



Coventry Village News

March, 1987

The Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Volume 11 No. 3

Amendment vote set for March 10 meeting at Coventry Library

An amendment which would remove mention of the Street Fair from the organization's constitution has been proposed. A vote will be taken on March 10, when the membership of CNI meets at Coventry Village Library, at 7:30 PM.

The amendment will not influence the ability of CNI to hold Fairs in years to come. CNI resolved last October that no Street Fair should be held this year.

Ed Ritz, who's known to his friends as Crudley, will CNI to become involved with a program he supports. [See page 3.]

At the February 10 meeting, a group of Preyer Avenue residents asked for CNI's support in fighting City Hall and Jaguar Cleveland. In January, in response to the news that City Council was considering the sale of a bit of Cumberland Park to Jaguar Cleveland, CNI resolved to oppose the sale of any park land to any developer.

Preyer Avenue residents fear that even if park land is not sold, their immediate neighborhood might be terribly harmed by the auto dealer's expansion. Jaguar Cleveland, located on the south side of Mayfield Road between Superior and Preyer, proposes an

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expansion that would involve the removal of three houses from Preyer and a few from Superior, near Mayfield. The land where the houses now stand is zoned for residential uses, but the Cleveland Heights Zoning Code may still allow the dealership's expansion.

CNI resolved to oppose the use of this residentially-zoned land for commercial development.

Money is allocated for events

CNI has resolved to make \$1,000 available to the committee that is preparing plans for next summer's special events. These funds come from the proceeds of past Street Fairs.

Nancy Miller, who organized the crafts aspect of recent Coventry Street Fairs, will lead the effort to hold a first-class Arts Fair in Coventry Village on August 2. Ms. Miller has extensive professional experience organizing such events in shopping centers and other locations. The crafts event will be juried. A \$35 fee will be sought from participants. No exact location has been chosen.

Barbara Valis is chair of the group making plans for several tours of Coventry, to be held in the spring and summer. We will repeat the very popular tour, called "Lanes of Coventry," conducted several years ago by Ken Goldberg, an architectural historian.

A Sunday of concerts is being planned by a group led by Mary Raynor. No date has been selected. There will probably be three separate performances.

Pay dues Now

If your 1987 dues to CNI are not paid at least in part at by the March Meeting, you may be refused the right to vote when some issue important to you comes along. Everyone paying dues after the March meeting will be required to wait 30 days before he or she is able to vote.

*Support
Coventry
Village*

Landlord skips court dates; fences remain

Thomas J. Frate, owner of apartment buildings at 2757 and 2765 Euclid Heights Boulevard, has now missed two courts appearances in connection with fences in front of those buildings.

The fences were installed illegally, in violation of the Cleveland Heights Zoning Code, and without benefit of required City permits. Frate was first cited for the fences in June.

His first court date was August 27, and when he failed to appear, a new date was set for January 21. Again Frate failed to appear.

The Municipal Court is now in the process of setting another date for Frate's appearance. Should he miss that date, a warrant will be issued. No one will be sent out to arrest him, but should he have any contact with police--e.g., a burned-out tail light--he'll end up in jail.

Dobama offers another world premiere

Just Another Night at the Club, a musical written and composed by Michael Petrone of Cleveland Heights, will open at Dobama Theatre on Friday, March 6.

The play has two characters, a club singer played by Michelle Meers and a pianist played by Petrone. Ron Newell directs. Call the box office at 932-6838 for reservations or further information.

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Opinions expressed in these pages are strictly those of the respective writers, except where clearly identified as those of CNI, CVN, or the HCC.

Al Lustig, senior activist, dies

Allan Lustig, a former Trustee of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., and a good friend of ours, passed away in February.

Many will remember him as the senior presence in the CNI group of activists, sitting, listening, and reminding us in a gentle way not to overlook this or that. He performed many inglorious tasks, work like making phone calls to help organize the community, or passing out literature at Street Fairs. His wife Fran, still a Coventry resident, worked alongside him.

