Two rewards offered for graffiti vandals

Anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for graffiti on buildings here can earn rewards totaling as much as $100.

Separate rewards of $50 each are offered by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) and the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC).

CNI offers its reward for any spray-paint vandalism anywhere in the Coventry elementary school district. Spray-paint vandalism on commercial buildings, apartment buildings, houses, bus stops, pavements, and public properties all qualify. CNI President Larry Bean, Police Chief Martin Lents, and and CNI Environmental Concerns Committee Chairman Charles Owen will make any decisions regarding this offer.

The LDC offers only to vandalism in commercial areas, but is offered for all business districts in Cleveland Heights.

Park plans will be shown at CNI meeting

The small park near the corner of Kenilworth and Overlook Roads will be rebuilt this spring. Some demolition work has begun there. Last year's Community Development Block Grant budget contained $49,000 for the project.

A member of the City's Parks and Recreation staff will present and discuss plans for the park at the January meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

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

Arabica closes, opens with new management

Arabica, the coffeehouse in Coventry, will begin soon to offer a wider variety of food and coffee: soup, stew, quiche, brioche, a line of sandwiches, and some Shaker-style dishes will be among the new items.

The kitchen will be remodeled to facilitate the new menu. Then, as time allows, the service area will be moved to the rear of the seating area, and additional tables will be put in what is now the separate retail shop. The retail activities will be along one wall of the large main room. In high-traffic areas of the floor, the carpet will be replaced with tile.

The variety of coffee offered will be widened, and several flavored coffees will be sold.

Chuck Diamond, David Reich, and Marvin Schwartz paid $134,000 for Arabica's three stores and warehouse facility. These men, business as Diamonds Restaurant and Cut the Mustard at Severance Center and elsewhere. They are planning several more Arabica shops around Ohio. [Continued on p. 4]
Meeting Notes

December regular meeting
CNI will offer a reward of $50 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of spray-paint vandals.
CNI will contribute $100 to the Hunger Center.
A committee headed by Jeff Solomon-Hess will meet on January 7 to discuss ways to spend money now in CNI's Restricted Fund.
The first of two necessary steps was taken to authorize Coventry Village News Editor Larry Beam to spend as much as $1,500 on improved printing equipment.
CNI took a formal position applauding the recent action of the Landmarks Commission in granting landmark status to the present City Hall building.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Captious remarks about the Fat Choy Chinese Restaurant grand opening marred an otherwise good (December 1985) CVN issue.

You describe the opening as "complete with searchlight and band. Missing were customers... We have not yet eaten there; we, and many of our friends, have been barred ever since CNI backed a local option vote which deprived the delicatessen of its liquor license..."

I think I get the point. You dislike Irv, and wish him no good.

I've been to Fat Choy's once. It's a decent place. My wife, myself, and my pre-school kids ate there. The food wasn't Hunan-in-Coventry yard quality, but then again my wife and I felt comfortable there because we didn't feel compelled to keep the kids stone-quiet, which we try to do—unsuccessfully—at fancier places.

Give Fat Choy a chance.
Bert Stratton
Coventry Village
Diplomat leaves Council

a CVN editorial

All public comments on the retirement of Bob Arnold from City Council have emphasized the man's grace, diplomacy, and ability to deal with controversy without acrimony. It is for these qualities that we, too, will most miss him.

In the eight years that he served as Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and as a Councilman, Arnold gained nearly universal trust and respect among folks of all political persuasions.

Some distrusted him when joined Council because he was a Republican and real estate agent. True to the traditions of municipal government here, his party label mattered almost not at all. By the time he decided to retire even staunch Democrats were urging him to run again for Council. His prominence in the real estate industry gave a special authority to his support of inspection programs and open housing litigation.

We hope that Council will appoint Arnold to one of the city's important boards and commissions. And we hope he will accept.

Cleveland Heights still needs Bob Arnold.

Improvement awards event on February 9

People and organizations who have contributed to the improvement of Cleveland Heights will be honored at a ceremony on February 9.

For each of the past eleven years, the Heights Community Congress and the City of Cleveland Heights have teamed up to select noteworthy physical improvements to the community, and to honor those who made them.

This year's ceremony will be held on Sunday February 9, 7:30 PM, at the Jewish Community Center, 3905 Mayfield Road.

