Cleaning up and events funding to be discussed at meeting April 12, 7:45, at the Library

At its regular meeting on April 12, Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) will discuss two important funding questions: the paying for the events set for this summer, and possible contributions toward the purchase of a new gasoline-powered vacuum cleaner for the sidewalks of the commercial district. There may also be discussion of a zoning variance sought by China Mountain III, a mostly-carryout restaurant proposed for 1827 Coventry Road, just north of Pick-n-Pay.

Gary Peters, who coordinates recycling and anti-litter programs for the City of Cleveland Heights, will discuss his programs with us.

Last month’s meeting focused on development proposals from Jaguar Cleveland and Mr. Hero. Richard Calder, President of Jaguar Cleveland, presented his expansion plans in thorough detail. Steve Howard, who will operate Mr. Hero, discussed the impact of his plans, and swiftly agreed to certain conditions which will assure possible negative impacts of his proposal. [See page 5.]

CNI took no formal position on either of these projects. Both now appear headed for approval by the municipal government.

By unanimous resolution, CNI took the first step toward the possibility of using as much as $1,000 from its Reserve Fund toward the purchase of a new gas-powered vacuum cleaner for the sidewalks of the commercial area.

Because the meeting was running late, CNI did not perfect details of this offer. Longtime CNI activist Bobbie Littell suggested in this newsletter last month that a sort of matching fund might be established. She called for an arrangement under which each dollar of new contributions for the vacuum cleaner would be matched by a dollar from the Reserve Fund.

Contributions of twenty dollars have already been received for the not-yet-established fund. Details of the fund—if, indeed, CNI proceeds with the idea at all—will be agreed on at the April 12 meeting, to which everyone is invited.

Events support sought

CNI proposes to spend about $2,000 on events in and near the commercial area this summer. Performances by local musical groups will accompany the Arts Festival on July 23. Other concerts are set for June 25 and August 27. Revival of the neighborhood Halloween party is being discussed. Neighborhood tours, which were popular and which paid for themselves last year, are planned again.

The ability of CNI to pay for the musical entertainment aspects of the summer plans depends—as it did last year—on the kindness of CNI’s members and other contributors.

Last year, CNI raised about $2,000 for a series of events.

Donations should be sent to CNI at 2776 Hampshire Road, Apt. 1-B, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106. Please indicate whether your gift is intended for the events, for membership fees, or for some other purpose.

CNI has been without a Vice President for several months now. Nominations for the office will again be solicited at the April meeting, and, if one or more is forthcoming and accepted, a new VP will be elected.

On May 3:

Vote YES on School, Library levy questions

The Tuesday, May 3, election is less than a month off. This is our final opportunity to remind you to vote YES for both the school and library levies. The benefits to each and every citizen far exceed the added costs.

continued on page 4
Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

I am writing to urge everyone in the Coventry neighborhood to join me in voting YES on the CH-UH school levy on May 3.

I have lived in Cleveland Heights for more than 30 years. I graduated from Heights High in 1970, having attended Fairfax and Roxboro. My husband and I bought our first house in Cleveland Heights, and when we needed more room, Cleveland Heights was where we bought our second home as well. We have a commitment to this city. We love its diversity, the neighborhoods, the myriad of quality services close at hand—libraries, recreational facilities, and the variety of stores and community services.

Our oldest daughter now attends Kindergarten at Coventry. She has had a wonderful year—she can’t wait to get there every day, and she comes home excited and enthusiastic. Having been through this school system myself, I expected no less.

Cleveland Heights has always been known for the quality of its schools. The quality of life in the community is directly tied to that outstanding educational system. Cuts that will have to be made if this levy fails will directly affect not only the schools, but the community as well.

We believed in Cleveland Heights. We still do. Vote YES for the school levy and for your community on May 3.

