

COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS

DECEMBER 1975

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS

WE ARE BACK!

In case you haven't noticed, the Coventry Neighbors Newsletter is back.

The format may seem unfamiliar. In fact, it may continue to seem unfamiliar as time goes on. This is intentional. In a community which perhaps over-revels in its diversity, it is only fitting that the community newsletter reflect that diversity. We intend to print a wide variety of articles, reflecting many viewpoints. (Hence the disclaimer by Coventry Neighbors, