

COVENTRY

VILLAGE NEWS

May, 95

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS INC.

Your Actions, Your Responsibilities!

I work for a company which has increasingly developed international business ties. Consequently, many of my associates travel internationally with some regularity. In the course of a conversation where a constant traveler to China was comparing "local peculiarities" with a recent visitor to Mexico he said, "Americans are the citizens most protected from themselves in the world." Compared with our international neighbors we have allowed ourselves to become so protected from our actions we no longer take responsibility for them.

-- I wasn't a clumsy oaf, Mc Donald's shouldn't have made the coffee so hot.

Common sense has been replaced with legislation, common courtesy has been replaced with common plea. As important things around us deteriorate we continue to allow our legislature to keep us disassociated.

-- I didn't know. No warning label on the lawn mower said I can't lift it over my head and use it as a hedge trimmer.

This disassociation with responsibility has overlapped into other portions of our lifestyle. We see more movies but not in a large crowded theater. Because of demand, theaters have shrunk and most of us watch movies at home on the television VCR. Less and less people are attending live performances, fewer people vote in each election and, as this newsletter has stated, smaller percents of the population are driven to community/neighborhood participation. We have slowly started to disassociate ourselves from the community.

-- It's not my fault my child drowned in the swimming pool, the hotel should have hired a guard to watch him while I ignored him.

Before we legislated common sense, the old cliché was true, a person didn't raise a child, a community did. Now a person does indeed raise a child alone without the benefit of everyone and ultimately to the detriment of all. This new singularly sown seedling will grow up watching TV alone, not voting or participating in his neighborhood, a shallow version of their grandparents who were raised in the open arms of a loving and nurturing neighborhood.

--I didn't rape her, my environment has pre-disposed me to carnal rage.

I live across the street from the new Coventry school playground. We watched as concerned parents tried to dispel this inevitable theory. They did work in and for their community. They were collectively raising a family of youngsters. They were working for the greater good. One hundred times as many parents drop their children at the playground for use than helped to build. These people are decidedly less community minded. Their children run into traffic, they park in my and my neighbors driveway and in front of our aprons (there is no sign that says they can not block my driveway.) They are raising the individuals of the future, fully protected from themselves, insulated from the need to participate and eager to punish the neighbor who infringes on their "stuff."

When the first protected child falls off the slide and skins their knee, the downward shift begins again. The school will be sued (you don't have a sign warning, "Falling off slide will result in skinned knee." Another brick is mortared into place isolating another person.

Perhaps we can rely on the fact that there will always be those parents who are willing to come out from behind the wall, band together and build a playground, a neighbor or a citizen. Unfortunately, the bricks are being mortared in at a steady pace while the number of people willing to brave the elements of an unprotected environment are diminishing to a trickle.

Jeffrey R. Dross



Caution:

Banana growers are not responsible for injuries resulting from accidents due to peels which are disposed of improperly.

Coventry: A Community

An open letter to all the active members of Coventry Neighbors.

After last month's meeting I did some thinking about the sweatshirt/T-shirts and how I believe we should characterize ourselves with regard to graphics and text.

I came to the conclusion that "diversity" is NOT the way we should advertise ourselves, nor think about ourselves.

Consider this: we are all diverse, different backgrounds, religions, and other belief systems. Some of us are native Americans, some not. Some are more Native American than others. That holds true for the country as a whole and is certainly not unique to the Coventry Neighborhood.

The first thing that comes to mind is that we are a community. Webster defines community: "A body of people having common organization or interest or living in the same place... or with some apparent association of interests."

Our apparent association of interest is the health and welfare of the community for the purpose of creating and maintaining a safe and pleasant, nurturing place for the individuals who form part of our community. The world about us is neither safe nor kind nor nurturing.

We have demonstrated many of the aspects that entitles us to call ourselves a community: I only need to point to the Coventry Peace playground project in which hundreds of neighbors had a hand. I consider the playground, the library, Coventry School and the Coventry Youth Center the external manifestations of our neighborhood spirit.

