

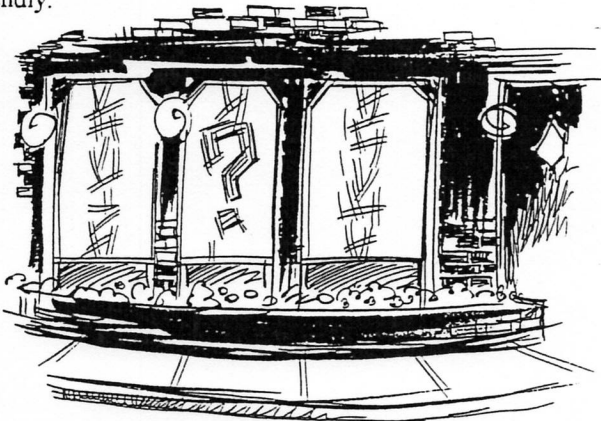
# COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS

June, 95

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS INC.

## Update On Irv's

Twenty-eight people came to the June meeting of Coventry Neighbors to hear Cleveland Heights resident, attorney, councilperson, and landowner Ken Montlack talk about his hopes and plans for the building best known as "Irv's" standing empty at the corner of Coventry and Hampshire. Mr. Montlack was a little worried that he was in for a roasting, as signs had been out in Coventry Road Businesses for a week, and he didn't think they sounded friendly.



Mr. Montlack reminded us that although he and his brother jointly owned "Irv's" for several years, only since February of this year has he alone had full control over it, after he and his brother split up their real estate partnership.

Although some good restaurant operators were interested in the space early on, Mr. Montlack said most turned it down prior to the building of the parking garage. Pizzeria Uno was one of the best prospects, and both Pizzeria Uno and the Montlacks spent time and money exploring how the space might be revamped. As time went by it became an increasingly big project, calling for \$700,000 worth of improvements.

At one point in the meeting Mr. Montlack waved a stack of paper three inches thick in the air. These, he said, were drafts of the lease between the Montlacks and Pizzeria Uno written and rewritten over the course of a year. Despite this much effort no meeting of minds or pocket books between Pizzeria Uno and the Montlacks was achieved. Mr. Montlack reported he made one final effort once the building was his to jump start the Pizzeria Uno project, but at this point, he says he has moved on.

Mr. Montlack also passed around for perusal three or four draft preliminary layouts showing possible ways the building

could be used as a restaurant, or for retail or as offices. He stressed that these were in no way final plans. Final plans will only be prepared when he has a serious tenant. The kind of high quality tenant he is seeking, he believes, will want to have a big say in all aspects of remodeling, from window placement and exterior image, to what happens with the ramp, as well as roof changes that may result from a remodeled heating and cooling layout. In Mr. Montlack's vision, getting a tenant in there is not just a matter of a little fix up work on the inside.

To pursue this desirable tenant, who must be willing to make a commitment almost equally as deep as the one Mr. Montlack is prepared to make, Mr. Montlack reported that he had brought in a real estate broker to help him market the building. Brochures are now in production to go out to potential first tier restaurants or retail chains. If that doesn't work, said Mr. Montlack, "We move on down the line. We're ready to go when the right tenant comes along. My children and I are betting our future on this building because we think it's a good bet. The funds are there. We don't know when something will happen, but we're working on it every day. Coventry has the momentum. Capitalism is going to work here."

Elsa Johnson

## And About the Zipkin Building...

Lou Zipkin has agreed to come talk to Coventry Neighbors about his plans for "the Pit". Our understanding is work could begin there almost any day. There is a construction trailer on the site, so if you want to see the plan for the building that will be erected there, mark August 8th on your calendar and come to the CNI meeting, 7:45 pm at the Coventry Library.

Sometimes we have a meeting in August, sometimes we don't. Last year we invited everyone who had attended a Coventry Neighbors meeting during the last year to a picnic at Cumberland Park. Only the diehards showed up because the evil weather gods got wind of the party and let loose with a salvo of near freezing rainy miserable weather. We all sat around with goose bumps and chattering teeth (I still have someone's large plastic drinking glasses in my cupboard; they were left at the picnic by someone in a hurry to get warm. No one has ever asked if they were found). This year we will have a meeting in August. See you there.

## Death Among The Berries

This hot morning  
reaching out to pluck strawberries  
I plucked instead  
almost  
a squirrel

under the peony bush  
lying there  
eyes glazed over  
dead.

All day yesterday four at a time  
squirrels chased each other  
up and around trees  
amid loud arguments and aerial fights.

Can squirrels do this  
to other squirrels?

This cool evening  
I lay her in a hole  
laced with mint root  
folding her once flush tail  
around her feet,  
planting

strange strawberry fruit  
Squirrel.