As in past years, the event will

Bistro des Artistes opens New Year's Eve

Some unsightly scaffolding was removed on December 31 to reveal the most elegant facade renovation Coventry Village has yet seen. A building quite without architectural character has been transformed into something classic.

Inside is the most attractive and interesting new restaurant in this region.

Bistro des Artistes, 1825 Coventry Road, will bring to Coventry Village a sort of clientele not often attracted here in the past. Its long-term impact may be profound.

The effort to meet the New Year's Eve deadline required working late in to the evenings, on Saturdays, Sundays, and even Thanksgiving Day.

Delays in the start of work on the project made work on the building's facade especially difficult. With warm weather gone, scaffolding was covered with large sheets of clear plastic, and the resulting enclosure was heated. Work with stucco and other temperature-sensitive materials continued.

The extensive woodwork on the interior has been stained a rich, dark brown. In order to achieve a close match between the woodwork and the furniture, chairs and stools were purchased in unfinished condition, and then stained and waxed by a crew working in the vacant former location of Coventry Books, across the street from the restaurant.

The restaurant's windows, doors, woodwork, and bar area display a huge amount of hand craftsmanship. Mirrors and other glass behind the bar are set in lead, and many small panes of beveled glass were used throughout.

Murals by artist Christopher Nichols remain one of the Bistro's few uncompleted details. They are one of many design elements which mimic Cafe des Artistes, a highly-regarded Manhattan restaurant.

---Larry Beam
ARABICA... Continued from p. 1
They bring a leaner, more professional management style to the business.
Yet they say that they will not change the basic atmosphere of the place.
Sale of the business was forced when founder and owner Carl Jones defaulted
on a bank note. The bank refused to allow the restructuring of the debt as
long-term credit. Increasing financial problems had plagued the business for
years, and were mostly the consequence of too-rapid expansion and insufficient
capital resources. The business had received strong market support here in
Coventry Village and at the other locations.

Many of Arabica's seventy employees
(about twenty in Coventry) will be
rehired.

Jones will use some of the proceeds
of the sale to re-purchase the importing,
warehousing, and roasting operations. He
will supply coffee to the three
Arabicas, and to the new owners' other
restaurant operations.

Jones says that the change will
allow him to spend more time working on
a book called Thoughts from the 21st
Century. Jones says the book contains
essays, observations, poems and draw-
ings. Chapter titles include "Principles
of Thought," "Traditions of the East,"
and "The Capitalist Ethic." —Larry Beam

Wanted: your views
The Editor of this newsletter is
frequently approached or telephoned by
citizens to hold views and values different
from those expressed in these pages.
But rarely do these people set
their thoughts on paper for publication
here.

Letters to the Editor or other
contribution are welcome. We'll print
almost anything that isn't obscene and
won't get us in legal trouble.

Contributions should be sent to the
CVN at 2776 Hampshire Road #1-B,
Cleveland Heights OH 44106.

Key development roles
change at City Hall
Planning Director Howard Maier,
Zoning Administrator Jim Keller and
Building Commissioner George Hills have
left City Hall in the past several
months.

Maier accepted an administrative
position with the Cleveland Jewish
Federation; Keller became Outreach
Minister for First Baptist Church, and
Hills retired.

A. Calisto Caminati, formerly As-
sistant Planning Director, is now Acting
Director, filling Maier's position on at
least a temporary basis. Caminati has
met with Coventry Neighbors, Inc., on
several occasions, presenting plans for
City projects. It has been his job to
oversee, on behalf of the City Manager,
numerous important projects, including
the two new fire stations and the new
City Hall.

Joyce Braverman, who served as the
City's staff designer for about five
years, has replaced Keller as Zoning
Administrator. Braverman was responsible
for the basic design of the three new
parking lots in Coventry Village. She
will retain some hand in the City's
design work in her new post.

No replacement has yet been found
for Hills. That job requires a special
State license. Without someone holding
such a license, municipal governments
cannot issue building permits. —LB

CVN is shopping for
better printing
Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) is
working with the Heights Community Con-
gress in search of equipment to replace
the aging A. B. Dick machines on which
this newsletter has been printed for the
past ten years.

Any reader who can provide advice
and assistance in our search is invited
to call CNI at 371-6095.
AROUND COVENTRY...

KALEIDOSCOPIES... "I bought my kaleidoscopes from High Tide/Rock Bottom, 1814 Coventry Road." Those words appeared near the end of the cover story in the December Scientific American, a magazine with a circulation of more than 760,000. The article, about the optics and technology of kaleidoscopes, was by Earl Walker, a Berkshire Road resident who writes the magazine's monthly "The Amateur Scientist" column.

Marcia Polevoi, the proprietor of High Tide/Rock Bottom, says the kaleidoscope collection is just a "sideline" in her shop which offers mostly cards and unusual gifts.

She received more than one hundred mail and telephone inquiries. "Most came from the East and West Coasts," she says, "not much from anywhere in between." One came from a toy museum in London, England.

Most of these folks wanted her catalog. She had none, and had never before done mail-order sales. So she hurried together an information packet, containing mostly sales brochures from kaleidoscope makers, and a mail-order form.

Meanwhile, sales of kaleidoscopes were brisk. She sold out of several designs. She sold a dozen of one design, priced at $5.50 each. Two days. One man who'd read Walker's essay drove all the way from Sandusky to visit her shop.

Another hot item at High Tide/Rock Bottom this Christmas was Grow-a-Frog. The product, which costs $10, consists of a small plastic aquarium, a coupon good for a live African aquatic frog tadpole, and a booklet about the beast. The tadpole is returned by mail, becomes a frog in about three weeks, can grow as large as a half-dollar, and lives its entire life in water.

NICE JOB... This neighborhood's newest parking lots, between Hampshire and Lancashire Roads west of Coventry, are an excellent job of design and construction.

An especially attractive feature of the project is its lighting. These lots, and the others built here recently, are much better-lighted than our streets. High-pressure sodium lights make the difference. The Coventry business district is lighted with that technology.

We hope that City Hall will consider replacing the mercury vapor street lights now in the apartment district with high-pressure sodium. Using the same amount of energy, these lamps provide more and higher-quality light. The change would add to the attractiveness of the area and make it safer. We believe the population density and traffic volume of the area warrant the expense.

BROCHURE... A brochure listing the merchants of Coventry Village is now being distributed by the Coventry Merchants Association. It is available in shops here, and will be made available through hotels, hospitals, and visitor information centers all over the region.

A map shows the location of each business, and the listing includes a phone number and brief description for each business. Other smaller maps show the location of Coventry Village within Cleveland Heights, and of Cleveland Heights in the metropolitan area.

The brochure was designed by Adele Eisner of Living Letters Studio, 1850 Coventry. Cover photography is by Joe Polevoi of High Tide/Rock Bottom. Printing was paid for by the City's Community Development Block Grant program.

Remember the poor.
Give to the Hunger Center.
Notes on local history

Building City Hall

Cleveland Heights City Council announced on December 30 that the City Hall building will be sold to Motorcars International. The building will be razed, but the Honda dealership which will replace it will retain some important elements of its design. The administrative functions of municipal government will move in the spring to their new home at Severance Center.

The building at 2953 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights' second City Hall. The first was built in 1908, when Cleveland Heights was a village of 3,000 persons.

By the time Cleveland Heights became a city in 1921, that building, on the same lot as the present building, was already bursting at its seams. Swiftly after incorporation as a city, Council studied several possible sites for a new municipal building. The site at 2953 Mayfield Road, next door to that first building, was seen as "not ideal, but centrally located, and on a car line." Besides, the city already owned the land, and moving would be easy. Other sites were ruled out because they were not large enough, various departments of the city would have been separated, with offices in different locations.

An architect named Steinfurth was retained to design the building, but his death before plans were complete was one of the project's first delays.

William Robert Powell completed the plans in February of 1922. The design involved "a minimum of decoration," with emphasis on service. "Yet [the new City Hall would be] attractive and a credit to the community."

Construction began in the summer of 1923.

Dedication of the building was first announced for April 1, 1924, then for May 1, and for June 12. The dedication finally took place on July 4.

In honor of the occasion, the city was to be "raked and cleaned and painted

Hunger Center still needs your help

The Hunger Center needs more contributions now than ever.

Though the holidays are past us now, more needy people than ever are receiving assistance from the Center. An increasing proportion of the people receiving assistance are the elderly on fixed incomes.

Donations of money and non-perishable foods may be made to the Heights Emergency Food Center, care of Euclid Avenue Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights.

