



Coventry Village News

NOVEMBER, 1986

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

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C. H. I. ELECTION RESULTS

The October meeting of Coventry Neighbors Inc. was the organizations' annual election. Elected were: Charles Owen, President; Bruce Hennes, Vice President; Dave Furnasser, Secretary; Diane Bersnak, Treasurer; and F. David Gill and Bobbie Littell, Trustees-at-Large. Charles Owen was returned to his second term as president. Bobbie Littell, Associate Editor of the COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS, is a first-timer on the CHI Board of Trustees.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS WINS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARD

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., was the recipient of a Community Improvement Award at the Sixth Annual Community Improvement Awards program. The Awards, sponsored by the City of Cleveland Heights and the Heights Community Congress, are given to persons or groups that work to preserve and improve the physical environment of Cleveland Heights.

The inscription on the certificate awarded Coventry Neighbors reads:

"Demonstrating that a community concern can be translated into constructive actions, Coventry Neighbors, Inc. has improved the quality of life for Coventry residents and contributed to the physical restoration and revitalization of the residential and business community.

"Through newsletters, street fairs, and various creative community projects, this organization has sparked a new spirit in the Coventry area and has been a catalyst in inspiring other Cleveland Heights neighborhoods to follow its example."

In the commercial division awards were given to Coventry's Garcia Polivoi, of High Tide Rock Bottom and Irv Gulko, of Irv's Deli.

Along with their certificates the winners received a beautiful print by Hijo Palubinskas, a Cleveland Heights artist. The special recognition of Coventry Neighbors by the Community Improvement Awards program is something of which all of us in Coventry can be proud.

-- Charles J. Owen

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

by
Joan Farragher

Lay Advisory Master Plan Committee Report:

The year 1981 may prove to be a controversial one for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board as a whole and, in particular, for the three members who will be up for reelection then. During 1981, the Lay Advisory Master Plan (LAMP) Committee will turn in a series of reports evaluating all present facilities and recommending possible changes in the grade level organizational structure for 1982-1990.

The Board has developed the charge for the LAMP committee in recent meetings. The charge asks the Committee to review each building and evaluate the impact of any proposed actions in terms of racial balance, transportation, redistricting, lunch programs, educational benefits and community concerns. The LAMP Committee may draw upon staff, community and consultant resources.

The Committee's schedule for reporting to the Board is:

- January 15: Alternatives for grade level organization.
- February 26: Building capacities, maintenance and operational costs.
- March 14: Projected student enrollment and trends of population distribution.
- April 1: Alternatives for more efficient building usage.
- June 1: Final recommendations.

Board members Hastert, Feinberg and Pausley may bear the brunt of any community dissatisfaction with LAMP's report during their campaigns next fall. The only building which LAMP may not recommend for closing is the high school. Members of LAMP have not yet been announced. Meetings are expected to begin in mid-November.

Playgrounds:

Money for elementary school playgrounds will soon be available from the Board. The only issue remaining is the "package" the money will come in. Board member Pausley favors a matching funds arrangement whereby the Board would contribute a dollar for each dollar raised by the school's PTA. Board President Hastert prefers a straight gift to each school. All Board members agree that the playgrounds have been ignored for years.

Lunch Hours:

Parents have complained to the Board about shorter lunch hours (e.g. Belvoir). Lunch "hours" were once a rather uniform 80 to 90 minutes. As more children stay at school for lunch, the lunch hour has been shortened. Many school districts have a closed 30 minute lunch. Board President Hastert indicated that this is the direction in which we are going.

PAVING AND PARKING ON EUCLID HTS. BLVD.

by

David R. Bunnasser

There will be some overnight parking left on Euclid Heights Blvd. after it has been repaved; and there will be some new offstreet parking created, too.

City Manager Rich Robinson, responding to a series of questions by Coventry Neighbors Trustee, F. David Gill, disclosed at the October 20th Council meeting that the City has reached an understanding with the County. The street will be re-done with County funds, and the County Engineer usually demands that there be no onstreet parking thereafter. In the case of Euclid Heights Blvd, a street of fifty-plus-year-old apartments with few parking slots, non-rush-hour parking (including overnight) will be tolerated as long as the City "maintains effort" to furnish some offstreet parking.

This means that new parking lots will be created on EHB; and that, in turn, has always meant controversy.

The last time such notions were in circulation, Coventry Neighbors, Inc., took a careful look at several proposals, and found merit in only one. That was the construction of a lot at so-called "Lancashire Point," the northwest corner of the Lancashire-EHB intersection. Other vacant lot sites on Euclid Heights drew the organization's disapproval.

Most emphatically rejected by CNI was the often-suggested conversion of the City-owned garage on Hampshire Road for public parking. The grounds of that site are used as a community garden and play lot, and highly regarded as such by Hampshire residents. Furthermore, there is questionable equity in inflicting a parking lot on Hampshire west of the Lane, a street having adequate offstreet parking under Code for its own needs, to benefit another street altogether.

