



COVENTRY

November 1996

VILLAGE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY VILLAGE NEIGHBORS INC.

From The President's Den

Since becoming active in the Coventry Neighbors organization I have had an opportunity to write a number of articles for this newsletter about issues which impact our community. In most cases my diatribes were soundly ignored. On the rare occasion when a comment was made it was usually an innocent, noncommittal, "interesting article."

Except for last month.

Last month I told the school system if they wanted more money from me, I wanted more results from them. A few people let me know that they agreed with me. They too expect more. Some others recited lists of excuses why the school system should be graded on a "curve" and not as strictly as others in the state. The rest of the people provided me with an education of our system and its unsung achievements. They assured me that while problems abound, my money would be a wise investment.

After thinking about it, I guess I was not so struck with the comments as I was with the quantity and breadth of opinions. It was an exciting dialog pot I had stirred.

And then I felt dismayed.

Why was the first article I wrote which got unprecedented response the only one I've written not concerned with the Coventry neighborhood? Sure there is a school in our neighborhood. Sure education

effects children but concerns everyone. Sure, tax increases are emotional things but why such an outpouring of opinions?

I guess as life gets more and more complicated on our approach to the millennium we have less time to spend on social concerns. We abandon our needs and direct our attention toward our children. They need the input, they require our few available free moments and dollars. Perhaps they can be a better educated generation than ours, able to simultaneously mold children while supporting their communities' growth. Right now, we can't.

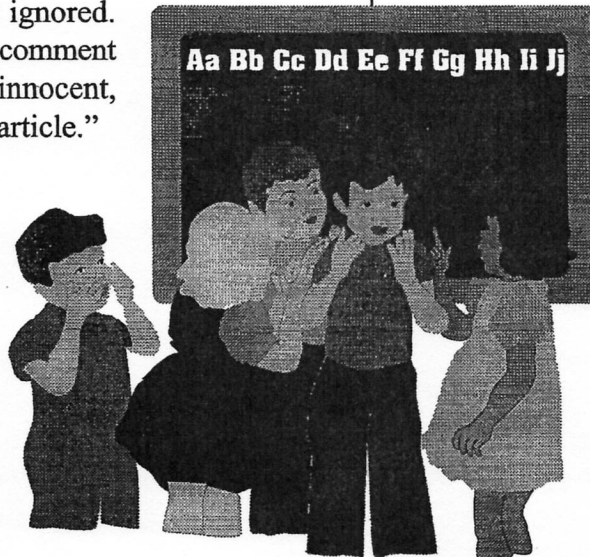
This then must explain the lack of involvement in our organization. During our last meeting with ten attendees, I again asked if we service any needs in the community. The nine other people at the meeting answered with a resounding, "yes!" The rationale was

simple, 99 percent of the time, the watchdog does nothing. He is merely present for that rare 1% need. We must be a strong (if small) watchdog for our community ready to rise to the occasion when fate demands.

So here we are, doing our best to help the neighborhood while many others are working for the betterment of the schools and together we march into the future.

I feel much better now.

Jeffrey R. Dross
President, Coventry Neighbors



Second Family Concert November 17th



For all of you who missed Coventry Neighbors' June family concert — here's another opportunity. On Sunday, November 17th, at 2:30 PM, at St. Alban's - Ner Tamid, Coventry Neighbors will repeat that concert. St. Alban's — the newest church on Euclid Heights Boulevard — is a really wonderful acoustical space. Everything performed in it sounds gorgeous. So many of you had something else to do that beautiful early June day that we had a hugely disappointing turnout, but it was such a wonderful concert, we wanted to give you another opportunity to enjoy it, so we've decided to run it again.

Pretty much everyone who performed then will be performing again. Among our performers last June was the Roxboro Quartet — Clare Mitchell, Felicia Tsai, Julianna Sinclair, Jessica Van Wagenen — all experienced singers. Felicia, Julianna, and Jessica all sing in church choirs. Clare sang with the Cleveland Opera Children's Chorus for *La Boheme*, and hopes to study at Cleveland Institute of Music someday. They sang "Happiness", from **Your a Good Man Charlie Brown**, and the very difficult "On the Willows", from **Godspell**. Clare, who has an unusually sweet, pure, natural soprano, also sang "I Am a Person", from Bernstein's **I Hate Music**, and two duets — "Pia Jesu", from Andrew Lloyd Weber's **Requiem**, and "The Secret Garden", with her mother, Jane Timmons. Jane, a soprano soloist with several churches (St. Alban's is one), has studied voice with Violet Weber at CIA. She sang two charming songs from Robert Louis Stevenson poems.



