



COVENTRY

March 1999

VILLAGE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY VILLAGE NEIGHBORS INC.

From the President's Pen

I listen to unusual music. I know that because I have a hard time finding what I want regardless of the retail outlet I visit in Cleveland. Over the last few years, locating what I need has steadily become more difficult.

I came to the realization I was different about twelve years ago when I started to look for the Nana Vasconcelos album "Bush Dance". I went from store to store and was greeted with blank stares when responding to, "May I help you?" until I stumbled into Waxx Staxx on Lee Road. As usual, the clerk asked, "May I help you?" I requested the aforementioned "Bush Dance" by Nana Vasconcelos. The clerk did a strange thing, he responded in the positive. "Oh, that's a great album, I think we have one left." I was elated, finally a place that understood my wants and needs. While I was there I also bought "Shaka Zula" by Ladysmith Black Mambazo, "Waltz Darling" by Malcolm MaClaren and the Bootzilla Orchestra, an album by an unknown zydeco musician named Buckwheat Zydeco, "In No Sense Nonsense" by The Art of Noise and an album by an unknown Texan songwriter, Lyle Lovett. For the next five (?) years I went to Waxx Staxx for my entire musical needs.

As the world moved away from twelve-inch vinyl, both Waxx Staxx and I cautiously made the change to CD's. Despite their efforts to keep up with the changing retail environment, during one of my regular visits I noticed a sign in the window indicating they would close soon. Just as quickly as it rose, my heart now sank. The store briefly re-opened again under a different name, but they didn't last too long. Since its closing, I have spent countless hours searching music bins for the music I want, ultimately with less success and more work than I ever had when my favorite store was still around.

Each summer, my wife and I spend a long weekend in New Orleans. On Decatur Street, near the Jax Brewery Building, The Virgin Megastore is a three-story music shop. A buying spree there is now required on each visit. During our last getaway I was able to find Geoffrey Oryema's new disc, "Night to Night" (I bought this Ugandan musician's 1st at Waxx Staxx of course.) For our next visit, the list is growing. I plan on picking-up Arto Lindsay's "Mundo

PEGGY SPAETH TO SPEAK

At the March 9th meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Peggy Spaeth will address the organization on the possibility of including some public art in the redevelopment of the corner of Coventry and Euclid Height Boulevard. Landscape Architect, Jim McKnight has designed a greenspace that serves as an attractive pedestrian thruway, a multi-use playing field, and a reading garden. This area is especially precious because it is located in the midst of a commercial, recreational, and residential area. The high visibility of this busy intersection makes it a gateway to the entire Coventry neighborhood. She thinks this is a perfect place to incorporate public art.

There is very little public art in Cleveland Heights. When redesigning this area, she believes we should pay attention to the value of incorporating art into our daily lives. Cleveland Heights is especially known in the region as a place where many artists live and work. We should begin to give them an opportunity to express themselves in our neighborhoods. Art can say that this space is important, this space is permanent, this space is special.

Ms. Spaeth has been active in bringing art to her own neighborhood's Canterbury Elementary School playground. She would like to explain to Coventry Neighbors her proposal, which is a work in progress for involving the community in a search for appropriate, site-specific, public art.

Remember to come and hear this important address on Tuesday March 9, 1999 at 7:45 PM in the meeting room of the Coventry branch of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library at the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Coventry Road.

Civilizado", Francine Reed's "Can't Make it On My Own" and "I Want You to Love Me" (she's Lyle Lovett's fiery back-up singer), Kendra Shank's "Wish", Andy Bey's "Shades of Bey" and Olu Dara's "In This World From Natchez to New York." These are all albums I have searched for in vain, this year in Cleveland. I am sure before we leave, the list will continue to grow.

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In the midst of a chat about music, I mention my dilemma to a colleague at work. He's the only person I know that understands my musical tastes. His are closely related. (Don't play Audra McDonald's new disc "Way Back to Paradise" for him however, he doesn't like anything even close to musicals!) I explained my almost one year quest for the Arto Lindsey disc. He told me he gave up on music stores years ago. He said he now buys all his music on the Internet. The next day he came back to work with a note containing five Lindsey releases, all in stock and available to purchase via the World Wide Web. My fifteen-year-old Macintosh computer doesn't have what it takes, so I don't have access to the Internet. I was amazed at his find.

At the beginning of this year, another local record store closed. Music of Note on Shaker Square admitted that Internet purchase of music was the wave of the future. The owner even provided an e-mail address for his regular customers to insure that they would be well provided for, musically. The trend continues.

Technology continues to impose itself on my low-tech life. I have successfully lived and prospered with limited computer involvement in my life. My dial phones, fountain pens and cable-less home is a wonder to my friends. The deteriorating quest for music is just one step in a marathon of changes in my life.

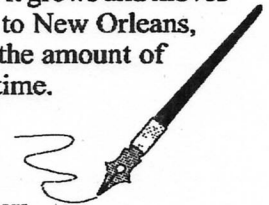
I work for a good company. I'm one of the few people I know that doesn't mind going to work. They treat me well and I try to do the best I can for them. The one shortcoming they have always had is a less than full-bodied computer system. That was OK with me. My computer literacy is close to base level. I had only used Macintosh Computers and they were decidedly designed for those of us that have no desire to "play" with technology. Instead we want to do our work and get away from the machine. Unfortunately, the minimal power of the company's existing system was having a tough time keeping up with the demands of a growing business. A decision was made to purchase and install an enterprise software solution. I was asked to participate as an implementation Core Team member. I would be deeply involved in developing a business system that would take our organization into the future. Initially, I thought I would function on the team as the voice of the "computer-challenged." That is however not proving to be the case. The longer and more deeply I get involved with this project, the more literate I become. The demon computer is becoming a subservient pet. In addition, I came to realize the power of the machine and the impact it has on our lives, work and entertainment. The computer committee was challenging me in ways I never expected. It has been as energizing an assignment as I have ever participated.

