



COVENTRY

July 1996

VILLAGE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY VILLAGE NEIGHBORS INC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

A few days after my father died, Andy Warhol had succumb to medical complications and also died. As I later read Warhol's obituary I learned that he was born within a month of my father. My father, a beer-drinking upholsterer from Maple Heights had the same span of life as Andy Warhol? Try as I might, I could think of nothing that tied them together. (My father loved to watch re-runs of Boris Karloff's version of Frankenstein on late night TV and Andy Warhol directed Frankenstein 3-D, but I did not think that counted.) Fast forward to today and I find myself living somewhere between Dad and Andy. Dad placed me in a house with a mortgage, a Chevy in the drive and a stable career. Andy has placed an eclectic interior inside that house and car drives me to a seat at quirky music, film and performance art events. The quest for something different lead me to seek out Cleveland Heights as a residence.



Like my personal yin and yang, Coventry Neighbors finds itself balancing the demands of a new breed of member/residents and its "counterculture" beginnings. A fresh assessment to review that fine line is now called for.

Coventry Neighbors has been around for over twenty-five years. The last time our constitution was reviewed and updated was fifteen years ago. The constitution states this should be done every

five years. For the last few months we have been trying to rectify this fifteen-year oversight. As the residents need change, so have the reasons for our existence. At the next meeting we will propose changes to our constitution that more clearly define the organization we have become.

Currently, our mission statement or "reason for being" is vague and poorly defined. After careful consideration we propose to outline our goals as follows:

1. *To be the civic, community organization which acts as a voice representing residents of the Coventry area in any matter that impacts that community.*
2. *To provide a forum for Coventry area residents to learn about issues that may affect them and/or their neighborhood and to allow said residents an arena to voice their opinions on those issues.*
3. *To work as a group in any way possible with the goal of improving the Coventry area for the social welfare of residents and visitors.*

Because of the advances in home computer technology, the arcane method of dues collection can, and has been simplified as follows:

Annual dues shall be set by resolution of the membership. The membership year shall start with the month dues are paid. Only members whose initial dues payments have been accepted and, if necessary ratified at least thirty (30) days prior to a meeting may vote at that meeting. Continuing members

whose dues have not been received within three (3) months of their membership anniversary shall be deemed to have lapsed, and renewal of said membership shall be processed as a new membership.

In the past, Coventry Neighbors has been responsible for organizing and presenting the Coventry Street Fair. As you know, the street fair has gone by the way of hip hugging, bell-bottomed jeans. Constitutional paragraphs concerning this event will be omitted.

Our membership is now much smaller than in the past. We currently do not have anyone serving in the office of vice-president. Due to our leaner operation, monetary responsibility and Coventry Village News oversight needs to be altered to reflect these changes. Below are those paragraphs.

Disbursement of CNI funds shall be valid only if signed by two of the officers or trustees.

The trustees shall appoint the Editorial Board of the Coventry Village News (CVN). The Editorial Board shall establish the editorial policy and select the Editor(s) of the CVN. Editor(s) of the CVN shall be seated on the Editorial Board and shall serve at the discretion of the Editorial Board. Chair of the Editorial Board shall be selected from and by the Editorial Board.

Finally, the lines that define Coventry Village as a neighborhood in our constitution need to be revised. In the past, a portion of East Cleveland had been included in our constitutional confines. We are proposing a change to end Coventry at the Cleveland Heights boarder.

The changes are relatively minor but necessary to keep us moving forward in our goals as a community of neighbors while maintaining the balance between all of the *Dad's and Andy's* in our collective lives. If you object to these changes or if you want to voice your opinion, please attend the

July 9, 1996 meeting. We will have a final discussion and vote to ratify the new constitution.

Jeffrey R. Dross
President



NO MEETING IN AUGUST

Coventry Neighbors has always used their August meeting in a flexible way. Some have been regularly scheduled meetings, others have been picnics, and some, as this year have been canceled. Do not show up at the Coventry Library in August – we won't be there! But, we will see you on Tuesday, September 10.



GOLDBERG TO SPEAK

Our July 9th meeting of Coventry Neighbors will feature Ken Goldberg speaking about the History and Development of the Neighborhoods surrounding Coventry Village.

Mr. Goldberg is a professional research librarian. He works as an Information Specialist for Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (N.O.A.C.A.). Architectural history is the primary interest of this individual. He holds masters degrees in both Library Sciences and Art and Architectural History. Ken serves the city of Cleveland Heights as a member of the Landmark Commission, the Community Improvement Awards Committee, the Heights Heritage Tour, and the Cleveland Heights Historical Society. He is currently writing a series of articles for the Cleveland Heights magazine, *Focus on the Heights*, about the origin of Cleveland Heights street names. Goldberg teaches classes for both the Cleveland Heights-University Heights and Shaker Heights school boards on local architecture and he conducts periodic architectural walking tours. Editing the second edition of the *Guide to Cleveland Architecture* and researching mail order catalog houses constructed in Cleveland Heights occupy what little time Ken Goldberg has remaining in his busy schedule.



Join us at our next meeting and learn a little about our exciting neighborhood from an interesting and involved Heights neighbor. As usual, we will meet at the Coventry branch of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights library at 7:45 P.M. See you there!

PARADE UPDATE

At our July meeting we will finalize plans for our organization's entrance in the Cleveland Heights 75th anniversary parade, September 8, 1996. We will decide whether we make a float, create a banner or simply march while wearing our tee-shirts. Make sure you are there if you are interested in participating or if you have interesting ideas.

Don't forget to order your T-shirt for the Parade!



**MAIL TO : BOB KLEMENC
c/o COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, [REDACTED]
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44118**

- THE COOL T-SHIRT \$15.00
- THE COMBO PACK:
T-SHIRT & MEMBERSHIP \$20.00

Specify: Black or Gray

All memberships come with a subscription to *The Coventry Village News*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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Phone _____

Coventry Village News is published by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. The newsletter is distributed free throughout Coventry Village. Mailed subscriptions are available. Meetings 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.

Editor: Bruce Biddle

Editorial Board: Jeff Dross, Elsa Johnson, Bob Klemenc

How to reach us: You may contact us by mail at:

Coventry Neighbors Inc. or Coventry Village News
c/o Jeff Dross, President c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor

Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118 Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

Individual \$7.50 Family \$10 Senior Citizen \$5

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____ Phone _____

CNI needs street representatives to communicate with the local neighborhoods and assist with the delivery of the newsletter. YES, I would like to assist CNI by becoming a CNI representative for my street.

Please return this form with your check to:

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

C/O Bob Klemenc

Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118

Mark your Calendar...

Tuesday July 9, 1996

Regular monthly meeting at the Coventry Library

Speaker: Ken Goldberg

No August meeting.

Tuesday September 10, 1996

Regular monthly meeting at the Coventry Library

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c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor

Cleveland Heights, OH 44118