Two Coventry businesses, High Tide/Rook Bottom and Passport to Peru, made generous contributions to the Center this holiday season. Coventry Neighbors, Inc., [CNI] gave $100.

Since Quality Quilts closed last summer, Coventry Village has been without a convenient place to leave donations to the Center. Any merchant who can offer a bit of window space, some floor area and a small amount of time for this purpose should contact CNI at 371-6095.

and gardened so that it will appear to be what it is, a city of homemakers."

The move of offices to the new building was achieved "without disturbing seriously the functions of the city government, except for a week or two, when there was a lack of jail space, and because of the lack of crime in the heights, this was no very serious handicap."

After the move, the 1908 building was razed. It stood next door to the new one, and had one large office on its first floor. The space was shared by the water, sewer, and law departments, and the Village Clerk. Crowding of the building had forced the use of Council chambers, upstairs, as offices during the day. Offices had also been crowded in to a west wing of the building, above the stables.

—Larry Beam
Ice Dams: Their Prevention and Cure

If you live in a mild climate, without much snow, you probably have never heard of ice dams. But if you’ve ever had an ice dam, with the resulting leaks, you know they are miserable and costly. Some people have had water running down between the walls and between storm window and inside window, where it can build up deep enough to make a home for goldfish. (Very hardy goldfish.) If the water doesn’t ruin the plaster or plasterboard, it causes enough staining to require repainting. (Painting over stains is described on page 105.)

Here’s a short primer on ice dams. When it snows heavily, snow builds up along the eaves. During a thaw the melting snow may create a buildup of water near the bottom of the pile, which turns to ice during a freeze. Then, any water near the bottom of this pile is dammed by the ice and cannot flow over the eaves. It is under pressure and can force its way up roof and under shingles, through the roof boards and into the attic, and eventually find its way through the ceiling below. Sometimes it penetrates the eaves and finds its way through the walls. The result in both cases is disaster (Figure 269).

Lack of insulation in the attic floor can also cause ice dams. Warm air heats the roof, melting the snow, and if the water’s under pressure from either snow or ice, the same disaster can result.

There are several ways of preventing leaks from ice dams, since you can’t always prevent ice dams themselves. First, make sure the attic floor is properly insulated. Six inches of fiberglass is the minimum and 9 to 12 inches is now standard in cold climates. Actually, 9 to 12 inches won’t hurt in warmer climates because the insulation reduces the burden of cooling the house as well as heating it. Important to remember: do not stuff insulation into the eaves. Stop it at the vertical wall (Figure 270). Insulation in eaves can cause condensation problems, partly because it stops any natural ventilation through the eaves (if the fascia and soffit boards are not tight).

FIGURE 270. Flashing of roll roofing at the eaves, soffit ventilation, and proper insulation on the attic floor are ways to prevent ice dams.

In addition to insulation, the attic or area above the insulation should be properly ventilated (see Chapter 11). Gable and roof vents help keep the roof cool. Another method of ventilation is through the soffits. Drill 2-inch holes every 8 to 16 inches along the entire length of the soffit. Fill them with louvered, screened aluminum plugs to keep out vermin and bugs and you will create cross-ventilation.

... To be continued next month

Reprinted with permission from the book, So You Want To Fix Up an Old House, copyright (c) 1979, by Peter Hutton, published by Little, Brown and Co. Hutton’s book is available from the Coventry Village Library and at Men’s Paperbacks, 1846 Coventry Road.
Library Goings-on

The Library’s winter reading program, called Everybody is a Star, will begin on January 13 and continue through February 28.

The Library’s on-going programs, Toddler Storytime, for ages two and a half to three, and Preschool Storytime, for ages three to five, will resume in January. Contact the Library for days and times.

Thinking about the new year, the staff of Coventry Village Library would like you to consider two paragraphs from Stephen King’s book, *Firestarter*:

“The librarian was a young man, twenty-six years old, bearded, long-haired. Standing in front of his desk was a little girl in a green blouse and blue jeans. In one hand she held a paper shopping bag. She was woefully thin, and the young man wondered what the hell her mother and father had been feeding her... if anything.”

“He listened to her question quietly and respectfully. Her daddy, she said, had told her that if you had a really hard question, you had to go to the library to find the answer, because at the library they knew the answer to almost all the questions.”

