



Coventry Village News

November, 1987

The Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Volume 11 No.10

New members join CNI board; new year's activities studied; meeting November 10 at the Library

Concern over the future of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., evaporated at the October 13 election meeting when four veterans and two relative newcomers agreed to serve as officers for the coming year. Some had feared that the organization would not have sufficient leadership energies to continue.

The new board members are Trustees-at-Large Gary Schumacher and Nancy Miller. Mr. Schumacher, a frequent attendee at CNI meetings, is a computer expert at AmeriTrust who recently bought a home in Coventry Village. Ms. Miller, a Cedar Road resident, operates Tioli's Conversation Pieces, a shop in the Old Arcade, downtown. She organized the arts aspects of several Street Fairs, and the Arts Festival held last Summer.

The four other officers are unchanged: Larry Beam will serve again as President, Charles Owen as Vice President, Marilyn Pryor as Secretary, and Jeff Solomon-Hess as Treasurer.

Beam will continue to edit this newsletter, with increased support from Solomon-Hess and others.

Beam and Owen will, for the present, share CNI's seat on the board of the Heights Community Congress. We're looking for someone to fill this post permanently. Anyone interested is invited to call us at 371-6095.

The next regular meeting of Coventry Neighbors will be on November 10, 7:30 pm, in the Meeting Room of the Coventry Village Library. Everyone is welcome.

At the October 13 meeting, CNI resolved to oppose a parking variance sought by Raj Mathur, owner of the building on the south-east corner of Coventry and Mayfield Roads. At its meeting of October 21, the City of Cleveland Heights Board of Zoning

Appeals unanimously rejected Mathur's request, which would have allowed him to install a Mr. Hero restaurant in his building.

Also at the October 13 meeting, CNI resolved unanimously to oppose legislation now pending before City Council which would make it illegal to take in roomers who stay for less than 30 days. The apparent target of this legislation is increasingly-popular "bed-and-breakfast" lodging arrangements made in private homes. CNI President Larry Beam expressed CNI's position to a public hearing

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Council hears Citizens on bed-and-breakfast issue

A standing-room-only crowd packed City Council chambers on October 19 for a special public hearing concerning a proposed ordinance banning transient lodgings in the city of Cleveland Heights other than hotels, motels and trailer courts.

Councilman Dick Weigand opened the hearing by attempting to convince those on the council and those in attendance in the audience that the ordinance was not specifically targeted at bed and breakfast operations. Despite Weigand's remarks, the rest of the evening's discussion centered on just that issue: are bed-and-breakfasts good or bad for Cleveland Heights?

Citizens speaking at the meeting were closely divided on the issue with nine people speaking against the ordinance and for bed-and-breakfasts, and five taking the opposite view. Two individuals spoke both against the ordinance and bed-and-breakfasts.

Those speaking against the ordinance and for bed and breakfast included owners of such operations in Cleveland Heights, local real estate brokers and citizens who make it a habit to stay in bed-and-breakfasts when traveling. Their common arguments centered on the lack of a negative impact from the operations on the neighborhoods where they

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Library goings-on

"Stories Through Pantomime" will be presented on Thursday, November 19, 7:30 PM, at Coventry Village Library. The production is part of the Library's annual Children's Book Week Special. Mr. Junior Lee Doughty, Coventry Village Library Custodian and an area resident, and Ms. Elizabeth Beldon of Akron are the pantomimists. Both are deaf. Stories Through Pantomime will appeal to both deaf and hearing people.

"We Gather Together" will be the "Once Upon a Storytime" special for school-age children. On November 24, the program will consist of a visit from Tom Tobin and his seeing-eye dog. Join us.

As a part of the Library's continuing focus on the deaf community, the poetry reading on Sunday, November 1, at 2:30, will be signed.

The Library is now open seven days each week. Friday hours, 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, began on October 9.

Preschool Storytime, for ages 3 to 5, will be held on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM and on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM through December 16.

Once Upon A Storytime will be held on Tuesdays, 2:30 PM, through December 15.

Holiday Fun will be on Tuesday, October 27, at 2:30 PM.