Al slowed down quite a bit in the past few years, looking a bit stoop-shouldered and grizzled. But when he saw my children, or another familiar face, a spark would ignite behind his eyes, and before you had a chance to ask him how he was doing, he'd already persuaded you to babble on about yourself.

Al Lustig touched the lives of many who shared Coventry Village with him. He was that kind of guy.

--Bruce M. Hennes

Don Barclay to retire; John Gibbon is heir

Donald K. Barclay, Law Director for Cleveland Heights for seventeen years, will retire soon. Mr. Barclay will continue his private practice of law with the firm of Conway Barclay Deyo & Kuralt.

Mr. Barclay said he plans to spend the time freed up by his retirement from the Cleveland Heights post, which is part-time, doing such things as writing for law journals.

Though no formal decision has yet been announced, Barclay will apparently be succeeded by John Gibbon, an Assistant Law Director with Cleveland Heights for more than a decade. Gibbon's responsibilities with the City involved, mostly, the Community Development Block Grant program. Gibbon is a Peace Corps veteran who practices law with the firm of Walter Haverfield Buescher & Chockley.

Irv gets a hearing on liquor license

The first in what is likely to be a series of hearings about a liquor license application made by Irv Gulko, proprietor of Irv's Deli, 1798 Coventry Road, was held on February 19 at the offices of the Ohio Department of Liquor Control, at 36th and Superior, Cleveland. Cliff Thompson, a hearing officer, presided.

It is Mr. Thompson's job to make a recommendation to the Ohio Liquor Commission, in Columbus. An initial ruling by the Commission is expected within a month to six weeks.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., (CNI) was represented by Bruce M. Hennes, a CNI trustee and former president, and by Larry Beam, now president of CNI. Beam and Hennes described their personal experiences with the constant fights and noise that characterized Irv's when a bar was in operation there. They told how CNI led the successful fight to take away Irv's liquor license through the local option process. They described the events that led, by way of erroneous maps issued by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, to the present situation in which Irv's is again in a precinct in which liquor licenses may be issued. They described CNI's unanimous opposition to the issuance of a liquor license to Irv's.

Melissa Ballard, who lived on Hampshire, just east of Coventry during the worst of the period when Irv's had a liquor license, told of the noise from late night fights, the refuse left by Irv's patrons on neighbors' lawns, and of widely-shared fears of walking past the delicatessen.

Marcia Polevoi, President of the Coventry Merchants Association and proprietor of High Tide/Rock Bottom (1824 Coventry Road), presented the merchant group's unanimous resolution opposing the issuance of a liquor license to Irv's.

Cleveland Heights Police Captain Michael Cannon, head of the Detective Bureau, presented the city government's objections to the license issuance. Captain Cannon described the many, many occasions on which the police were called to the Irv's location, often for serious and violent crimes.

John Gibbon, Assistant Law Director for the City of Cleveland Heights, guided each of these witnesses through his or her testimony. Mr. Gibbon's cooperation had been essential in lining up the witnesses.

Hennes and Beam expressed their

willingness to withdraw objections to the liquor license issuance if an acceptable buyer is found for Irv's.

Mr. Gulko said that he could not get a fair price for his restaurant until it once again had the right to serve wine and whiskey for consumption on premises. He offered the business, with the building that houses it, for sale at \$930,000 about a year ago. At the recent hearing, he spoke of a need to get back at least the \$800,000 he says he has invested there.

Mr. Gulko brought with him his wife, their son, and two other men who have worked for him. Only Mr. Gulko was called on to testify.

Mr. Gulko denied all the charges made by the other witnesses. He said that he needs a liquor license in order to make money with the business. He said, under oath, that the business is now "probably losing close to \$100,000 a year."

Gulko blamed continuing problems in the Coventry area on the other bars. Gulko said that when the other establishments close, he is forced to put a guard at the door of his restaurant. He described patrons of the other businesses as "pretty drunk and always fighting."

A new program for youth is proposed

A movement is afoot to bring the generations together in Coventry Village.