So I would advocate that we rethink our logo, or whatever we call it, and instead of only faces, we portray in some form the elements that help to make our neighborhood a community and add the words: Coventry - A Community.

We are, by the way, ahead of our time. The Perspectives section of the P.D. Sunday March 19, carried an article "Bring back the Neighborhoods." New Urbanism they call it. "...more compact neighborhoods of houses and walkup apartments, less sterile streets, places with real town centers and pedestrian-accessible parks and gathering places." I would add: beautiful gardens. We are on our way.

Harry M. Cameron

Harry Cameron is a long-time Coventry resident, an author, and co-Vice President of Coventry Neighbors Inc.



Walk and Book Signing at Mac's Backs

Mac's Backs Paperbacks will host a book signing Saturday, May 6 by hiking guides and authors of Cleveland On Foot Patience and Harry Cameron. The Camerons will lead a walk beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Coventry Village Library and ending at Mac's Backs paperbacks, 1820 Coventry Rd. at noon. Participating walkers will get a chance to sample two of the hikes noted in the Camerons popular book, Cleveland On Foot. The Camerons will be signing copies of the book at Mac's Backs after the walk. The Camerons self-published the first edition of Cleveland On Foot. The expanded second edition is published by Gray & Company who have released several notable books relating to Cleveland. The second edition of Cleveland On Foot contains nineteen new hikes, including two in Cleveland Heights and one in nearby Lakeview Cemetery.

There will also be a walk Saturday, May 13th, led by the Camerons through Lakeview Cemetery. This walk begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Garfield Monument. No reservations are needed for either walk.

Harry and Patience Cameron, active members of the Buckeye Trail Association and Cleveland Hiking Club, have been hike leaders for many years. They met in 1976 while hiking in Main with the Appalachian Mountain Club, proof that hiking is good for many things. Harry is a retired mechanical engineer, Pat a retired assistant professor of community nursing. They live in Cleveland Heights.

Mac's Backs Paperbacks, located on Coventry Road since 1982, offers three floors of new and used books, with a large selection of science fiction and mysteries. Its unique trading policy allows patrons to "recycle" their old books.



Coventry Neighbors Coventry Village Reunion



Don't miss it! Renew friendships with many of the people from Coventry Village. There will be a lot of people there from the old street fair days. Entertainment and refreshments too.

Our next meeting, **May 9**, will be a Coventry Village Reunion held at the **Unitarian Society on Lancashire, at 7:30 P.M.** Some of your favorite dining spots on Coventry are providing refreshments and snacks. For entertainment we will have the Prayer Warriors, Mrs. Willie Wright of the Wright Family Singers, and the Hot Foot Quartet. Kathryn Young will be making a presentation of her collection of Coventry memorabilia to the Coventry Library. Chuck Mathews (first president of CNI), Tom Fello (owner of Tommy's), Mayor Carol Edwards and City Manager Robert Downing will on hand to say a few words too.



Looking Back on Coventry

As I look back on the Coventry I knew, the Coventry I lived in, worked in, and played in, the Coventry I fell in love with in the summer of 1969, I am amazed at the resiliency of that neighborhood. After all, Coventry may be a street in Cleveland Heights, but the word "Coventry" takes on a whole new meaning: Neighborhood.

I had classmates at John Carroll who lived on Euclid Hts. Blvd. and Hampshire Rd. in 1965, '66, and '67. I had frequented *The Pepper Pot* and *The Heights Art Theater*, but had not paid much attention to the business district before that summer. The summer of '69 changed that. My first wife and I were looking for an apartment. While in the Coventry area, I stumbled into a small demonstration (having something to do with "Certificates of Occupation" and the newly opened boutiques and head-shops). I had to stay to get to know the people, to shop, and to explore. Within a short time, I was hooked.

We moved into a third floor walk-up on Hampshire Rd. behind *Carroll Drug* (presently *Hunan on Coventry*) in September 1966, and I began a life-long love affair with Coventry.

I remember the original flair of the Coventry Business district: with its old delicatessens, antique shops, and boutiques mixed in with the new counter-culture shops. The old delis (like *Irv's* and *Leo's*), *Mr. Ulish's Antiques*, *Mrs. Tyler's grocery store*, and the ladies clothing boutique that occupied the store that is now part of *Record Revolution*, all doing business alongside shops like *Number Nine*, *Cargo*, *New World Haircuts*, *Rainblue*, *Record Revolution*, and the original *Food Co-op*.

The changes inevitable in any neighborhood brought new entrepreneurs. Breakfast of bagels, salami and eggs at *Leo's* soon became a French dinner at *Toute Le Monde*; other changes along the way have brought that location to its present incarnation as the *Pepper Ridge*. One of my favorite changes to watch over the years has been the *Heights Art Theater*; from an adult movie theater to a second run movie house to a first run multi-cinema, *The Centrum*.

I opened my office at 1810 Coventry on February 1, 1972. For 18 years I occupied the store front that is now *Coventry Cats*. At the time, my office was between *New World Haircuts* and *Ward's folly*. Over the years, my neighbors to the south changed from *New World Haircuts* to *Coventry Audio* to *Daffy Dan's* to *Coventry Cats*; to the north, from *Wards Folly* to *Passport to Peru*.

For many years, *Coventry Neighbors*, the local organization responsible for coordinating the legendary *Coventry Village Street Fairs*, has been consistently helpful to the merchants. The momentum of *Coventry Neighbors* developed a "political machine" that practically took over City Hall. I believe that

without *Coventry Neighbors* we (the merchants) would not have been as successful.

Through friendships that my wife and I have maintained throughout the years, and through my wife's business associations as the Executive Director of the *Cedar-Fairmount Business Association*, we know that the same friendly camaraderie exists today that we developed in the late sixties and early seventies. The common bond for all of us was, and is the desire for Coventry to prosper, making life and business both exciting and comfortable.

I no longer live in Coventry, (or in Cleveland Heights for that matter), but I remain forever connected to the neighborhood. For the three years my second wife and children and I lived on Euclid Hts. Blvd. (within walking distance to Coventry), we frequented the *Coventry school yard*, the *Coventry Mall* and *Big Fun* (still the kids favorite store). Some of our favorite restaurants are in Coventry (*Cave D'Oro*, *Hyde Park Grille*, *The Inn on Coventry*, and *Hunan's*).

My family and I miss being close to Coventry. Coventry has made a significant impact on my life and I will always think of myself as a "Coventry Merchant".

Phil Imperi

Be Part of the Coventry Garage Sale in July

Need more space in your house? Would you like to get rid of all those old clothes that don't fit anymore since you lost 20 pounds? Tired of looking at all the same old knickknacks around the house? Then join with CNI in the 1st annual Coventry Neighbors Garage Sale. You can dispose of a log of unwanted stuff and help your neighborhood organization at the same time.

Clean out your basement and attic and hold a sale in your yard. CNI will take care of publicity and advertising. We will place ads, post flyers, provide markers for your yard, and maps of the area to show the throngs of people the way to your yard. All you have to do is sell your old stuff.



This is a fund raising and community spirit building enterprise of CNI. We are asking for a \$20.00 registration fee (a bargain considering the cost of a newspaper ad alone), and a donation of 10% of your profits over \$20.00.

Everyone loves a bargain and garage sales have become very popular. If we get enough participation in our Coventry area sale we can corner the market on July 15. Are you interested in participating? Call 397-1254 (leave you name, address and phone number on the machine if no one is home), and we will get a registration form right out to you.

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
[Redacted]
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

Please send your ideas and articles to the Coventry Village News!

Schedule of Meetings	
* May 9, 1995	Coventry Street Fair Reunion. Meeting at the Unitarian Society, on Lancashire Road at 7:30 p.m.
Mune 13, 1995	
* July 11, 1995	
August 8, 1995	
* September 12, 1995	
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

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.
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[Redacted]
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118

or

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

Coventry Village News
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OFFICERS OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. - 1994-95

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Trustee
Trustee

Elsa Johnson
Jeff Dross
Harry Cameron
Bruce Biddle
Robert Klemenc
Walter Thiem
Chris Poletto

Our poster was designed by Warren Smith. He is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art and received his master's degree from the University of Illinois. Warren is the artist and scenic designer at Dobama Theater.