Titles recently acquired by the Library include: *Agents of Innocence*, by D. Ignatius; *The Coelura*, A. McCaffrey; *Fortunes*, V. Cowie; *Heaven and Hell*, J. Jakes; *Kaleidoscope*, D. Steel; *Lea*, R. Deforges; *Occupation*, J. Toland; *Out on the Rim*, R. Thomas; *Rage*, W. Smith; *Search the Shadows*, B. Michaels; *A Southern Family*, G. Goodwin; *Til the Real Thing Comes Along*, I. Dart; and *Tricks: an 87th Precinct Novel*, E. McBain.

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Larry Beam

Editorial Board:
Larry Beam, Charles Owen, Jeff Solomon-Hess, Marilyn Pryor, Gary Schumacher, and Nancy Miller.

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Production Staff:
Jeff Solomon-Hess, J. Laws, Marilyn Pryor, Charles Owen, Betty Sennenhof, and the staff of the Heights Community Congress.

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

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The deadline for each month is the 16th day of the preceding month. While no unsigned material will be used, names may be withheld from publication at the writer's request.
Phone: 371-6095.

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

Poetry at Mac's Backs

Mac's Backs will host a free poetry reading with Jim Villani, editor of the Pig Iron Press, along with George Pesser and Joe Allgren, at 7:30 pm on November 11. Free coffee will be available at the reading.

Entries are now being accepted for the 1987 Simon Emler Award. Gift certificates will be awarded for the five best poems best representing an exactness of style and wealth of content, according to a spokesperson.

Winners will be announced at the second Wednesday reading at Mac's Backs on December 9.

Submissions should be sent to: Simon Emler Award, Mac's Backs, 1785 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. Entry deadline is December 5. For further information call 321-2665. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if entries are to be returned.

Support your
community.
Join CNI today.

Coventry Village Development Corp. begins active life

The Coventry Village Development Corporation (CVDC) is the newest actor in the public affairs of Coventry Village. Its President is photographer Herb Ascherman, and its board includes several long-time activists, including Coventry Neighbors Larry Beam, Charles Owen, and Bruce Hennes.

The CVDC is seeking standing under the Internal Revenue code that will allow it to accept donations that may be deducted from the donor's tax liability. The IRS, City officials say, is expected to grant that standing soon.

It will pay for such essential community services as the cleaning of the sidewalks in the business district. The CVDC hopes to have the resources necessary to do a far better job than the present Merchants Association has been able to do.

The merchant group has been able to raise only about \$2,000 this year through its voluntary membership payments. The CVDC expects to get all merchants to share in costs through a system of rent surcharges.

The CVDC may eventually be able to take the lead in such substantial projects as the renovation of buildings. Similar organizations--called local development corporations (LDCs) in Cleveland--frequently do just such projects, using a combination of government funding, foundation money, and bank financing.

The Friends of Shaker Square and University Circle, Inc., are examples of LDCs in Cleveland.

Other members of the CVDC board include Mary Ann Rodewald, Ken Montalck, Bill Valis, and Marvin Schwartz.

Community Shares supports HCC, others with payroll deductions

Greater Cleveland Community Shares seeks donations for its 1988 operating expenses, and urges individuals donating to the United Way Campaign to request a donor option card and write in either its name, or the name of any member organization. According to a spokesperson for the group, the funds go to: Citizens To Bring Broadway Back, Cleveland Council of Unemployed Workers, Divorce Equity, Inc., Euclid Community Congress, Greater Cleveland Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, Heights Community

Congress, Housing Advocates, Living In Cleveland Center, National Neighbors, Senior Citizens' Coalition, Templum House, Union Miles Development Corp., Women's Law Fund and 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women.

Sunday concerts at Unitarian Society

The Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road, Coventry Village, plans a series of mini-concerts immediately before their 11 AM worship service on Sunday mornings. The 20-minute concerts begin at 10:40 every Sunday (with the exception of November 22) from November 8 to December 13. Musicians scheduled include: Julie Mangio, piano, November 8; Chris Loy, Cleveland Institute of Music faculty, piano, November 15; James Volk, guitar, November 29; Andre Long, flute, Dec 6; and David Robeson, piano, N. Carolina School of Performing Arts faculty, and Anitra Dreyfus, cello, first chair for the Canton Symphony Orchestra.

