

COVENTRY



VILLAGE NEWS

October 2001

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY VILLAGE NEIGHBORS INC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

There are flags everywhere now. Flags, and requests that God pay special attention to our country. In some way, this is heartening. We should after all, be happy to live in this country. There is nothing wrong with displaying such affections. Simply hanging a flag however, is just a bit too easy. The effort consists of lifting a few ounces of fabric into the air. A few minutes are spent; life continues. We believe this display creates some sort of connection or shows commitment to America. The past few weeks have illustrated in detail that hanging a "God Bless America" sign on your front door is not enough. It takes hard work to be an American. Work on which we have increasingly slacked. If we want to show our renewed commitment to this nation and our community, we need to pick up that slack, reassert ourselves and begin to spend the necessary time to make a difference.

One way we can reaffirm our commitment is to take the time necessary to wisely select political leaders. This task is too important to be left to impression made by deceptive television advertisements and bumper stickers. If we want to display our love of country, there can be no better way than to lay it in the hands of a capable and trustworthy guardian. Doing this is not easy and it gets more difficult each election. Giving up and retreating to raise flags is almost understandable.

Making electoral decisions is hampered by a number of roadblocks. The first is that "good" candidates are becoming more and more rare. Instead of doing the bull work necessary to equitably present the candidate, newsmen have now relegated themselves to garbage sifters. It is much easier to show a candidate's dirty linen than an honest presentation of their positions and beliefs. Potential candidates unwilling to allow themselves to be run through the mud simply stay away. This leaves the door open for less qualified, more masochistic individuals, leading to the second problem. Candidates have become celebrities. The congressman is now on equal footing with Charo. George Hamilton golfs with Gerald Ford. We Americans, without the "benefit" of royalty, seem compelled to elevate someone to that status.

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DISCUSSION OF THE LIBRARY ISSUE AT THE NEXT MEETING

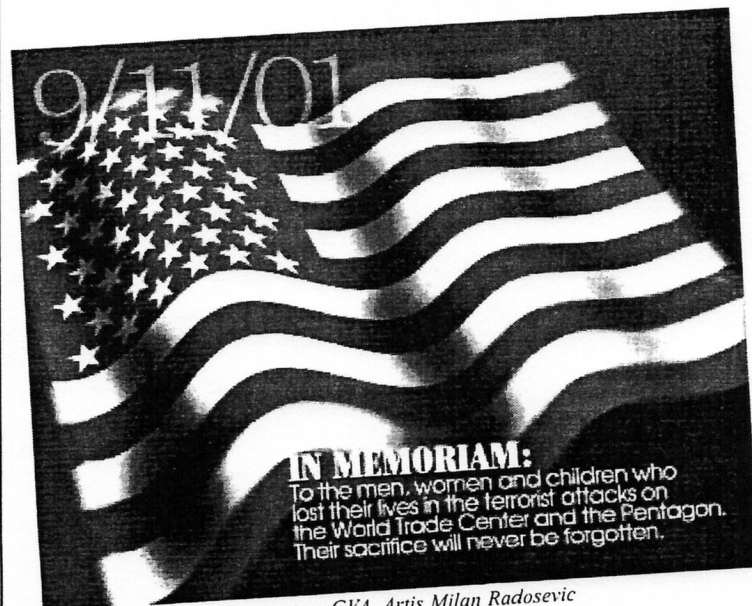
Dear Coventry Neighbors,

As you may know, the Library has a .65 mill Bond Issue on the November ballot to renovate the Main Library and the Activity Center to create a unified campus.

Please join me at your next meeting—October 9th at 7:40 PM at the Coventry Village Library—to hear the Library's plans and learn about the multitude of community benefits this premiere Cultural Arts project offers the whole community.

Hope to see you there,

Steve Wood,
Director Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library



Flag courtesy GVA, Artis Milan Radosevic

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Entertainers have become our de facto royalty. Politicians have become entertainers; hence they are less inclined to bold initiatives and expansive thought and more prone to actions that maintain their public persona. Maintenance of self moves us to the third problem, re-election. Power is achieved with election. Maintenance of that power is achieved via re-election. To be reelected, considerable effort must be expended. Reelection can only be achieved if all are placated. Placation is achieved by subordinating thoughts and opinions. Without strong opinions, electors are less likely to object to your continuation in office. Keeping stale officials in office prevents progress and heeds innovative thoughts and actions.

We are lucky at the neighborhood level and especially in Cleveland Heights. With few exceptions, the sublimation that has riddled higher offices has alluded local political representatives. For the most part, we are fortunate to have fine public servants and an admirable collection of citizens willing to dedicate the time and energy necessary to appropriately represent us.

