



COVENTRY

VILLAGE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY VILLAGE NEIGHBORS INC.

November 1998

From the President's Den

Where do we go from here?

A few weeks ago I received a phone call from Ben Greenberg. Ben is the president of the Cain Park Landlords Association. He was very excited about a victory his organization recently experienced. John Waggle, a Pepper Pike resident and Cleveland Heights landlord had been sentenced to thirty days in jail for failure to maintain his property. If you recall from previous Coventry Village News articles, the Cain Park Landlords are fighting a problem that many neighborhoods are facing. Housing deterioration. Under Ben's direction, they are sharpening their aim and making a positive impact on their neighborhood.

Around the same time as Ben's call, Andy Sinclair called. Andy is the President of Coventry PEACE. A morning meeting was being arranged to present the landscaping plan that would be unveiled at the PEACE playground's 5th anniversary celebration. Typically, I cannot attend neighborhood meeting held during the daytime. I'm usually in Independence, at work by 7:00 AM, but I thought this sounded important. Coventry Neighbors shared the cost of this plan with Coventry PEACE and the Coventry SID. When it was first discussed, the city saw an idea that had potential and commissioned Landscape Architect Jim McKnight to expand his project scope to include the entire Coventry Road-Euclid Heights Boulevard intersection and the library agreed to hold off on their landscaping. Wide community support was building, so I played hooky and went. It is a good solid plan that takes into account the concern and desires of the students, residents and the library. While everyone can never get exactly what they want, this plan seems to balance most desires.

Both of these issues have taken a considerable amount of meeting time during the past year. We are now at an im-

NOVEMBER MEETING AGENDA

- A conversation with Brother Michael Nusbaum of John Carroll University on our community's relations with off-campus students
- Making decisions on what to do to support the redevelopment of the area in front of the Coventry Library
- Court visitors during errant landlord/owners hearings

portant juncture. How are we going to act on them? What will be our involvement?

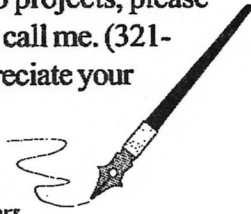
I would like to see us actively participate in an idea Ben Greenberg first presented to me. When a housing issue is brought before Judge Lynn Toler at the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court, someone from their organization sits in the audience. The Judge knows Mr. Greenberg and his organization. Their silent presence may make a difference. I would like to do the same thing with deteriorating properties in the Coventry area, but I cannot do it alone.

The rehabilitation of the commons area at the intersection of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard has been an issue on our agenda for over three years. I know it now probably sounds like "day old bread". After so many years, the excitement has worn off. The energy that was so positive during the first discussions needs to be re-kindled. Let's try and remember why we started. This is an important center point of our neighborhood. It was in very bad disrepair. It did not present the Coventry residential district in a very good light. We thought that if we could create a "nice place" we could all be proud of as the entrance to our community. Those values are still valid. In combination with Coventry PEACE, the area

can be turned into one of which we're all proud. But I can't do it alone.

I need help. An important, new project is underway at my place of employment. One that will substantially change the way we run our company. Because of the magnitude of this job, I am faced with the prospect of 60 to 80 hour workweeks for the next one to two years. If you have ever thought about becoming more involved in your community, now is the time. If you want to take a more active role in either of these two projects, please come to this month's meeting or call me. (321-0206) Coventry Village will appreciate your help, not to mention me!

Jeffrey R. Dross
President, Coventry Neighbors



CONCERT TICKETS AVAILABLE

A soprano and a baritone accompanied by piano will present a concert of light classical fare for a benefit concert at the Jewish Community Center on Saturday December 12, 1998. If ten people are interested, we can buy a block of tickets and the donated money will be shared with Coventry Neighbors. \$10 will go to the JCC and \$5 going toward the restoration of the commons area in front of the Coventry Library. If you're interested, please contact Jeff Dross at 321-0206 and let him know how many tickets you would like. The total ticket cost would be fifteen dollars. Lets see if we can help two good causes. If we do not get 10 people interested, you can still attend the concert, but the Coventry Neighbors/Coventry PEACE restoration will not benefit from your donation. We however, still encourage you to attend.



BROTHER MICHAEL L. NUSBAUM TO SPEAK

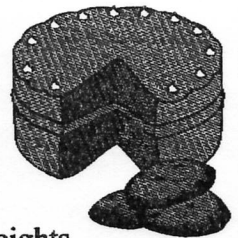
During a number of the past Coventry Neighbors meetings, conversations about housing, neighborhood involvement and the Coventry business district have often initiated comments about our academic neighbors. Complaints have been made about college student as tenants and their after hours revelry on Coventry. The possibility of student help with some neighborhood projects has also been raised. Brother Michael L. Nusbaum, the Director of John Carroll University's Department of Commuter/Off-Campus Affairs has agreed to talk with us, listen to our concerns and begin a dialogue that will hopefully result in a harmonious relationship. Approximately 50% of the student population of John Carroll University reside off-campus. The school created this department and appointed Brother Nusbaum to determine their needs and develop programs to serve that community. Interaction with the resident neighbors is an important piece of the solution.