—JULIE LUSTIC
Coventry Village

Dear Sir:

The citizens of Cleveland Heights and University Heights have twice rejected this levy which would increase property taxes for schools by almost 12 per cent, 84.7 to 94.3 mils. Voters also remember that the total increase in three years would be about twenty mils, and increase of 27 percent in three years (74 to 94 mils). Something is wrong, and inflation is the cause of only a small portion of the increase, maybe seven or eight per cent.

What’s wrong is the stubbornness of the Board of Education to find even the smallest ways to conserve funds, and limit runaway costs. It is they who are playing Russian roulette with the CH-UH school system, by saying, “all or nothing.” “Either you approve the levy as we have put it before you, or we will get you.” Take it all out on the teachers, and yes, a few administrators.

If after the first defeat they would have scaled back their budget, and asked for, say, half as much, I believe the voters would not have turned them down. But the mind set of the administration and the Board is reminiscent of the stupidity which allowed the Board then to build half a dozen experimental schools all at once, none of which are satisfactory for efficient teaching.

Only recently has the Board leveled with us on the numbers, and having gone through some of the details, I can tell you that there is fat which can come off without hurting anyone. And no, we can’t run a private school system with public funds. Some of the perks will either have to go, or be paid for by the parents.

I plead for the defeat of this levy because it is excessive. Let the School Board find a compromise, one half of reasonable cuts, one half of the levy in November. But defeat the levy in May!

—HARRY CAMERON
Coventry Village

Dear Sir:

Debate over the School levy is inevitable. Cleveland Heights is a community of informed, active, and highly diverse citizens. That’s why we choose to live here.

Continued on page 4
Jaguar proposal gains wide public support; approval near certain

By Larry Beam, President of CNI

Richard Calder, President of Jaguar Cleveland, hopes to start work in May on a $3,000,000 expansion of his dealership at 3020 Mayfield Road. If all goes well, he'll have everything under a roof by next fall, and details will be completed the coming spring.

After several years of sometimes-acrimonious negotiations, a plan agreeable to nearly everyone appears to have been set.

The municipal government—led, in this matter, by Joanne O'Brien, Chair of Council's Planning and Development Committee—gave the project plenty of public review. Three special meetings of citizens most impacted by the project were held at City Hall. CNI members and guests reviewed the proposal and offered suggestions at a meeting on March 8. All of these reviews came in addition to the numerous legally-required reviews of the project, which began on March 28 with a public hearing at City Hall.

Last fall, when the community first learned of Jaguar's expansion plans, immediate and strong opposition met the suggestion that some land in Cumberland Park might be sacrificed for the project. Early plans, details of which never became public, allegedly called for the taking of substantial and prominent park property.

A small bit of park property—just enough for a turn-around—will be lost as the project is now planned. The land in question is out of the way, and its regular use now as a dog run precludes its pleasant use for other purposes.

The only outspoken criticism of the proposal at the recent public hearing came from Cadwell Road resident June Wortman. Ms. Wortman charged that the project intrudes unacceptably on the values of Cleveland Heights as a residential community. She also charged that the City Council had broken faith by allowing the sacrifice of park property for the cul-de-sac of Preyer Road.

Mostly, though, objections to the proposal have evaporated. Through the City's forthcoming and thorough citizen review process, concerned residents have come to understand clearly just what's really planned. These citizens' initial, instinctive, and reasonable distrust of change, government, and auto dealers appears to have been put to rest.

The numerous opportunities for public review allowed time for the public benefits of the project to gain understanding and acceptance. The project's immediate neighbors—the people who'll be most affected by it—had first reacted in a chorus of opposition. Now—as the mandated public hearing process is beginning—the outspoken among the project's neighbors, already understanding the proposal clearly, quite consistently praise it. One outspoken Coventry Neighbor, who had objected strenuously to the loss of parkland, withdrew his objections after reviewing detailed drawings.

Chris Hagan, an initial opponent whose home will abut the project, now praises the plan, while retaining quite reasonable concern about details of its execution. City and Jaguar representatives have pledged to work with Hagan to achieve thorough buffering of his home from the cul-de-sac, and to solve such potential problems as the tresspass of light from the dealership onto his property.