We are lucky. Years of not paying attention to our representatives could have left us in a miserable position on September 11th. We are fortunate that former candidates, blanketed during the elections are shaping into admirable characters. Tragedy has allowed their true face to be shown. The media puppeteers that present plastic versions of Jane Campbell and Tim McCormick as candidates for Mayor of Cleveland could never have staged the compassion President Bush illustrated with a casual "arm around the shoulder" of a New York Fire Chief as he addressed the WTC relief workers. They could not touch the strength and élan Mayor Giuliani displayed as he attempted to rally his distraught flock of neighbors. Contrarily, Pat Robertson and Jerry Fallwell, men who have taken a sacred vow to help people and lead them during any type of crisis have simultaneously disgraced themselves and defamed their God.

We were lucky. George and Rudy could have stumbled and bumble their way through this crisis. Less than half of us took the time to vote in the last presidential election. George was crowned as the party's nominee long before Ohioans and most of America's citizens had an opportunity to vote for him. By omission, we allowed the ascension of a candidate to the highest office in the land. If we truly loved our county as our newfound patriotism suggests, we would have paid more attention to this process. If there is any positive that can be found after this tragedy, perhaps we will participate and invest appropriately in our country, as we should have in the past.

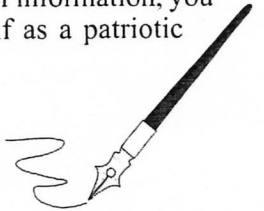
Our luck may run out. We are not out of the woods yet. Mistakes could still be made. There is a long distance from an arm around a fireman's soldier and retribution. If our leaders make the wrong decisions we could all turn into

kindred souls with the Northern Irish and the Basque region Spanish. Terrorism is a unique form of war. Everyone is a victim, not just the military. Retribution is difficult. Blame is impossible to assign. Mistakes are easy to make.

There is a flag shortage in America today. If you can't join the parade and get one, consider an alternative method of displaying your patriotism. Vow to select the best candidates in the November 6, 2001 election. Read about them, visit their web sites and attend candidate's forums. After voting based on the best collection of information, you can then proudly advertise yourself as a patriotic American. Flag or not.

JEFFREY R. DROSS

President, Coventry Neighbors



AN AWARD FOR THE ARCH

The Coventry Arch will be awarded a Community Improvement Award!

The presentation was 7 PM, September 13 at City Hall. It was nice to see that this wonderful addition to our neighborhood is being recognized.



COUNCIL CANDIDATES SPEAK TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

For the last three Municipal elections, Coventry Neighbors has held a candidate's forum to introduce the neighborhood to the vote-seekers. This year, we will not do that. We have, however invited each candidate to address the Coventry Village News readers. Following are their unedited comments.

I am running for re-election to Cleveland Heights City Council because I believe in the democratic process that is demonstrated by organizations like Coventry Neighbors. I have been a dues paying, active group participant and, for the last eight years, the liaison between Cleveland Heights city government and Coventry Neighbors. Together we have candidly discussed, analyzed and even agonized over Coventry specific issues and those that impact residents in general. We have developed a relationship based on mutual respect and trust, and I believe that I understand the concerns and priorities of Cleveland Heights residents better because of these conversations. Democracy is a participatory form of government and these monthly dialogues are part of the foundation of a healthy democratic society. Working together we can find solutions. Listening to each other makes us understand. Together we are better at utilizing our energy and resources to attain our common goal of a safe, attractive, economically sound, culturally enriching, and diverse community.

In a community as unique as ours, there are always challenges to be met. I hope that residents in the Coventry area, and in the whole City, will vote to allow me to continue serving on city council so together we can continue to make the city work for Coventry neighbors and for all Cleveland Heights citizens.

-Bonnie Caplan (www.caplanforcouncil.com)

We, David Bauders and Gina Saginor, have served as leaders in the Cleveland Heights Visioning project, which engaged over 6,000 citizens in defining our city's vision for the future, as well as the high-level plans for attaining the Vision. During that period, we observed our citizens' immense talent, energy, and enthusiasm for participating in their community's civic life. We learned a lot during this process, particularly how we can improve participation and responsiveness in our local government and how we can build on our city's unique assets to achieve our city's full potential.

We believe that good government begins with proactive citizen participation in civic decisions. The Visioning project encompassed citizen surveys, town hall meetings, and task forces that tapped into our citizens' talent, creativity, and energy. We believe that these proactive mechanisms should

continue and expand beyond the Visioning project into the regular working of our government. Only with participatory government can we implement effective improvement plans for our city. Recently, too much citizen energy has been channeled into negative or protest involvement. We instead need positive mechanisms for engaging our citizenry. We believe proactive citizen participation will lead to a city government that is more responsive, accountable, and effective in its many roles; and that services will improve in quality.