The program aims at bringing the often aimless youth of the area together with professionals, especially artists.

Ed Ritz, a veteran of the street scene here since the 1960's, is behind the effort. Ritz is seeking the donation of a storefront space to house the project.

Once a space is found, Ritz plans a series of four performances, on Wednesday evenings.

Among the neighborhood people who have agreed to participate in this effort are Harvey Pekar, whose American Splendor comic books have been published in anthology by a major publisher; Bill Miller, leader of the Mr. Stress Blues Band; and Professor Stuart Robinson, a mathematician and philosopher who is famous in the neighborhood.

Ritz will seek the support of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. for his project. CNI will meet next on March 10, 7:30 PM, at the Coventry Village Library.

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

Alfred Tutela to speak at CYC annual meeting

Alfred D. Tutela, Superintendent of the Cleveland Public Schools, will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Coventry Youth Center on Thursday, March 19, 7:30 PM at Coventry Elementary School, at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Coventry Road.

Mr. Tutela, a Coventry Village resident, will speak from his experience as an educator on the personal qualities young people need to develop in order to survive in an increasingly confusing and dangerous world. He will also discuss the kinds of community support that are most helpful in the development these qualities.

A social hour will follow the talk. The general public is invited.

Development future is subject of talk

Mike May, a planner with Doan Center, will team up with a representative of University Circle, Inc., to discuss the likely course of future development along Euclid Avenue at a gathering planned for Tuesday, March 24, 7:30 PM, in the ballroom of the Alcazar Hotel.

Development of the Dual Hub is likely to have substantial impact on the future of the western portion of Cleveland Heights. Important development opportunities in Coventry Village and the Cedar Fairmount areas are likely to result.

This program, an effort of the Cleveland Heights Commercial Programs office, is aimed largely at merchants and commercial developers. The program will also have strong appeal to residents and others concerned about the future of the area's housing stock.

Help keeping warm is available from HCC

Housewarming, a program paid for by East Ohio Gas, can provide up to \$500 worth of insulation.

Households must be eligible for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) or the Percentage of Income Plan (PIP).

To qualify for the program, households must first call the Heights Community Congress at 321-6775 to arrange for an audit of how their homes use energy.

HCC Auction: March 8

All That Jazz and an Auction, a fundraising effort of the Heights Community Congress (HCC), will be held on Sunday, March 8, 6:00 to 10:00 PM, at Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral, 3352 Mayfield Road. The program, which includes food and beer as well as two auctions, costs \$8.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for couples, and \$7.00 for senior citizens.

Among the things to be auctioned is a five-day stay at Casa de Campo, a resort in the Dominican Republic described in the *New York Times* as "probably the biggest and most varied vacation place in the Caribbean." There's a week's stay on Golden Beach, North Carolina, for up to ten persons. There's a hot air balloon ride for two, and much more.

Coventry Village businesses who contributed goods or services to the auction include Rainblue, Bistrot des Artistes, Dobama Theatre, O'Grady's Cleaners, Grums, the Corkscrew, Coventry Fresh Fish, Mitchell's Candies, Mac's Backs, Allen Lock and Key, Motorcars Honda, and Vidstar Systems.

Call the HCC at 321-6775 for reservations and further information.

Library Goings-on

Patricia Pasqual, director of the Cleveland Field Office of the Foundation Center, will speak on "Getting Grants In All The Right Places" at the Coventry Village Library on Wednesday, March 11, 1:30 PM. The program is free, but space is limited so reservations are required. Call 321-3400 before March 5.

Children who will be two and a half years old by April are invited to participate in Toddler Storytime. This eight-week program will begin again in April, and will be held on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:00 AM. Toddler Storytime differs from Preschool Storytime in that parents are involved in the initial stages of the program. The program is conducted by a children's librarian. It features simple stories, finger rhymes, and music. Please call Mrs. Tyus at 32103400 for more information.

These special events will be presented during National Library week, April 5 through 11: a young audience presentation by the Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf on Tuesday, April 7, at 2:30 PM; the Second Annual After-Nap Book Ball, a dress-up affair for preschoolers and their parents, also on April 7 (registration required). An all-day openhouse will be held on Saturday, April 11; Nancy Nyren, guest speaker and storyteller, is scheduled for 2:30.

Around Coventry . . .

Open, finally . . . The Rib Works Restaurant and Bar, in the lower level of Coventry Yard, 2785 Coventry Road, opened on February 25. The speciality is St. Louis style ribs, \$12.95 for a full rack and \$6.95 for a half portion. Burgers range from \$2.15 to \$3.75. A glass of beer or wine may be had for \$1.25, or \$0.75 between 4:00 and 7:00 PM. Breakfast specials start at \$2.95.

A print-media advertising campaign will begin after a shake-down period.

Going strong . . . Rib Works will get some of its stiffest and most direct competition from the Inn on Coventry.

The Inn has proven to be a remarkably stable and consistent business. Eight of the people who began the business in July of 1981 still work there. The Inn employs 35 people, working the approximate equivalent of fifteen full-time jobs. A new, five-year lease was agreed to last summer.

Recently, as she looked back on years of struggling, Debbie Duirk, one of the Inn's managers, expressed pleasure and pride in the success of the business. She thanked the neighborhood for its steady support.

The recently-revised menu gives emphasis to sea food and chicken dishes.

The Inn's Sunday Brunch is one of

the best (and most successful) such offerings on the East Side.

The Inn recently began staying open until 9:00 PM on Sundays, and full bar service is now available there on Sundays after 1:00 PM.

Hunan and Siam . . . The long-vacant space at 1864 Coventry Road, once Faces Restaurant, is now swiftly taking shape as the new home of Hunan, the fine Chinese restaurant now crowded into what was once a garage behind Coventry Yard.

The project includes the construction of a prep kitchen, storage spaces, and an office in the space on the lower level below the new Hunan location. Hunan will share these facilities with Siam, the new Thai restaurant that will be created in the space where Hunan is now.

Work is progressing on schedule toward an April opening.

Antiques . . . The former location of Antique World, 1771 Coventry Road, has been rented by the owners of Attenson Antiques and Books, 2291 Noble Road. That business will move to the Coventry location. Modest renovations of the store space were completed in late February, and the business will open its new location open in March.

Letters to the Editor

In praise of the Police Department

Dear Sir:

In the first of two unhappy incidents in my Cleveland Heights home, our police acted in an exemplary manner. My call, from a neighbor's house, brought several patrol cars in not more that two minutes.

Every surface that could reasonably have been touched in the break-in was dusted. The culprit was not found.

In the second incident, no clue was overlooked. Several days later the culprit was arrested, due to efficient detective work, and subsequently sentenced.

In both incidents, the uniformed police and detectives were courteous and sensitive to my feelings.

I really can not praise their conduct too much.

Clara Conoboy
Cleveland Heights

The dog problem

Dear Sir:

How about imposing a fine on people walking a dog *sans* pooper-scoopers?

Daily, I see people who would not dream of littering, walking their dogs, allowing them to defecate on *my* tree lawn, *my* terrace, the center-strip of Washington Boulevard, where people--including children--stroll and play.

We know that disease in spread this way--human disease and such dog diseases as hookworm.

Pet owners should be held responsible.

[Name withheld on request]
Coventry Village

[Cleveland Heights does have a law requiring that pet owners clean up after their animals. We have never, however, heard of an instance of its being enforced.--Ed.]

Join Coventry Neighbors, Inc., today!

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DATED MATERIAL--PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY MARCH 6

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. General Meeting, Tuesday March 10, 7:30 PM, at Coventry Village Library. Everyone is welcome.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Trustees meeting, Thursday April 9, 8:00 PM, at 1641 Hillcrest Road. The meeting is open to all dues-paid members of CNI.

JOIN Coventry Neighbors, Inc., NQM. You must be a member to vote on the issues decided at our meetings. Join now. All memberships and subscriptions the end of each year.

Please indicate the class of membership you want:

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