Dennis Pesek, another near-by neighbor, praises the project from top to bottom. He, like this observer, sees it as a project from which everybody wins.

Spring reminders: bikes, skateboards, pets and curfew

You can get into a heap of trouble for riding bicycles or skateboards on the sidewalks of Coventry's commercial district, or in other areas where signs prohibiting them have been posted. It often means a trip to a County Juvenile Court—yes, the police really will cite offenders.

Licenses are required for all bicycles; these are available at the Treasury window on the first floor of City Hall.

Law forbids keeping more than two dogs or cats, or more than one of each, except that litters may be kept for a reasonable period of time. Dogs must be leashed at all times when they're out of doors, and owners must pick up and properly dispose of all feces deposited by pets on public or private property. That means that, no matter where your dog dumps, you must pick it up. A new law demands the registration of "vicious dogs."

Children under the age of twelve must be home by the onset of darkness, and must stay there until 6:00 AM. Those twelve or older, but less than sixteen years of age, cannot be out between 10:30 PM and 6:00 AM. Persons at least sixteen years of age, but less than eighteen, must be off the streets between midnight and 6:00 AM. The law allows exceptions for jobs and other legitimate non-fun-related activities.
YES on the levies (continued)

The school levy is desperately needed to keep our district competitive academically and secure financially. A YES vote reaffirms our dedication to quality integrated education and supports Superintendent Moskowitz in his visionary efforts for our schools. If you still have questions about the school levy, school finances, or school programs, please call Superintendent Moskowitz (371-7171), or Levy Committee Coordinators Susan Rakow (932-3084) or Bob Green (381-6768).

If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, call Jan Ressenger (932-9305) or Marcia Zemko (932-5811). Over five hundred residents are already involved in this grassroots effort to ensure levy passage.

Our Library System is a valuable resource also, used by young and old alike, businesspeople and consumers, students and teachers. The continued growth and health of the Library reflects the continued growth and health of our community.

No public bodies—schools, libraries, local governments, utilities—are ever satisfying to everyone all the time. As long as they are run by mortals, there will be mistakes. These occur in the highest levels of government as well as those closest to home. But it is human nature also to forgive and struggle on toward making the world what we want it to be: better. Sometimes this takes money.

To invest in our schools and libraries is to invest in an educated citizenry for the future.

Vote YES on May 3, for Cleveland Heights.

Letters ... continued

And that's why we will vote YES on May 3.

Our daughter has attended Coventry School for two years now. As a parent who frequently volunteers in the classroom, I couldn't be happier with either the unquestionable competency and creativity of her teachers or the warm, secure atmosphere of the school as a whole. Coventry School serves the needs of every child who enters it—from those in the multiple handicapped class to those who benefit from the gifted and talented programs. Every day our daughter receives an implicit lesson in peacefully and respectfully living with people from backgrounds and persuasions quite different from hers. This neighborhood school is a microcosm of our community—and if we fail to support it, we fail to provide for the future of that community.

The School Board has admitted past mistakes in estimating revenue. It has proven its determination to insure fiscal responsibility in the future. Only 1.4 per cent of the 1987-88 budget is being spent on administrative costs. The budget process has been redesigned to predict all expenses for each program. Expense and revenue projections now extend five years.

If the levy is defeated, the effect on our schools, whose budget has already been cut by $3,000,000 this year, will be devastating. The children, obviously, will bear the brunt of these cuts. But our community as a whole will feel the divisive and demoralizing effects of a failure to support what traditionally has been the heart of every neighborhood.

We know that property values will fall if Cleveland heights no longer provides the high calibre of education for which it is known.

Vote YES on May 3—for all of us.

—TRICIA SPRINGSTUBB
Coventry Village

Dear Sir:

I must take exception to your editorial supporting the upcoming school levy.

One must look very hard to find a more extravagant School Board and school administration than we have in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights System. My dad (I am seventy-two) once said: "Give a politician money and he'll find some way to spend it."

To support my contention of extravagance let me cite three monstrosities, Coventry, Fairfax, and South Taylor buildings which replaced edifices with much superior construction than is in the new ones. They were referred to several years ago in a local newspaper by a very respected reporter as "cow barns."

I have been a crossing guard at Coventry School for more than ten years. In that time I've complained more than once a month about students crossing Euclid Heights Boulevard to and from the Rock Court area and the Coventry School gate. This is more than 150 feet from my post, and the attitude of the Principal and secretaries is that it is much too much to ask them to take action unless the names of the kids can be provided. One will be injured (or, much worse, killed). Then the Coventry Village News, the public, and the school administration will clamor.

Coventry School has a snow plow large enough for a shopping center, and when a heavy fall like the one we had a few weeks ago is encountered, the administration sends in vehicular equipment. The youngsters prefer
Around Coventry...

Tommy’s, updated... Tom Fello, proprietor of Tommy’s Restaurant, 1820 Coventry Road, is making some changes aimed at helping his business run more efficiently, keeping it the strong success it’s been for more than a decade.

Tommy’s loyal following, drawn from all over the metropolitan region, makes it a key element in the vitality of all of Coventry Village. The restaurant, with 95 seats, feeds more than seven hundred people on a typical day. More Münster cheese is served there than anywhere else in Northeast Ohio: between three hundred fifty and four hundred pounds each week. Forty-two people work there.

The entry-way has been reorganized. There will be no more confusing press of people there, some waiting to pay, others waiting to be seated. Gone are candy, magazines, beer, and wine which once competed for that entry-way space. “None of these things contributed much to profits, and they were a lot of hassle. And all those people around the cashier made the place look crowded even when we had plenty of seats available,” Mr. Fello said.

The old, worn counters are gone from the front. They’re replaced by a new soda bar, elegantly finished in polished granite. Mr. Fello points out that everything in that area is moveable, to allow for efficient and thorough cleaning. The new arrangement allows the colorful display of the many varieties if ice cream.

The soda bar in the rear of the upper level is gone; the functions of that area have been moved downstairs to the new soda bar. That rear of the upstairs area will become the smoking section.

Of all the changes, Mr. Fello seems most excited about the new computer system which helps manage many aspects of the business. Waitresses or waiters will enter orders into one of several computer terminals; appropriate orders will be sent to the kitchen and to the areas where beverages and salads are prepared. The machine, a Micros 4700, will produce the customer’s bill. With the new system, customers will pay the server—rather than having to take the bill to the cashier. Mr. Fello believes that this will drastically reduce errors, and fewer people will walk out on their bills.

Mr. Fello feels that the computer system will provide him with a wealth of information he can use to make the place run more efficiently, providing better service to customers and higher profits. Mr. Fello, who genuinely enjoys doing the cooking when the place is at its busiest, believes the new technology will allow him more time to develop new specials and make other menu adjustments that will keep the restaurant fresh and exciting.

C-Street Café... C-Street Café is the new name for Irv’s, the kosher-style deli at 1798 Coventry Road. And with the new name will come the reopening of the bar—which will be called C-Street North. The liquor license isn’t in hand yet, but Dianne Javier, proprietor of the place, plans to go ahead with opening festivities in mid May. John Bassette will perform. The new name, we understand, is a reference to a song title by popular performer Bruce Springsteen.

The restaurant now offers a marvelous selection of papers each morning—the list includes the Financial Times of London, the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, the Wall Street Journal, and Baron’s.

In the meantime, plans for the renovation of the building are held up by the refusal of Irv Gulk, former owner of the business and still owner of the building, to allow changes, including the removal of the planters.

Mr. Hero... The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) gave the go-ahead to a Mr. Hero Restaurant at 1856 Coventry Road at its meeting of March 16. Approval of the project by City Council appears certain. It could be open in just a few months.