How about making a New Year’s resolution to let your public library answer your questions? We’re not sure we can find all the answers, but we’ll be glad to try.

Happy New Year.

Program offers loans, tips on saving energy

The Heights Conservation Program can teach you how to make affordable energy-saving repairs on your home.

The program offers free workshops, low-interest loans, and energy audits.

Workshop sessions will be held on February 6 and March 1. You can learn how to take conservation measures that cost little, sometimes nothing. Strong emphasis is placed on do-it-yourself skills.

These workshops are free, and open to all. Call the Heights Community Congress at 321-6775 for reservations.

Energy audits are also available through the program. These are tailored to inform you of just how efficiently your home uses, and looses, its energy. These audits are free to families below certain income levels; others are charged about $15.

Loans at 5% and 9% are also available to many homeowners and landlords. Such loans may be used for insulation, furnaces, and storm windows. With market rates of interest at 15% to 17%, considerable savings are available through the program.

Hampshire Road to get some sprucing-up

Public properties along Hampshire Road just west of Coventry Road will receive some sprucing up this spring.

Ten to twelve trees will be planted, and trash receptacles will be placed near the parking lots. Bushes on tree lawns on the north side of the street will be removed and replaced with grass.

Trees will be planted on either side of the drive leading into Parking Lot Number 21, on the south side of the street a few doors west of Coventry Road. The retaining wall at the rear of that lot will be painted.

All this will be paid for with a
New Council to study a renovation code

Efforts to modify the building code so as to facilitate renovation will be high on the agenda of the new Cleveland Heights City Council when it sets down to work on January 6.

The building code was designed to regulate the construction of new houses. Its authors gave little thought to the renovation of old ones.

The last major revision of the building code was made in the late 1960's. Since then renovation has become increasingly important to this community.

A model renovation code, circulated among municipal officials facing similar problems nationwide, will be studied as a guide to code changes.

Architect Phil Hart, City Council's only new member and Chairman of its Public Safety and Health Committee, will oversee the modification of the building code. Hart is best-known in Coventry Village as the author of a study which marked the beginning of the facade renovation movement in the commercial area.

Modifications to the building code will not affect those who renovate apartment and commercial buildings. The standards that guide these developments are state law, not local code.

* * * * *

The finances of municipal government have been hard-hit lately. Cuts in federal aid have hurt, and will probably continue. Years of surplus in the city's own taxation and spending balance have ended. The huge costs of maintaining and replacing sewers, waterlines, and other elements of the infrastructure must be paid.

So grave is the situation that cuts in some municipal services will probably be necessary, and will certainly be discussed by the new Council. The only alternative to reductions of services is an increase in municipal taxes, which is widely believed impossible in the present climate of voter attitudes.

HCC benefit auction needs contributions

The Heights Community Congress (HCC) is seeking contributions of things to be auctioned off in a fund-raising effort.

The HCC is a coalition of neighborhood organizations, businesses, and individuals. Its principal purpose is to maintain Cleveland Heights as an open and integrated community of the highest quality. This newsletter is one of many things in this community which would be impossible without the HCC.

All gifts to the auction are tax-deductible. Each item will be listed in an auction book, and will be displayed on the night of the auction. Each item and the identity of its donor will be mentioned in the auction itself.

The auction event, called the "Second Reel Auction," will be an informal night of fun at Beaumont School for Girls, on March 8.

Donations should be made before February 8. Call the HCC at 321-6775 for further information.

* * * * *

Some increases in user fees and other charges by the city are likely.

The task of guiding the municipal finances through the coming storm will fall largely to Joanne O'Brien, who will again chair of the Council's Finance Committee.

* * * * *

Councilman Richard Weigand will chair the Planning and Development committee.

Barbara Boyd will head the Community Relations and Recreation Committee.

Leonard Horowitz, beginning his second term, will chair the Municipal Services Committee.

Carol Edwards will serve again as Vice Mayor, and will chair the Administrative Services Committee.

Alan Rapport will again be Mayor and President of Council.
COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General Meeting, Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Library. The public is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, February 6, 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.)

NAME:____________________________________________________ PHONE:____________________
ADDRESS:________________________________________________ ZIP:____________________

I am now receiving the Coventry Village News: YES...... NO......

Please return this form with your check to
COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.,
2776 Hampshire Road, #1-B
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106