Elsa Johnson



## Coventry Remembered

The Coventry Neighbors Inc. Street Fair Reunion, held in May, was a success. Thanks to Kathryn Young for the great idea and the organizational drive to bring it off. The City of Cleveland Heights presented CNI with a plaque for 25 years of service to the community. Chuck Mathews, one of the founders and first president of CNI, was the major speaker at the reunion. The following is an excerpt from his speech. It is interesting reading and informative. A complete copy of his prepared remarks will be available at the regular CNI meetings. Enjoy:

## The Early Years of Coventry Neighbors - The Tumultuous Sixties/National and Locally

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) did not come about (as we used to say) through a process of osmosis nor (as we say today) through artificial insemination, but by a strange culmination of historical events which many people called "the tumultuous sixties." We all know the story of "the tumultuous sixties" such as the freedom rides, protest marches in the south and "We Shall Overcome" was the song of the day. Fighting and dying was taking place in Viet Nam, along with fighting and dying on American streets between the "uptight" urban Blacks and the Police establishment. Riots rocked the nation -- along with music call "Rock N' Roll." Drugs were "the happenin'" and strange looking people who walked around barefoot "dropped out" with a new name called "hippies."

Cleveland Heights at this time was also experiencing some rumblings. These rumblings were a racial bombing which took place at the new home of a black resident who was the Executive Director of Karamu, and also at the Real Estate office of a black broker. Overall, four or five bombs found black targets. Cleveland Heights City council and most of its residents ignored or "slept" through the bombings. However, there were those of a political stripe, led by Arthur V. N. Brooks and Dick Skylar, who tried to "turn out" the Council, but failed. It wasn't until the Harold C. Burton Tennis Match that all hell broke out.

The Harold C. Burton Tennis Matches was an annual classic and was attended by tennis buffs locally and nationally. In addition, this match was receiving media exposure. At the same time young people, especially those who dressed and looked sort of strange were pressing for the end of the Viet Nam War. These strange folks labeled "hippies" descended on the tennis matches bearing signs protesting the Viet Nam War. All who were in attendance and the media viewing were shocked. Heights City Hall dispatched platoon of police and dump trucks. The police arrived on the scene swinging billy clubs and throwing these strange looking people into the dump trucks like dead meat. The police not only beat the hell out of these strange looking people at the matches, but also while they were en route to City Hall they stopped off at "Coventry Road" and repeated the same act. Some of those strange looking folks were out-of-towners, but a lot of them were sons and daughters of Cleveland Heights lawyers, doctors and business persons. These folks were so incensed that a meeting was held at one of the schools in the Roxborough area at which time they let City Hall have it with "both barrels." I was there and I was amazed at how upset and angry these folks were. I asked the meeting leader if I could speak. I told those who were in the audience that I was glad that their children had experienced police brutality, because I had been a recipient of such activity while living in the inner city. When

those of us who lived in the inner city experienced one of these episodes, our cries fell on deaf ears. Later, those in the meeting decided on becoming organized and to meet next at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Doris and Park Goist organized the first meeting by posting notices for a meeting at the Church of the Good Shepherd in the Coventry area. At the meeting the discussion was loud and lively; however, over 100 persons decided to start the Coventry Ad Hoc Committee, of which I was elected Chairperson. Later, the name of the Coventry Neighbors, Inc. was the brainchild of Marc and Bonnie Labowitz. The Core originators of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. were Bonnie and Mark Labowitz, Dennis and Suzanne Neirmann, Dee Allison, King "the dog", and yours truly. Later, we were joined with Joy, Peter and "the Wagon", Al Rappaport, Dave Burwasser, the "Bobsey twins", Karen and Kermit Lind, and many others with names that presently escape me.

Chuck Mathews

### CNI Garage Sale Postponed

A typo in our announcement of a Coventry Neighbor's sponsored garage sale read that we expected a percent of any amount over twenty dollars. We meant that to read \$200. Perhaps that's why we didn't get much response. We still think a garage sale is a good potential fund raising idea, and we are rethinking what to offer and how to proceed.