As conditions of governmental approval, landlord Lewis Zipkin has agreed to renovate the facade of the building and to provide a real answer to the shared trash problems of the numerous restaurants in the area. Facade plans will have to be approved by a design review committee that includes three CNI activists (Charles Owen, Mary Ann Rodewald, and Larry Beam). Mr. Hero will also contribute to the area’s street cleaning activities, and to the costs of off-duty police officers when they are necessary to maintain order in the youthful crowds that sometimes gather in the small park in front of Coventry Yard.

Steve Howard, who will operate the franchise, has agreed to purchase parking permits for his employees. The idea, being used for the first time, is to get cars driven by employees out of parking spaces that could be used by customers. The employee parking might be at the Unitarian Society, on Lancashire Road, or in one of the public lots. The municipal government will soon
Around coventry... from previous page

begin selling a new, special class of parking permits that will be valid only during traditional business hours when most of the area's parking permit holders are off at work, leaving their reserved spaces vacant and unused.

Vid Star move... Vid Star, the video tape rental shop at 1836 1/2 Coventry Road, will move to the former book store location, 1824 Coventry Road, next door to Tommy's. A retailer of top-of-the-market video and audio equipment is seeking the old location, on the southwest corner of Lancashire and Coventry.

China Mountain... Tri Luu, proprietor of two other carry-out-only restaurants, is seeking permission from the city's Planning Commission to build a new establishment to be called China Mountain III at 1827 Coventry Road. At an initial hearing on March 9, the Commission continued consideration of the proposal until Coventry Neighbors and the Coventry Village Development Corporation had an opportunity to review plans for the restaurant, which would have just 16 seats. The site is the vacant storefront just north of Pick-n-Pay.

Wish List... The private sector of Coventry Village has recently been doing its part toward the revitalization of the area. More than a dozen apartment buildings have been renovated, some without the governmental subsidy that made other renovations possible. Motorcars Honda and Jaguar Cleveland have made huge investment commitments. Three prominent commercial buildings, owned by William Ross Realty, are slated for renovation this summer. There's much more.

Maintaining and sustaining this momentum toward the renovation of Coventry Village will require lots of help from the local government. We believe that the City Council recognizes the importance of Coventry’s commercial health to the future of all of Cleveland Heights. Other commercial districts have been far more generously treated, especially in the budgets for the Community Development Block Grant Program. So now it's Coventry’s turn; here's a short list of suggestions:

- Buy and raze three houses on Rock Court, behind Pick-n-Pay. City staff has sometimes quite specifically promised action in this direction, but each time the matter has languished. Alternatively, some unused land in Mayfield Cemetery is apparently still available.
- Replace and repair sidewalks and curbs all over the district. This need not impact on the usual City budgets, since its financing can be arranged through assessments on benefitting property owners. And while the sidewalks are ripped up, take the opportunity to bury underground the utility lines that now clutter the streetscape. Most of the poles, now a prominent part of the clutter, could then be removed.
- Reorganize all public signs—those which regulate parking and traffic flow—to eliminate the present mess and hodge-podge.
- Take forceful and deliberate action against such problem landlords as Raj Mathur. Mr. Mathur's prominent building, on the southeast corner of Mayfield and Coventry, is a profound blight on the neighborhood. It could be a show-piece of restored elegance. The City has been willing to commit immense resources to fixing a similarly prominent building at South Taylor and Superior Park. A partnership of government with private investors could work in Coventry, too.
- Get rid of the Special Development District on the east side of the street. It was put there in the early 1970's, when it was believed that a massive Rapid Transit depot would be built where Pick-n-Pay is. Its present effect is mostly to divide planning for the neighborhood between two separate regulatory bodies—the Board of Zoning Appeals, on the west side, and the Planning Commission on the east side. The Special District's peculiar development rules—intended for far larger-scale development than is realistically likely now—may discourage desirable, smaller-scale development. This situation severely impedes rational and coherent land use planning.

Letter... from page 4
to walk through the uncleared lawn area rather than use the walks. Certainly, most of them use the plowed paths, but there are still those who prefer otherwise. I guess we were all kids once in our life and did such things.

There are certain voters who think a school levy is a "must." But my property taxes for school purposes are unreasonable. I intend to vote against the levy and am urging my friends to do likewise. Coventry Village News does not reflect my views in this matter. I strongly resent the attitude.

—NED L. WERNET
Coventry Village

Coventry Village...
where we all get along together
pretty well.
Watch out for unclear water while hydrants get spring flushing

Fire Chief R. P. Marth strongly recommends that residents check their cold water each time they use it for the next five weeks or so. Beginning on Monday, April 4, and continuing on weekdays for about five weeks, the Fire Department will be flushing hydrants all over the city.

One day before hydrants are flushed, each street will be posted with a sign giving fair warning.

The City recommends that, when your water starts coming out rusty, you just let the cold water (not the hot) run for a few minutes until it comes out clear again.

Library goings-on

Expo '88: Showcasing the Deaf Community, a National Library Week special, will be presented on April 16 and 17 at the Coventry Village Library, a branch of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library.

Booths operated by both deaf and hearing people will have extensive information about many aspects of deaf culture: arts and crafts, assistive devices (including hearing aids), education, interpreters, literature, occupations, organizations, religion, and sports.

Interpreters will be available to facilitate communication between hearing and hearing-impaired people.

A variety of programs, appropriately interpreted, will be held both days. Scheduled events include storytelling, mime, choirs (both oral and signing), and films.

Events will be held on Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday, April 17, 1:00 to 5:00 PM. It is an opportunity to increase your understanding of hearing impairments and deaf culture.

Call 321-3400 for TTY and voice information.

The Expo is only one of many programs the Library offers for both hearing and deaf people. Upcoming programs include a pre-school special for National Library Week on Tuesday, April 19, 7:30 PM, when Fairmont Theatre of the deaf will present "Three Little Pigs." Registration is limited.

On Sunday, May 1, at 2:30 PM, Michael Hanson will sign his poetry, which will be voice-interpreted.

Two special programs for school-age children will be held in April. On Tuesday, April 19, the program will be "Who is my neighbor: friends and stories from other lands"; this is a National Library Week special. On Tuesday, April 26, there will be a big bash. End of the school year program will feature guest storyteller Becky Hill. This will be funded by Friends of the Library.

Collection of household chemicals set for April 9 at Recreation Pavilion

Cleveland Heights is sponsoring a collection of household chemicals April 9, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Recreation Pavilion, on the north side of Mayfield Road between Superior Road and Monticello Boulevard.

Without proper disposal, many household chemicals can be dangerous to environmental health.

Only household chemicals will be accepted; don't bring business or commercial wastes. Everything must be labeled. No explosives or radioactive materials will be accepted.

Police may be given new authority over parking on lawns

City Council is seriously considering new legislation which will allow the Police Department to issue citations to people who park cars in the "landscaped areas" of front and side yards.

The prohibition is not new; all that's proposed to change is the authority responsible for enforcement. At present, enforcement is exclusively in the hands of one person who inspects zoning matters under the authority of the Division of Building.

Because Building Division workers keep standard business hours, there is no routine way now to cite folks who park in front yards on weekends and at night.
DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DELIVER BEFORE APRIL 9

The next regular meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 7:45 PM, at the Coventry Village Library.

The next meeting of the Trustees of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will be held on Thursday, May 5, 8:00 PM, at 1641 Hillcrest Road. The meeting is open to all dues-paid members.

Join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Today! You must be a member for at least 30 days to vote at our meetings

Please indicate the class of membership you want:

____________________  ______________________  ______________________
Individual ($7.00)    Family ($10.00)     Senior ($3.00)

____________________
Just a subscription to the Coventry Village News ($5.00)

I would like to make an additional, tax-deductible contribution of $________

NAME

___________________________

STREET

___________________________

CITY ________________________ STATE _______ ZIP ________

Are you now receiving the CVN by mail? ______

Please return this form with your check to:
Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
2776 Hampshire Road, #1-B
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106