This does not leave the City without recourse. A completely unrelated proposal for Lancashire Road near Coventry, elaborated by the Neighborhood 3 Design Team, would include a new commercial lot. For this lot the City could take a suggestion made by the Local Development Corporation architects for Cedar-Fairmount for some of their lots: make them commercial by day and residential by night. (This would also involve inflicting a lot for EHB on another street, but in this case Lancashire is not self-sufficient in parking, and the new lot would exist for commercial use under the proposal whether it were applied also to residential parking or not.)

The City could also apply to Euclid Heights Blvd. the apparently successful temporary scheme it used on Mayfield. Sell permits for on-street overnight parking on EHB. The difference would be that the Mayfield permits were for lots that were being resurfaced, while the EHB permits would be for lots that don't exist yet. An equitable price could be arrived at. This would not create any new spaces but, as was the case with Mayfield, would allow the City to meet a need while limiting the accommodation to those who actually had the need.

COVENTRY LIBRARY NOTES

by

Debbie Graves, Librarian

Coventry Library programs continue with After School Storyhours Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 and 3:30; and Pre-School Storyhours on Wednesdays at 10:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M.

Book Discussion Group will meet on Monday night, November 24, at 7:30 to discuss Passages, by Gail Sheehy.

A Thanksgiving movie for children will be presented November 29, courtesy of Friends of the Library. The movie, "Escape to Hitch Mountain," based on a book by Alexander Key, will be shown at 1:00 and 3:00 P.M. Tickets will be available upon request after November 1.

November's poetry reading (too late for this issue) was Mary Roberts and Robert McDonough on November 1. Watch for postings around the area for future poetry programs, usually held on the first Sunday of the month.

BOOS & BRAVOS

BRAVO: Many thanks to June Wortman for her efforts on the proposed Coventry Road RTA bus.

BRAVO: It looks like Euclid Hts. Blvd. will now be rebuilt after all.

BRAVO: Three Cleveland men who committed aggravated robbery at a municipal parking lot near Monticello Blvd. and Noble Rd. were promptly apprehended by Cleveland Heights police after a high-speed chase through Coventry streets. Many thanks to Police Investigators Larry Shaffer and David Watson, Patrolman James Collins, Sgt. Leo Krejc, and the rest of the Cleveland Heights force for a job well done!

BRAVO: Herb Ascherman's photography studio at 1795 Coventry, made the road more pleasant by planting flowers around the tree in front of the store. Nice touch.

BRAVO: The proceeds from the sale of face painting done at Carroll Drug for Halloween were donated by owner Don Horwath to the Kidney Foundation.

-- Charles J. Owen

GOLD CIRCLE AT SEVERANCE CENTER

by

Charles J. Owen

Almost 2½ football fields' area of additional commercial floor space at Severance Center were described in expansion plans unveiled on October 22 to a special gathering of Cleveland Heights neighborhood leaders by Mr. Fred Abdon, Assistant Vice President of Winmar Co., Inc., and manager of Severance Center. The new wing will add 110,000 square feet to the south side of the mall near the offices of Society National Bank, and will include a 95,000-square-foot Gold Circle and six to nine smaller retail establishments. The controversial Gold Circle portion of the addition will cost \$4 million and will be stocked with \$5 million worth of merchandise.

Federated Department Stores, owners of Gold Circle, plans to build a "prototype" store at Severance, featuring recessed lighting, carpeting and creative ceiling treatment. There will be no automotive section (tire/battery/accessories). Only one other Gold Circle of this type exists, located in Columbus.

Of most concern to the audience was the potential problem of increased automotive traffic. Mr. Abdon said a traffic count study conducted by Wilbur Smith and Associates of Alliance, Ohio, had concluded that traffic has declined in the area since 1975--when a similar projected proposal met with vehement, city-wide protests--and that additional traffic created by the expansion will bring the total up to not much more than the level the Center handled in 1975. The expansion is expected to draw 4,900 customer cars per day, half of which will be driven by people going to Severance anyway and making use of the new shops additionally. In fact, although 432 parking spaces will be deleted and 110,000 square feet of shops added, Severance will still provide more parking spaces than Cleveland Heights code demands. All the expansion will be within the Ring Road so no additional acreage will be converted to commercial purposed by this project.

According to the Smith study, based on counts performed on September 26 and 27, traffic on Fridays from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. was down 17% on Taylor Road and up 5% on Mayfield Road. On Saturdays from 12 noon to 3 P.M. traffic was down 8% on Taylor and up 18% on Mayfield since 1975. Asked why Severance Center traffic has declined over the years, Mr. Abdon explained that the dramatic increase in shopping malls on Greater Cleveland's east side had contributed to the decline, and that drivers are consolidating and planning their shopping trips more carefully due to energy cost increases.

For facade treatment, exterior materials will match the existing Severance building. A greenhouse style entrance will be built near the existing entrance way on the Center's south wing. There will be no direct access to the addition except through the mall proper.