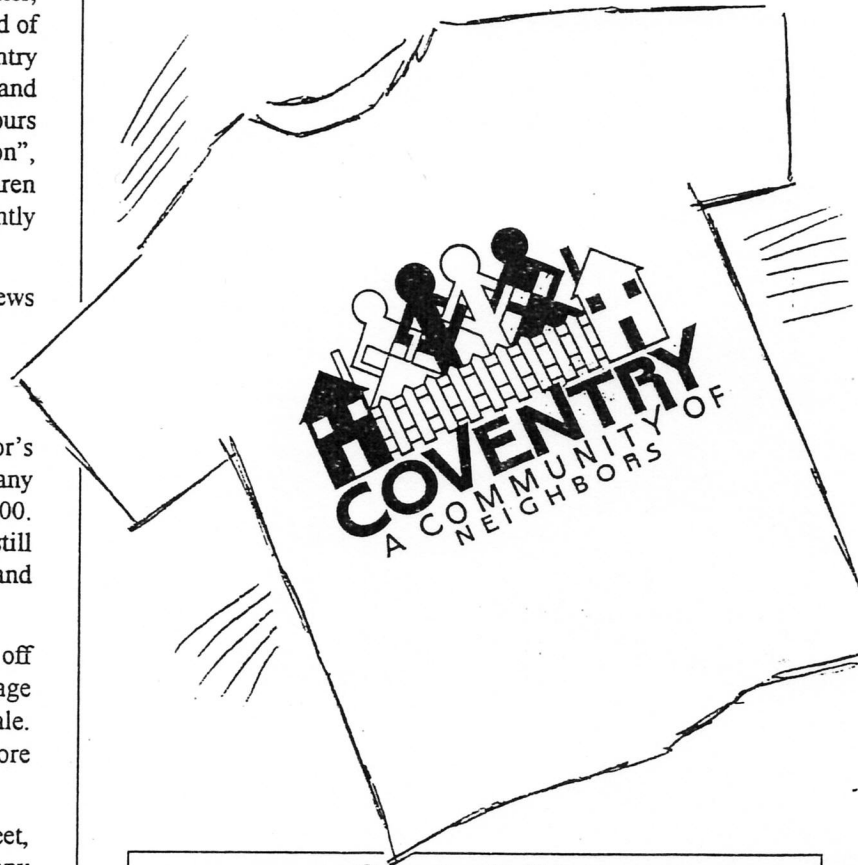
One option would be to have a central location as a drop off spot for those of you who don't want to have you own garage sale. You would donate your items as for a white elephant sale. One might even have a white elephant auction of the more interesting or more outrageous items.

Another option is to encourage several neighbors, or a street, to get together to organize either one or garage sale or many individual ones. As before, for twenty dollars we'll advertise the garage sale. You can split the cost with someone else as long as they are on your street.

A third option is to do both, on the same day. In addition to advertising in the Sun Press we'd have a list of the street and individual garage sales at our central location, and a locator map. We'd ask each garage sale to make a good will (voluntary) donation.

Is there interest out there in this scenario? We'll be working on this with the intention to do this next May or June, so save up your stuff, and by all means, let us know that you'd like to be a participant or contributor.

We talked about doing T-shirts for almost a year before we actually got down to it. We don't move fast on these things but we do move forward.



### Coventry T-Shirts

Coventry Neighbors has created some exceptionally handsome T-shirts. You don't have to be a member to wear one because they don't bill Coventry Neighbors as an organization. They read, under a computer generated drawing of houses, and racially diverse men and women with linked arms...**COVENTRY... A COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORS.**

We don't know about you, but for us, that is the idea and the ideal that Cleveland heights has supported for so many years, which neighborhoods like Coventry exemplify. If this is an ideal you support too, then show it by purchasing and proudly wearing a T-shirt.

T-shirts are available exclusively at **Mac's Backs** on Coventry, or from any Coventry Neighbors officer or trustee. They will also be available at Coventry Neighbors meetings. while the supply lasts. The shirts are black with white lettering or gray with black lettering, size XL, \$ 5 each. Proceeds go to support Coventry Neighbors Inc.

Regular meetings of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:40 p.m. at the Coventry Village Library, Euclid Heights Blvd. & Coventry Rd. When you join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. you can be sure of having a voice in shaping your neighborhood's future. Membership includes a subscription to the Coventry Village News.

Indicate the kind of membership you desire and complete the form:

\_\_\_ Individual (\$7.50)      \_\_\_ Family (\$10.00)      \_\_\_ Senior Citizen (\$5.00)

CNI needs street representatives to communicate with the local neighborhoods and assist with the delivery of the newsletter.

YES, I would be interested in becoming a CNI representative for my street

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check to: COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

C/O Elsa Johnson

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Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

Schedule of Meetings	
* July 11, 1995	Regular Monthly Meeting
August 8, 1995	Louis Zipkin will be there to talk about his plans for "the pit."
* September 12, 1995	Regular Monthly Meeting
October 8, 1995	Nominations for 1996 Officers and Trustees
* Newsletter Publication Month	

Coventry Village News is published by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. The newsletter is distributed free throughout Coventry Village. Mailed subscriptions are available (see last page).

Editor: Bruce Biddle

Editorial Board: Elsa Johnson, Bob Klemenc

How to reach us: If you can't come to the monthly meetings send a letter to:

Coventry Neighbors Inc.  
c/o Elsa Johnson, President  
██████████  
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118

or

Coventry Village News  
Bruce Biddle, Editor  
██████████  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

**Coventry Village News**  
c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor  
██████████  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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