Service at 7:00 PM and a "Carol" service at 10:30 followed by Communion and a sermon on Christmas Eve, and a 10.00 AM Service on Christmas Day. At the Unitarian Society there will be a Family Service on Sunday the 23 at 11:00 AM and a Traditional Christmas Eve Midnight Service of Carols and Lights on Monday the 24th at 11:00 PM. The people at St. Ann's report that they have only regularly scheduled masses.

For Holiday theater-goers Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor" is opening December 6 at the Fairmount Theater of the Deaf. Curtain is at 8:00 on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays, 2:00 PM on Sunday and on the 23 and the 30th there will be an additional performance at 7:00 PM. You may make reservations by calling 932-2573... Robert Anderson's "Silent Night, Lonely Night"opened last week at Dobama. Described as a beautiful love story with special seasonal appeal it should not be missed. Curtains on Thursdays and Saturdays at 8:30, on Fridays at 9:00 and on Sundays at 7:30 till December 30. Call 932-6838 for reservations.

Coventry Art's holiday offering is all glass. There will be stained glass by Sonora Hadcliffe, Jane Asta Godfrey and Cherri Spear; sand blasted crystal by Rene Fuller; and, hand blown glass by Drew Smith. The show opens Sunday, December 9 with a reception from 6:00 - 9:00, where hot cider will be the special added attraction... Herb Ascherman's Gallery will feature the work of Darryl Jones who uses a technique used by less than a dozen people, although it is very old, called Carbro-Prints. The prints produced are in warm shades of brown.

On December 27 the Library will sponsor a children's film "The Point" at 2:30 PM. Free tickets will be available at the Library December 20.

Word has it that a knowledgeable Coventry resident is taking bets that Lou Zipkin will not rebuild Coventry Yard as promised... I understand that there was an original choral rendition of some special material prepared for, and performed at the Corkscrew the other night. Sorry I missed it. — Bobbie Littell
The Coventry Merchant Association is in the process of choosing an architectural/designer firm to do an architectural study of the Coventry commercial strip. Joan Jordan, Carla Kirley, and Ellen Strong from CNA and F. David Gill, VP of CNI saw preliminary presentations by fourteen firms. The three firms chosen to make a specific presentation for Coventry were Townscape (gaeddes, Vollmer, Zearney) who are presently doing an architectural study of the Taylor Road area; Collins & Rimer/Epstein/Bart, three firms which have teamed up for this project to bring a diversity of talents; and, Paul Checks, who is presently doing similar work in Atlanta and East Cleveland.

The selection process will move very quickly, and the committee hopes to have an architect/designer chosen to be approved at the next Local Development Corporation meeting. The LDC administers the funds for this project. Hopefully the study work will be able to be started in January.

Work is coming along at Irv's. Irv has mentioned a December 11 opening date. I have been stopping in from time to time to watch the work progress and it's looking great. Irv had artist Bill Smith do four huge paintings of whiskey labels for the bar walls. The Wild Turkey label can be seen from the street.

The work going on at the new Bike & Ski Shop on Coventry is now complete. It opened last week... Heights Video Center will be opening soon where Carol Lindemuth's shop used to be with a line of video cassettes and equipment.

There are some strange satin critters at High Tide/Rock Bottom. Take a look, they will delight you. Everytime I see them they remind me of moods I've been or people I know - especially the red grinny, devilish one.

Coventry Books has begun "Friends of Coventry Books," for $15.00 a year you get a monthly newsletter, "Constant Reader" that features book reviews, sale information and other book news. Having reached a cumulative total of $50.00 in purchases a "Friend" receives a 10% discount on every purchase for the rest of the year.

Don Horvat of Carroll Drugs is home recuperating from a car accident. He has been in Hillcrest Hospital for several weeks.

It's good to see the holiday decorations go up on the street. The Merchants Association put red ribbon on the poles and Coventry Brass-works has some great "snow" and Christmas balls with their window goodies.

--Joan Jordan

THE STAFF OF THE COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS WISH YOU ALL THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS -- AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR -- THE NEW DECADE.

BOBBIE & DAVE
COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS  DECEMBER, 1979  PAGE 7

COVER-TREES

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., took steps at its November 13th meeting to work with the City in expending the Coventry Neighbors Tree Fund. Conditions were placed upon disbursement of the Fund to insure a strong neighborhood voice in the plans for planting new trees.

The Tree Fund is a restricted asset of Coventry Neighbors, limited in application to the acquisition and planting of trees and ancillary beautification measures for the merchant strip of Coventry and its very close environs. The Fund is by far the largest single monetary asset of CNI.

The unanimous resolution adopted at the November meeting authorized the president of CNI, Charles Owen, to become a member of an ad hoc committee to formulate a plan for use of the Tree Fund. This committee will report back to CNI when it has prepared such a plan. It is anticipated that the committee will include at least one merchant, at least one landowner, someone from the City's planning staff, and the Cleveland Heights Forester or his designated representative. In this way, the legitimate interests of all closely affected parties will be represented. Besides being president of CNI, Mr. Owen is noted for his environmental activism in Coventry.

An Earlier report that the City would match or exceed with CD funds the CNI contribution—potentially a gift to the City in excess of $1000—has proved inoperative. The City's currently stated intention is to supply in-kind support—labor and use of equipment—and be reimbursed out of CD monies. Whatever the final form it takes, the City's contribution is expected to be of the same order of magnitude as CNI's in dollar-and-sense terms.

HEIGTS CITIZENS FOR RECYCLING

LOOK FOR A NEW NEWSLETTER BEING DISTRIBUTED FREE IN PRETTY MUCH THE SAME PLACES IN COVENTRY AS THE COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS IS FOUND. HEIGHTS CITIZENS FOR RECYCLING (HCR) IS A VOLUNTARY CLEVELAND HEIGHTS CITIZENS GROUP, CONCERNED WITH THE QUANTITY OF OUR RESOURCES THAT FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE CLASSIFICATION OF "WASTE".


HELP WANTED

Volunteers are needed for the fourth annual "Holiday Dinner," sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Interfaith Council and the Office on Aging of the City of Cleveland Heights. The dinner is on December 25, 2:30 pm at St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church, 2175 Coventry Road. This Cleveland Heights tradition is for those who want to share in holiday festivities but find they will be alone on December 25.

Volunteers are needed for transportation, meal preparation, serving and cleanup. They are asked to phone the Heights Office on Aging (371-8280) to offer their services.

THE NEXT MEETING OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC., WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 1979, AT 7:30 PM AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY, 2728 LANCASTER ROAD, RIGHT ACROSS FROM MUSICIANS TOWERS. ALL ARE WELCOME!