Mr. Abdon noted that the Gold Circle expansion will create 135 new jobs.

The proposed project has developed ire in the Millikin community. Millikin Neighbors and "Save Our Severance" (SOS) have vigorously opposed the project. In order for the project to become a reality, however, it must first pass the Cleveland Heights Board of Control and the City Council.

A NEW DIMENSION FOR COVENTRY

I've been curious - the sign at 1854 Coventry says that Sheldon Eisenberg, Ed. D., Warren Grossman, Ph.D.; Esther Schuster A.C.S.W., Elizabeth Berrey Walker, R.N., M.S.; and the Community Psychological Association occupy the premises. Try as I would, I could never find anyone in. I finally began calling; the first person who returned my call was Warren Grossman, Clinical Psychologist. I made an appointment to meet with him on a Saturday morning.

It was a beautiful day and, as I was early, I walked up to Arabica for a cup of coffee. As I sauntered back I noticed one of the familiar Coventry people coming towards me - long hair tied back, a neatly trimmed beard. He dressed like one of the many joggers seen on the street early in the day - in running shoes, shorts and sweat shirt. "Its. Littell?" he asked, "I'm Warren Grossman."

In the lobby he pointed with almost proprietary pride to the restoration work that had been done on the building, and escorted me to his office on the second floor. The room was a triangle - at least it came to a point opposite the door so that it seemed that way. It was sparsely furnished with a few chairs, a few cushions, some art work on the walls and the most beautiful, free form, wooden, desk I have ever seen (it was made by his furniture designer sister). A restful, friendly room done in sands and beiges with highlights of color.

As we chatted I found that this was not a mini-mental health clinic as I had fantasized, but three private group mental health practices. Grossman and his partner Eisenberg, an educational psychologist; Schuster, a social worker, and Walker, psychiatric nurse; and the Community Psychological Association group.

"Why Coventry?" I asked. "It's where I live, where I am comfortable. I live around the corner, I am part of the life of the community." The things that are Coventry: the people on the street; meeting face to face with others who are different; the variety; the concern for older buildings, older values; the diversity are all important to mental health.

"Do your clients mind coming into Coventry?" "Some do at first: but they get used to it. My clients come from a scattered area - from Oberlin to Painesville. Some are very uncomfortable - but they come."

"Does the parking problem bother you?" "No, my people come one or two at a time."

The others in the building are there because of Grossman's enthusiasm for the area; he convinced them to join him. For that we thank him, for they add a new dimension to our community.

Speaking of mental health services, a card received recently from Coventry Neighbor, June Wortman, MSW, announced the opening of her practice of personal, marital, family & parent/child counseling. She offers support groups for: Mothers of Young Children; Coping with Bureaucracies and Agencies; and, Partners in Parenting. For further information call 371-7698. Good luck, June.

-- bobbie littell

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

by

Charles J. Owen

Euclid Heights Boulevard will finally be rebuilt. Approximately \$539,000 of Year IV, V and VI Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies will be matched with federal and county funds to complete the jobs. Project cost is estimated to be \$3.5 million.

Schedule for CDBG public hearings:

November 5	Boulevard School, 1749 Lee Road, 7:30 P.M.
November 11	Coventry Neighbors, 2728 Lancashire Road, 7:30 P.M.
November 20	Church of the Cross, Caledonia & Winsford, 7:30 P.M.

For further CDBG information phone Mr. Cal Caminati, 321-0100 x 220, 221, 222.

Condominium construction on Euclid Hts. Blvd., long expected, has begun at the site just east of the Raymond J. Slater estate, 2465 EHB. The project will be set back from the Boulevard, and the wooded feeling of the property is to remain.

UNITARIANS GET INTO THE ACT.

One Coventry Neighbor - institutional variety - which is very much a part of our community, the Unitarian Society, has been bitten by the restoration "bug." They have recently put on a new roof, and within the next few weeks will be pointing up the exterior brickwork. In the spring plans are to either repair or replace the cement walkways in front of the church. They are also discussing re-doing the front facade and replacing the "Star of David" above the front door with a more appropriate Unitarian symbol, the "Burning Chalice."

The Society is very much a part of "Coventry Life"; it operates a Boutique on Thursdays and Saturdays from 11:00 A.M. till 3:00 P.M.; one Sunday a month it serves a very moderately priced, hot dog lunch after services (around 12:30) which is open to all hungry neighbors.

For a number of years they have been taking some of the squeeze off the parking problem by renting part of their "Well lighted parking area." A recent note from Rich Wortman, of the USC trustees states, "If a years fee (\$10/mo. x 12 = \$120) is paid in advance, a \$20. reduction is made in the cost bringing it below the prevailing rates." Call Rich at 444-1707 during the day or 321-0246 evenings if you are interested in renting a space.

The most neighborly thing they do for CHI is to offer us rent free meeting space month after month -- for this we are extremely grateful.

-- bobbie littell