We believe that to succeed Cleveland Heights must systematically accelerate its great assets: Neighborhoods; Commercial Districts; and Arts and Culture. Again, the key is engaging our citizens to develop proactive plans in each of these dimensions. We believe that our neighborhoods require greater attention to preservation and beautification, and more aesthetically sensitive public works projects. Our intimate, "Main Street" commercial districts need master plans (developed with neighborhood involvement) to guide reinvestment and revitalization efforts. We must promote the richly diverse culture and the arts, which define our social vitality. These three assets define our great city, and are the key to our success.

For us to maximize our potential, we need proactive plans for promoting these assets. We need carefully crafted plans to focus our resources and guide public decision making. In our neighborhoods, our citizens have been far ahead of our government in promoting preservation and beautification. Our government has lacked a coherent plan to preserve and beautify our neighborhoods; and at times has pursued public works projects that degrade our neighborhoods' beauty. Too often, our city has been caught flat-footed and reactive in our commercial districts. We miss important opportunities to define our built environment, as we would like it, and are instead left reacting after the fact to each new developer's proposal. We also believe that our city needs to bolster its promotion of our rich diversity and artistic character, by implementing plans to expand events and programming and extending them into the daily public life in our community. We have great assets, but without methodical plans we fail to maximize our potential.

For our Coventry neighbors, our proposals will accelerate the village's rich vitality. Coventry Village, as much as any Cleveland Heights neighborhood, symbolizes our city's vitality, values and its potential. We propose extensive beautification programs in the neighborhood's Euclid Heights medians, mini-parks, and green spaces; along with improved attention to traffic calming, preservation, and beautification in the neighborhoods. We propose a new citizen- and merchant-engaged master plan and commensurate city investment for the Coventry commercial district, to address

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opportunities and needs in ways that reinforce Coventry's special character. We propose plans to expand arts and culture programming in the commercial district, with street fairs and other events to promote our great social and artistic vitality.

Our city's - and Coventry Village's - success depends on proactive, participatory plans to promote our great assets. Vote for leadership that will proactively engage you and your neighbors to build on our city's great assets.

-David Bauders and Gina Saginor (combined statement)
(www.visionteam2001.com)

As a lifelong resident of Cleveland Heights, I have been proud to see the city's growth and vitality continue to be strong in Northeastern Ohio. My hope for our city is that integrated living and multiculturalism always be one of our top priorities. I also feel that economic development - through continued support of our central mall, our neighborhood merchants, and new housing construction - will keep us as a competitive inner-ring suburb.

As a Councilman and Mayor, I have supported projects and programming that encourage communication. I have attended hundreds of meetings with residents over the last eight years because I believe that one-on-one discussions and problem-solving between residents and Council are very important. I have also supported the Visioning process, a grass roots effort that has reached out to residents, to hear their opinions and their hopes for our community, and to formulate a vision for the future.

Families, Seniors and young people have been one of my top priorities. Intergenerational activities are one way that all ages can come to understand and appreciate each other. I am proud to be a part of the development of the Community Center and increased recreational programming, playgrounds and park restoration. Safety has also been important and I have supported the police and fire safety services that do such a fine job.

Our city will grow and prosper with good housing maintenance, continued street and sewer projects and attention to the needs of our residents. Our uniqueness as a city is seen in our commitment to the arts and to schoolchildren.

Partnerships between the City, the schools, the libraries and other agencies have been very important to me. I am proud of my accomplishments over the last eight years, and look forward to another four, so that I can play a part as our city continues to grow and to thrive.

-Edward J. Kelley

Regarding Coventry's commercial district, I favor working toward implementation of the CoventrYard plan drawn up

by the merchants' group several years ago. It would create a welcome pedestrian space to attract diners and shoppers, and it would complement the beautification that has occurred across the street. The city needs to continue to push for public transportation linking Coventry to University Circle and other areas, and for a theater in the Centrum building. Attention should be paid to finding arts-oriented uses for vacant storefronts.

To keep Coventry's residential neighborhood as sought after as it currently is, the city needs to provide incentives for owner occupancy, assist landlords in dealing with irresponsible tenant behavior, consistently enforce housing codes with help from our new escrow account legislation, and support Coventry School as an integral part of the neighborhood. Our continued active participation in the First Suburbs Consortium is vital to a neighborhood like Coventry because it offers opportunities like low-interest HELP loans for home renovation and a new loan program for historic restoration.

