



COVENTRY

VILLAGE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY VILLAGE NEIGHBORS INC.

July 1997

From the President's Den

Things change quickly.

Eight months ago, my boss retired and his position provided promotions for three people. I was among the fortunate recipient and was asked to co-lead the engineering department. My colleague and I split the department between developmental engineering and general. Graphics, the third leg was easily severed and grafted onto the marketing department. We worked hard to alieve the skeptics impression that a body can not have two heads.

After the euphoria of a new job had worn off and the reality that the skeptics were, "on to something" started to penetrate, I became disillusioned in the position I had been placed. The staff was again starting to rumble. The honeymoon was over. If some change did not occur soon we would be back to the pre-retirement days of my former boss.

On Monday, change occurred. My co-part started to hurriedly organize an 8:45 a.m. meeting with the entire staff. I had a 9:00 a.m. meeting so I asked him what was going on. He closed my office door and told me he was resigning to take a similar job with one of our major competitors. Thousands of ideas flashed through my brain but the clearest was my vision to finally solve the trauma which had plagued our department since even before my promotion. The department wanted/needed ONE strong leader. The window of opportunity was open. Now was the time. For the first time in seven years continuity could be re-established. One person was now responsible for both aspects of the engineering department.. Me. I now had to prove myself. Results must be displayed.

Continued on page 2

LINDA CROSS TO SPEAK AT JULY MEETING

The Heights Youth Center has been a part of our neighborhood since the early 1980's but many residents are still unaware of its existence. Quietly tucked away in the Coventry Library building, the Youth Center offers after school programs at Caledonia and Coventry Elementary Schools, they organize a summer recreational program and provide opportunities for young people to participate in basketball and soccer leagues. The center also offers conflict mediation training for both teachers and students as well as general services to Cleveland Heights University Heights families. There is however, a need for more.

Executive Director of the Heights Youth Center, Linda L. Cross will speak at the July 8th meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (7:45 P.M.) Since her hiring just over a year ago she has pushed the organization forward to enable it to service more and help more children. The Cleveland Heights University Heights Board of Education has also asked if the Heights Youth Center could assist in their efforts to better educate the next generation of students. This may seem like a daunting task but Ms. Cross has a plan for the future and will present it to us.

Ms. Cross is a licensed social worker and prevention specialist. She earned an Associate Degree in Business Management and a Bachelors Degree in Human Resource Management from Notre Dame University and a Masters Degree in Social Services Administration from Case Western Reserve University. Her talk on the future of the Heights Youth Center should prove to be an exciting glimpse of what will come. Please join us and lets learn about this important member of our community.

Continued from page 1

Coventry is in the same position as I. The city is ready to make a Herculean leap and change the face of Coventry Yard, but nobody knows if the problems which plague our neighborhood center will be solved. Will the change solve the problem most people regard as Coventry Yard's most serious or will the change wither after the honeymoon like my original promotion? The fact is however, things will change quickly. Before anyone realizes, new patrons will start to use this popular place and the impact of that change will be felt.

At the community meeting a few months ago, many people felt that the by-product of a more mature patron at Coventry Yard would be increased nighttime use of the Coventry PEACE playground by teenagers. Most everyone agreed that this would be a tragic misuse of this popular children's play area. It is, as a matter of fact already showing signs of adolescent abuse. High school physics taught us that for every action there was an equal or opposite reaction. The city must understand that. A watchful eye needs to be omnipresent to determine the impact of this major change. We citizens must also be attentive to its outcome.

I started to write this article on an airplane to Hong Kong at the beginning of my business trip to Asia. I'm finishing it in a hotel bar in Manila at the end of my business requirements. If someone would have told me fifteen years ago that my work would require me to travel twice a year to this part of the world, that I would head a group of talented engineers and drafters for a company which leads the industry, I would have called them daft!

Things change. Sometimes the way you want, sometimes the way you hope, many times in a manner you least expect. Regardless, things change. We need to keep this in mind. We need to be attentive to change. We need to respond appropriately. If we are not attentive to the impact of change, what will be the response of the city? Let them know if it does not meet your expectations.