The Unitarian Society plans additional concerts in 1988. For additional information, contact the Society on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings at 932-1898, or June Wortman at 321-0246 (home) or 371-7698 (work).

HCC offers a book on community heritage

Copies of *In Our Day*, published by the Heights Community Congress last fall, are still available. The book contains all material from *Heritage on the Heights* and *In My Day*, books published by the HCC in 1977 and 1978, with substantial new text and photographs.

The 96-page soft-bound book measures 8.5 by 11 inches. It makes a great coffee-table piece, and is packed with fascinating lore about the history, development, and people of Cleveland Heights.

Copies may be obtained in local book stores, or by mail from the Heights Community Congress, 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44118. The price: \$8.95 plus \$1.33 for tax, postage, and handling.

Give to the Hunger Center

Donations of cash or non-perishable food may be left at Metropolitan Savings or Mac's Backs Books

CNI's new year . . .

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held a City Hall on October 19.

Cni adopted a resolution granting \$100 in honor of the coming holidays to the Hunger Center of the Greater Cleveland Interfaith Council.

Events planned again

Last summer CNI sponsored a day of music, a fine arts festival, and six tours of the neighborhood. We hope to offer similar activities next summer. The Events Committee will offer a report to the Membership on November 10.

So far, very preliminary thoughts are of combining the music and arts events. There will be some tours next summer, but certainly fewer than this year. Several neighbors want CNI to sponsor street musicians on a regular basis next summer, in an effort to bring regular musical life to the commercial district.

Anyone interested in participating in the development of events for the the summer of 1988 is invited to contact us. We need lots of help.

CNI hopes for the same warm and generous support in these efforts that it received last year from City Council and the local government's administrative staff.

Merchant support for the events of last summer was disappointing. It is likely that for next summer, the events will have less focus on the commercial district--unless, of course, merchant financial help is forthcoming.

Membership recruitment

CNI's membership stands now at an all-time high. Yet we hope, in the coming year, to expand that membership further. CNI has too few members from the part of the neighborhood north of Mayfield Road; we hope to do some recruiting there. We hope to cooperate with the City's Community Relations staff in efforts to organize street clubs.

Neighborhood advocacy

We hope that in the coming year we are able to exercise a stronger role in fighting for a fair share for Coventry Village in the budgets and activities of the municipal government.

Youth Center benefit called "Psy-Kicks"

The Coventry Youth Center has scheduled Psy-Kicks, a benefit featuring professional psychics, for November 14 from 3 to 6 pm. at 2890 Euclid Heights Boulevard.

Psychics in the fields of astrology, numerology, handwriting analysis, palmistry, psychometry and tarot will perform at the Saturday afternoon benefit. Readers scheduled

include: Patricia Sage, Lori Bader, Emily Koritz, Angela Reber, David Malcolm and Sherman Irvine.

Tickets for the event are \$35 and include readings, wine and hors d'oeuvres. (Refreshments courtesy of Tommy's, Turkey Ridge, The Mad Greek, Norton's and the Inn On Coventry.) In addition, a raffle during the benefit will award a private, past-life regression and astrology reading with Sage or Malcolm, crystals courtesy of Delphic books and a gift certificate for lunch at Nighttown.

For tickets send a check or money order to: Ginny Martin, Psy-Kicks, Coventry Youth Center, 1925 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, 44118. For more information, call Helen Burnhard at 932-9785.

Bed-and-breakfast . . .

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are located, and the high degree of good will they create for people visiting Cleveland Heights.

Speaking as a member of the real estate community, one woman pointed out that the bed and breakfasts allowed her potential clients to see first hand the benefits of living in a Cleveland Heights neighborhood while house hunting.

Another woman, the owner of a bed and breakfast discussed the screening processes used by her and others in selecting who to allow to stay in their homes.

Those speaking against the bed-and-breakfasts and for the ordinance did so because they feared a loss in property values.