-Nancy Dietrich

Candidates Judith Botwin and Jimmie Hicks, Jr. did not respond to our invitation to comment.

DIRECTOR LINDA CROSS IN THE MEDIA

The October issue of Pharaoh Magazine will feature an interview with HYC Director Linda Cross.

On October 7, 2001, Ms. Cross will appear for a live interview with Kim Johnson on WZAK 93.1 FM radio show "Spotlight" at 7:00 AM.

MARTINI MADNESS

Every other week (the 1st & 3rd Thursday) at the Toga Suite nightclub on Cedar Road, there will be a benefit get together to garner money for the HYC. From 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM a \$5 donation will allow you to purchase feature Martinis at a discounted price. The martini type changes each week. Why not join the fun!



The first session is Thursday, October 18

VENUU OFF-COVENTRY

Venuu Off-Coventry, billed as a space for eclectic performing arts, begins showcasing local talent on Saturday, October 6, 2001 starting with a "A Night of Jazz." Critically acclaimed jazz pianist George Foley and former Cleveland Orchestra Chorus member Rich Wortman will perform.

Venuu Off-Coventry presents a mixed bag of acts including dance, film, performance art, cabaret, theatre, and music twice a month. The group is the brainchild of a band of Cleveland Heights residents who wanted to gather their artistic energy and create a gathering place for artists and the community. They are also dedicated to nurturing and developing a broad spectrum of performing arts, including puppetry, multi-media, spoken word, and other art forms.

Venuu Off-Coventry is located in Cleveland Heights at 2728 Lancashire Road, at The Unitarian-Universalist Society of Cleveland, downstairs.

The inaugural event is October 6, 2001. Performances will be held the first and third Saturday evenings of every month. Doors open at 8pm. Light refreshments are available. Suggested donation for the October 6th performance: \$8.00. Venuu Off-Coventry is a substance-free zone.

Prospective Schedule (subject to change):

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| October 6 | A Night of Jazz with pianist George Foley and blues man Rich Wortman |
| October 20 | World Dance Party: The Best of World Music with special guest DJ (TBA) |
| November 3 | Nan O'Malley and Friends: Jazz, Folk, and original |
| November 17 | The Eclectics: Folk & Celtic Music |

For more information watch our website:
www.geocities.com/uusocietyofcleveland/



SCHOOL BOARD HELP

If you are in search of information regarding School Board Candidates, consider checking out the website for "Your Schools 2001" at: <http://my.stratos.net/~ys2001/> The group make a recommendation of three candidates after what appears to be an exhaustive review of written statements and personal interviews. Each candidate's written statement is linked and an explanation of the process is included. This is a good place to start in your research for candidate information.

HEIGHTS YOUTH CENTER UPDATE

The Heights Youth Center is embarking on a series of fundraisers with the emphasis on FUN. All the events mentioned below would generate money needed to assist the HYC in their programs.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CANDIDATE'S FORUM

Coventry Neighbor's will not hold a candidate's forum this year. That does not mean you need to remain uninformed about the candidates. The League of Women Votes is holding a candidate's forum on Thursday October 25, 2001 at 7:00PM at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) 3505 Mayfield Road. Seven vibrant candidates are seeking your vote for four seats. In order to insure that we get the representation we deserve, it is in all of our best interest to attend.

LINE DANCE

From now until December 4, 2001 every Tuesday night is a Line Dance Party! A few weeks ago, an article was featured in the Plain Dealer about Belinda Haywood and WMIB. They run a series of Line Dance teaching parties. Every Tuesday from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Hope Lutheran Church you can join the fun. Hope Lutheran is located at 2222 North Taylor Road. Admission is \$5 per session.

The Line Dance session culminates on December 7, 2001 with a Cabaret Party-Line Dance Marathon at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. The hall is located at 29840 Euclid Avenue. The BYOB event will happen from 8:00 PM to 1:00 PM. If you just want to come for the Cabaret Party, the cost is \$10. If you want to join the Marathon competition it is \$15. The winner of the marathon will win a night at a Jacuzzi Suite at the Holiday Inn Downtown, two tickets to the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame and more!

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 January, April, July, and October at 7:40 p.m. at the Coventry Village Library, Euclid Heights Boulevard. & Coventry Road.

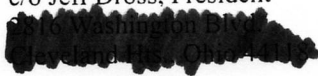
When you join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. you can be sure of having a voice in shaping your neighborhood's future. Membership includes a subscription to the Coventry Village News.

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





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



COVENTRY Village News

c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor