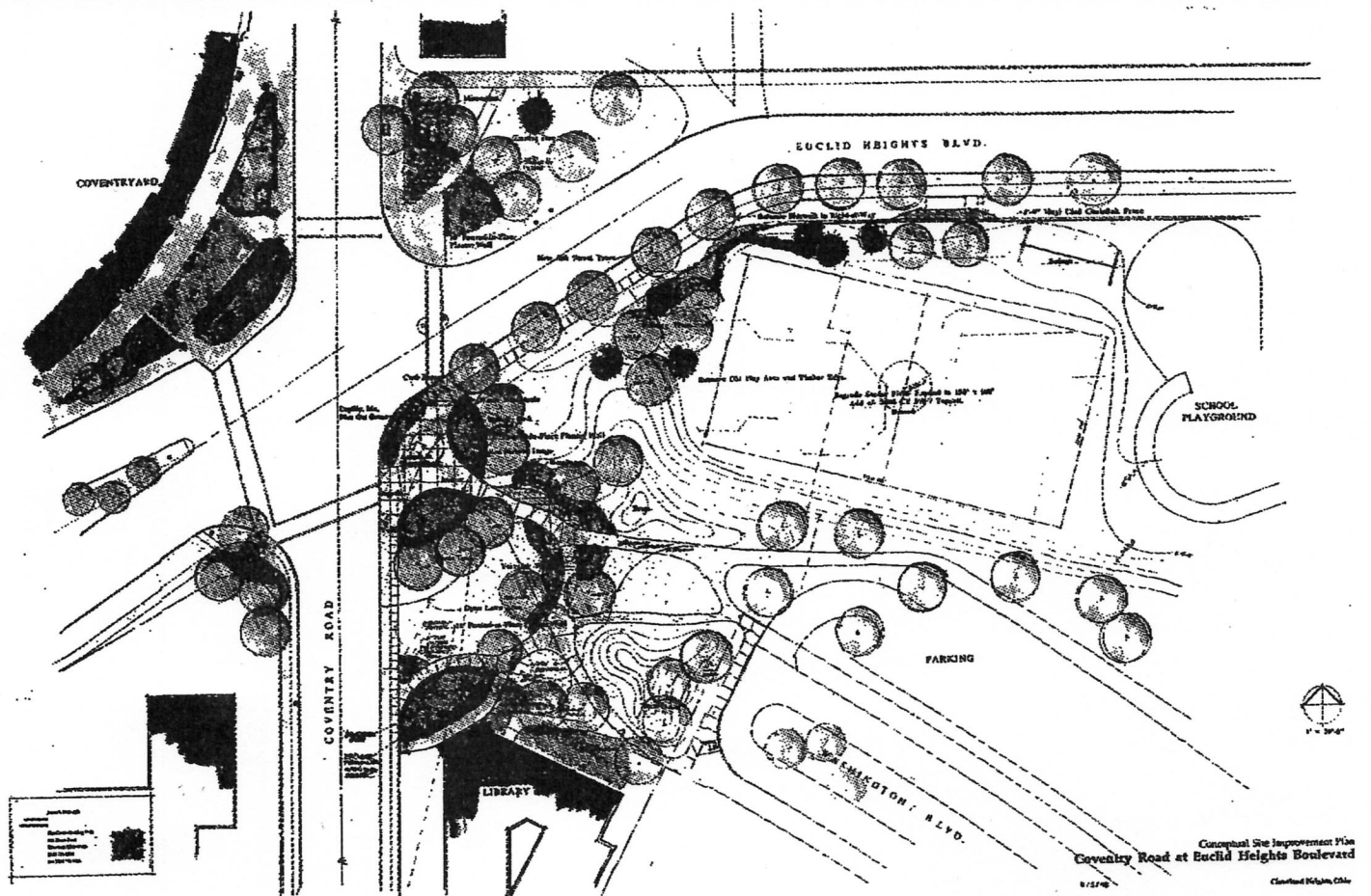
Brother Nusbaum is originally from Toledo. He entered the Jesuits following high school. He worked at three different Jesuit high schools, most notably St. Ignatius where he taught accounting and economics. He is currently in his third year at John Carroll University.

Join us Tuesday November 10, 1998 at 7:45 PM for this interesting dialogue that just might benefit both of us.

COVENTRY LIBRARY BAKE SALE

The Coventry branch of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library will be holding a Bake Sale on Saturday December 5, 1998. The library is located at the intersection of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. They promise a tempting collection of sinful baked goods, so don't forget to mark the date on your calendar. You won't want to miss this!





COVENTRY P.E.A.C.E. KEEPS FAITH

by Andy Sinclair

I sincerely hope all of you have seen the yellow-green landscape drawings posted at various locations around the neighborhood. I hope everyone has had a chance to discuss this proposal with your neighbors and friends.

The landscaping plan is the joint development of Coventry Neighbors and Coventry P.E.A.C.E. with active participation from the Coventry Village SID, the Public Library, the School District and the City. It is already being put to use in guiding the restoration work being done by the Sewer District at the corner.

With the goal of winning Planning Commission approval early in 1999 in mind, I want to make sure all of you have a chance to learn about and comment on this plan. I have learned a lot already from presenting this plan to community groups ranging from the Coventry School PTA to the Board of Education, from Coventry Neighbors to City Council.

Coventry P.E.A.C.E. is organizing a community-wide meeting for early December for the purpose of galvanizing community support for this project and to recruit volunteers to help with fund raising. Both Coventry Neighbors and Coventry P.E.A.C.E. will be active in raising funds.

If you cannot attend the December meeting, please call me at home at 932-6923. I will be happy to discuss the plan with you privately.

Want to get involved or just find out more? A good start would be to attend the November meetings of Coventry Neighbors and/or Coventry P.E.A.C.E.

P.E.A.C.E. meets on the first Thursday of the month from 7-9 PM in the Coventry School Library. Thanks for all your support and interest!

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 Boulevard. & Coventry Road.

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.

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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:

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[REDACTED]
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118



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