The two individuals speaking against both the ordinance and bed-and-breakfasts said that the ordinance would have the effect of making existing bed and breakfast operations legal and prohibiting only future operations. Council members urged that anyone who might wish to express an opinion, to communicate by writing to the Clerk of Council, City of Cleveland Heights, 40 Severance Circle, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. --JS-H

Energy audits are free to some

According to the Heights Community Congress, energy audits are still available for residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights. The audits determine what types of measures should be taken to conserve home energy. Free audits are available to households that meet certain income guidelines. For more information, call the HCC at 321-6775.

Around Coventry . . .

Mr. Hero, continued . . . There will be no Mr. Hero restaurant on the southeast corner of Mayfield and Coventry. On October 21, the City's Board of Zoning Appeals denied a variance request from building owner Raj Mathur, who wanted to replace his failed Coventry Cafe with the fast-food operation. Mathur said immediately after the hearing that he would appeal the decision, or seek to have the matter reconsidered. Success in appeal or reconsideration is unlikely.

Much more likely is that a Mr. Hero/Mr. Philly restaurant will be built elsewhere in Coventry Village. There are two large, vacant storefronts which might accommodate the proposed restaurant.

Were the fast food operation to come to one of these other locations, Mr. Mathur would not be its operator, and it would not be located quite so far from parking.

Mathur's proposal included an elegant plan for the renovation of his building, which is now the most troubled and deteriorated building in Coventry business district. That proposed renovation is the work of Lajos Szabo, who designed the facade renovation at the Bistrot des Artistes.

Parking . . . Some fifteen City workers--from the Departments of Planning, Community Relations, and Parking Meters--spent from 10 AM to 6 PM on an August Friday gathering data about the utilization of parking spaces in Coventry's business district. Initial plans had called for another similar data-gathering effort, this one in the evening, when the area's parking shortage is most serious; plans to study peak-demand parking dynamics has apparently now been abandoned.

Compilation of these data, and the drafting of recommendations based on them, are in the hands of a former student intern with the Planning Department. He's now employed in Portage County, and is reported to be working on the project in his spare time.

Planning Director Mark Majewski told us before the study was conducted that he needed these data to "answer the tough questions" about parking here. Neighborhood and community leaders would have preferred to see those fifteen worker-days spent on more basic services--like trash removal, tree planting and maintenance, weed-pulling and bush-trimming in the parking lots, and code enforcement. We think we know enough already about parking dynamics.

Meanwhile, City Council has

authorized the use of eminent domain, if such strong medicine is necessary, to obtain an easement essential to the addition of some two dozen parking spaces to the parking lot across from Tommy's Restaurant. At issue is the City's right to locate nose-in parking spaces on a strip of land about ten feet wide along the south wall of Coventry Beverage and Pizza. The land is already paved, and appears to be part of the parking lot, but the City does not own it.

Meltdown . . . The *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* were sold out at Carroll Drug before 10:30 AM on Tuesday, October 20, the day after the crash in stock prices. Proprietor Don Horvat said a week later that the run on papers was the only effect he'd noticed of Wall Street's troubles. He added that his beer and wine sales were up four fold recently. Not, though, for sales to sorry investors: Coventry Beverage, across the street, lost its liquor license a month or two ago.

Branch managers of Cleveland Heights banks said nothing was changed, though one noted difficulty getting action from the central office, and another showed us a statement from downtown that was intended to reassure nervous depositors.

Marcia Polevoi, at High Tide/Rock Bottom, expressed hope that the crash might even help her business and others here, as high rollers lose their taste for more expensive shops.

Parking ticket . . . At about 11:00 AM on Sunday, October 18, we noticed a tall, thin police officer writing a parking ticket in front of Turkey Ridge. He said it was for an expired meter. We pointed out a small sign on the meter that reads, "Enforced 8 AM to 6 PM Sundays and holidays excepted." The officer said, "That don't matter." We suggested that it might at least confuse law-abiding citizens. He said, "I'll check my log." He got in his car (No. 107), which was parked in the north-bound traffic lane. A minute later, he drove off, leaving the ticket he'd written on a blue Dodge.

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The next regular meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will be held on Tuesday, November 10 at the Coventry Village Library.

The next meeting of the trustees of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will be held on Thursday, December 3, 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. Join now. All memberships and newsletter subscriptions expire at the end of each year.

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