Coventry Neighbors . . .

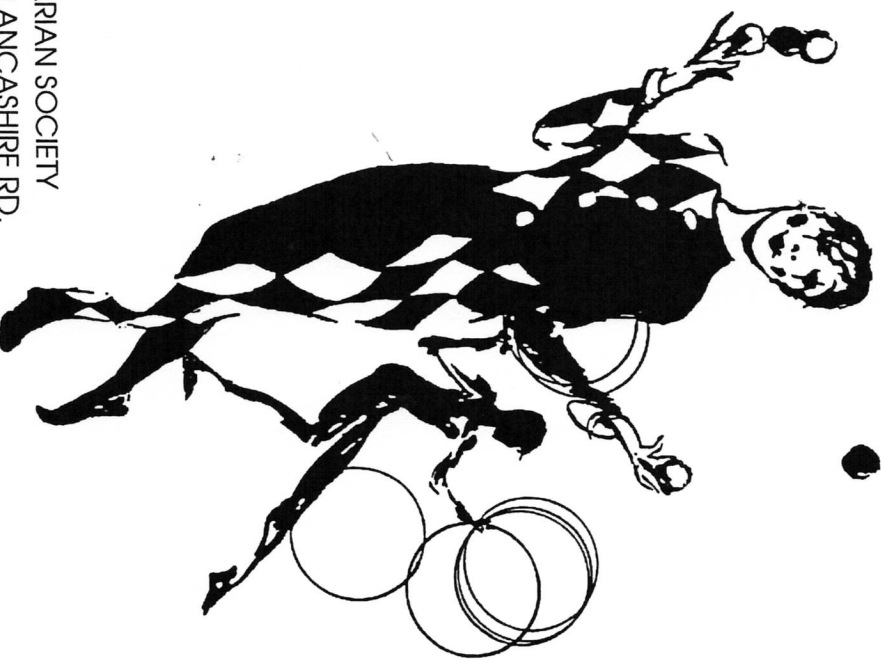
We watch out for each other.

REUNION

ON

COVENTRY

May 9, 1995



UNITARIAN SOCIETY
2728 LANCASHIRE RD.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

Charles Mathews	1969-73
Dennis Niermann	1973-75
Karen Lind	1975-76
Alan Rapoport	1976-79
Charles Owen	1979-82
David Burwasser	1982-83
Bruce M. Hennes	1983-84
Larry Beam	1984-90
Marilyn Pryor	1990-93
Elsa Johnson	1993-present

PAST STREET FAIR CHAIRPERSONS

Marcia Nolan	1974-1975
Karen Lind	1976
Alan Rapoport	1977-1978-1979
F. David Gill	1980-1981
Bruce M. Hennes	1982
Kathryn J. Young	1983-1984-1985-1986

REUNION COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Englehart	Phil Imperi
Elsa Johnson	Bob Klemenc
Charles Mathews	Chuck Mosbrook
John Shoemaker	Tim Smith
Julie Washington	Gwyn Young
Kathryn J. Young, Chairperson	

PROGRAM

PROGRAM..... Elsa Johnson

President of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

MUSIC..... The Prayer Warriors

SPEAKER..... Carol A. Edwards

Mayor, City of Cleveland Heights

MUSIC..... Willie Wright

Melodic Ministries
Wright Family Singers

SPEAKERS..... Charles Mathews

First President of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Tommy Fello

Tommy's Restaurant

PRESENTATION..... Shony Long

Coventry Village Library

REMEMBRANCES..... One Quick Memory

MUSIC..... Hot Foot Quartet



Refreshments are to be served downstairs.

(Donated by Coventry Merchants and friends

of Coventry Village. Coffee and tea donated by Arabica.)