The Vocalists were accompanied by pianist Karin Tooley. Karin, a graduate of CIA, is accompanist at School of Cleveland Ballet and artist in residence at Cleveland School of the Arts. Since the June concert, she now also plays regularly for the Unitarian Society on Lancashire, in Coventry Village. At the spring concert she performed her own marvelous solo compositions based on Chopin waltzes.

In a more contemporary mood was folk singer/guitarist David Johnason. You may have heard David at open mike nights at Arabica — it's how we found him. He writes his own songs. What he does is folk-rock. His music added a totally different mood to the concert.

The June concert ended with a performance of Dance Afrika Dance, who sent tow dancers and tow drummers. If you've never seen them, you've missed a welcoming, rousing, joyous experience. This was the audience participatory part of the concert; the dancers taught a dance that got people up dancing with them. It was lots of fun, and a great way to end — a true community building experience.



So far it looks like we'll repeat the same concert. Minor elements may change. We're waiting to hear affirmative from Dance Afrika Dance, and we're adding a vocalist — Pia Alesci. You may have heard Pia in musical theater roles at Cain Park. She's also sung as a soloist at area churches and synagogues, and currently sings at Fairmount Temple. She's studied with both Leslie Varnick and David Gooding.

A family concert means children are welcome. A guideline might be, if the child is old enough for school, he/she's probably old enough to enjoy this concert. On the upper end, of course, there's no age limit.

The concert's purpose is to raise money for landscape improvements to the corner of Coventry and Euclid Heights Boulevard, currently (and for the next three years) enduring unsightly but necessary duty as a construction site for a county sewer project. No activity changes are proposed in these improvement plans — the goal is just to make that corner "A Nicer Place". An illustrative drawing will be on view during the concert.

Ticket costs are \$5 per adult, \$2 per child. Refreshments are available after the concert at a moderate additional cost. Mark November 17th on the calendar. Don't miss this concert!

Elsa Johnson

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS

PRESENTS

FAMILY CONCERT
AT
ST. ALBANS

2555 EUCLID HEIGHTS BOULEVARD

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

2:30 P.M.

**AN AFTERNOON
OF
MUSIC & DANCE**

\$5.00 Adults \$2.00 Children 16 & under

Tickets available at the door!

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS fundraiser. . . to make coventry a "Nicer Place"

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD at November Meeting

At the November 12th meeting of Coventry Neighbors we will elect officers and board members to serve for the next year. At this time, the current slate of office holders has consented to run again. They are;

Jeff Dross - President,

Bob Klemenc - Treasurer,

Elsa Johnson - Secretary, and

Board Members: Harry Cameron, Sandy Jaffe and Chris Poletto.

BUT. . . keep in mind, this is an election! Nominations are still open. If you're interested in participating or running for office, come to the next meeting and get involved.

Check Out Coventry's Gardens

Although it's late, I want to recognize the efforts of gardeners in the Coventry area. I suggest a garden tour by car before it gets too cold. To me, the award winning street is Hampshire, east of Coventry, which has been renovated, and revitalized not only in the care of houses but the lovely and creative gardens. Hampshire west of Coventry is also lovely. Start on E. Hampshire, go on up and turn right on Superior, then cross Euclid Hts. Blvd. and explore Berkshire and East Overlook. Then take Woodward to Euclid Hts. and down Cadwell West of Coventry. Besides Hampshire, try Derbyshire. Don't forget Yorkshire. Better yet, design your own tour. The big houses usually don't have colorful flowers. It's the small houses that are creative. Also notice Coventry school's flowers. My favorite is the charming double house on Berkshire at Cottage Grove. I hope all these adventurous landscapers will do it again next year. It's such a pleasure to drive, bike or walk through such beauty and color in our own Coventry. We don't need an individual prize. Our community gets the prize.

June Wortman

You Could Be Dancin'!

Have you been to a dance or wedding lately where half the guests are laughing and having a good time line dancing while you're sitting off to the side in the wallflower section? Do you want to join the fun people who know when to turn and when to put their left arm out? The Heights Youth Center wants to help you. Each Monday evening from 7 to 9 PM they are offering line dancing lessons. For a \$2.00 donation you'll get a good work out, have some fun and help a valuable asset to our community. Wear comfortable, cool clothes (it gets a little stuffy in the room.) The Heights Youth Center is located in the same building as the Coventry branch of the CH-UH library. Their entrance is located at the south driveway on the Coventry Road side of the building. See you on the dance floor!

Don't forget to join Coventry Neighbors
and order your *COOL* T-shirt!



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 _____

Zip _____

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 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 1857 Wilton Rd.
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 completed form with your check to:

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

C/O Bob Klemenc

[REDACTED]
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118

COVENTRY Village News

c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor

[REDACTED]
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118