As is natural, knowledge begets knowledge. It became clear that the Mac that had served me well for a number of years was loosing its effectiveness. It could no longer keep up with my demands. My laptop from the office was spending more and more weekends at home with me. So I purchased a new computer.

I did what I never expected. I bought tons of computer magazines, asked phone salesmen loads of questions and thought for long hours about COMPUTERS. All things that run contrary to my normal way of life. I clinically assessed the strong points of a group of product and narrowed the search to four, then three and finally down to Dell and Quantex. After long thoughtful days and more reading, I decided to buy a Quantex computer system. I want it for personal use, homework and of course Internet access. Did I buy a computer in order to purchase CD's? Did I buy a computer to help me on this new Enterprise Resource Planning implementation assignment at work? Did I buy a computer to_?

They may all be valid reasons, but they are not the real reason. We live in a changing world. Our lives are being altered in many substantial ways. A computer, Internet access and on-line record stores are now the norm. CD's replaced records and now look to be replaced by mini-discs. The cycle continues. We may not know it, but the future defines itself in front of us. It grows and moves before us. It may not stop a trip to New Orleans, but it may be enough to reduce the amount of carry-on baggage required next time.

Jeffrey R. Dross
President, Coventry Neighbors



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Specify: Black or Gray
All memberships come with a subscription to *The Coventry Village News*.

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

HEIGHTS YOUTH CENTER REPORT

Over the last year Coventry Neighbors has begun to forge stronger ties with the Heights Youth Center. Part of that bonding is the inclusion on this reoccurring article in our bi-monthly newsletter. The Heights Youth Center is a vibrant member of our community that works to help the young people of our area. We hope this new addition to the Coventry Village News will make you more aware of this vital organization and will inspire you to help them as you can.

For the last couple of months, the Heights Youth Center has been working to open a day care center at Hope Lutheran Church in the Forest Hills Neighborhood. A poorly managed child care center had operated at the location for many years, so the facility is well suited for a new tenant, especially one with the reputation of the Center. Because HYC will be a different occupant, a few changes are required to meet new accreditation standards. The biggest change is the addition of an outdoor play area for the children. That has unfortunately become the bone of contention with the powerful Forest Hills Homeowners Association. The church would like to place the required play area in a grassy area near the classroom at the front of the building. The Forrest Hills group wants the church to cover a number of parking spaces and put the play area in the parking lot. The youth center feels this is a dangerous location. At a "last hour" Saturday meeting, both groups felt they had reached a compromise with a long narrow play area that hugged the building and was hidden by a dense planting of shrubs. Unfortunately, the Forrest Hills homeowners came to the planning commission with a change of heart and an ultimatum. They would agree only to a temporary front yard playground. Within 30 months, they wanted that removed and replaced with a parking lot play area. The impasse was turned over to the Cleveland Heights Planning Commission for a decision. They turned down the request originally presented to them for an unconditional approval and instead OK'd a permit that forced them to renew the application again in 30 months without cost to the church or youth center. The church and the HYC were disheartened with the decision. The Church indicated at the planning Commission meeting that they did not know if they could afford to re-landscape if the renewal was denied in two and one half years. They could certainly not afford to build the parking lot play area or lose the dozen to twenty parking spaces the homeowners' plan suggested. At this time the future of the plan is still in limbo. Stay tuned to this space for updates on this important story.

COVENTRY PEACE APPLIES FOR BLOCK GRANT MONEY

With very little notice, Coventry PEACE was told that Community Development Block Grant money might be available if they could put together an application for funds in a short period of time. Their organization met the challenge. They asked us to write a letter of support. I happily acquiesced. Following is the letter that I sent to the Department of Planning.

About four years ago, Coventry Neighbors, Inc recognized that the parcel of land at the south-east corner of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard was slowly but assuredly deteriorating. Because we are the voice of the residents and homeowners in the Coventry area of Cleveland Heights and because this space is a cornerstone of our neighborhood, we got involved. With the support of the parents of Coventry PEACE, we met with the Director of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library, developed an early plan and started the long process of fund raising. Shortly after we began, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District informed us of their construction project on this sight. Our plans were put on hold for three years. Last summer, our organization along with Coventry PEACE, the CH-UH Library, Coventry SID and the City of Cleveland Heights started the process of planing beautification for not only this corner, but the entire intersection. The revitalization of this important corner was becoming important and obviously necessary to a great many people.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. believes this project to be a very crucial aspect of the revitalization of the Coventry area. Thousands of visitors come to shop and play on Coventry. Presenting our residential neighborhood in the best light will only reflect well on the city. We fear that the space in its current state does not paint the right picture to our guests. That is why we have worked so hard to push this process forward. It is also why we have been frustrated with our inability's to secure the necessary funds. We urge you to support this worthwhile and vital project and we wholeheartedly second this grant application.

THANKS!

We received some very nice letters complimenting the work that Coventry Neighbors is doing from renewing members Tom Bier and Andy & Lois Gross. Thanks for the kind words; it's nice to know that we are appreciated.

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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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.
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COVENTRY Village News

c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor

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Michele J. Ladouceur Expires:9/8/1999

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