Coventry Neighbors has received many written comments carrying our members position on the Coventry Yard change, and we have engaged in spirited debates during our monthly meetings. After three months of this issue I can safely say our membership is split in their opinion of the new plan. That is why we as an organization will be

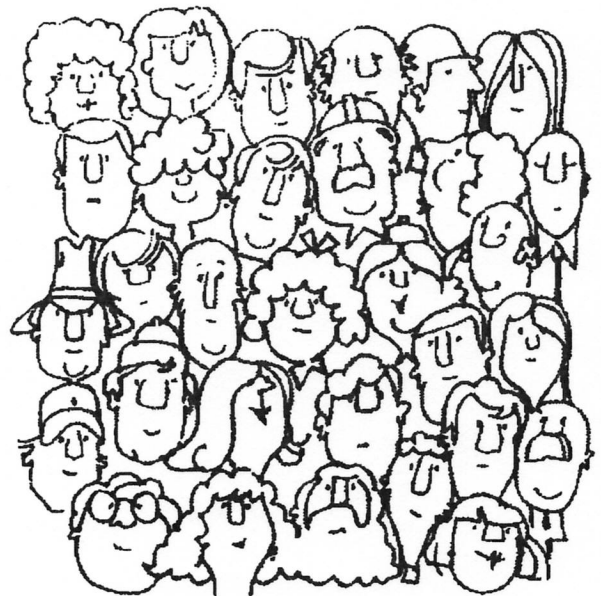
paying attention to the realities this summer. With no consensus of what will happen we will watch the change, report adverse reactions and if necessary make alternate suggestions. While you can never truly plan for change, you must always be prepared for it. Coventry Neighbors is ready.

Postscript: Before I left on my trip, the newspapers were reporting that no leases or discussions were under way for the new-improved Severance Town Center. Upon returning I learned that Home Depot and Wal-Mart are likely. I also found out that one of my coworkers was leaving to join my former colleague at our competitor. Indeed, things change. Keep on your toes.

Jeffrey R. Dross
President, Coventry Neighbors



Join the group...



...DON'T FORGET!

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday July 8, 1997 at 7:45 P.M. Our guest speaker will be Linda Cross, Director of the Heights Youth Center. In August we will not hold a meeting (summer vacation time!) We will return to our meeting schedule on Tuesday September 9, 1997. Jot these dates on your calendar and don't forget to join us.

DISTRIBUTION BLUES

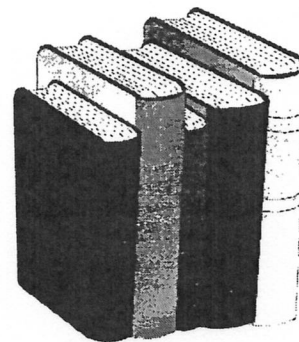
Approximately one year ago, Coventry Neighbors changed the method of distributing the Coventry Village News. Before that time we distributed the newspaper throughout the streets in the neighborhood. At one of our monthly meetings some members felt that that did not provide much incentive for people to donate money and join the organization. We agreed at that time to instead distribute stacks of papers to area reading shelves, such as Arabica, Tommy's, the Coventry Library, etc. While they are probably being read, it does not guarantee that people in our neighborhood are reading their neighborhood newspaper. The other misfortunate by-product is a reduction in the amount of participants at our second Tuesday of each month meeting. Past meetings have featured talks on the effects of urban sprawl on Cleveland Heights by Lee Batdorff of the Sierra Club and information on how to select caregivers for your family by Cleveland Heights author and placement service owner, Theresa Anderson (recently featured in a Plain Dealer article.) Both were very poorly attended. Why? Is it the revised method of distribution or lack of interest?

At the June meeting alternate distribution was suggested. Coventry schoolchildren could possibly bring them home from class. Others suggested that we should have them distributed at our local churches. What do you think? Where do you "non-subscribers" pick-up our newsletter? We'd like to make some plans at the July 8th meeting. Come and voice your opinion.



WE REMEMBER HARRY

At the March meeting of Coventry Neighbors we agreed to donate funds to the Coventry Library for the purchase of a book in honor of our friend Harry Cameron. Since his passing we have tried to find a way to share our memories of him with others, we felt this suggestion achieved that goal. Our organization has asked the library staff to select a book dealing with neighborhoods and/or community involvement. Our hope is that Harry's endless, positive passion for the neighborhood can be transferred through these written ideas and inspire the next generation of community leaders. They have informed us that they will be ready to present some suggested titles at the July 8th membership meeting. If the choice of a proper remembrance is important to you, please join us as we make a selection.



DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR T-SHIRT!

- THE **BNNK** 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 _____



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

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. c/o Jeff Dross, President ████████████████████ Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118	or	Coventry Village News c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor ████████████████████ Cleveland Hts., OH 44118
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Individual \$7.50 Family \$10 Senior Citizen \$5

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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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 Heights, Ohio 44118

COVENTRY Village News

c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor
████████████████████

Cleveland Heights, OH 44118



Michele J. Ladouceur **Expires: 5/14/97**
Jeffrey R. Dross
████████████████████
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118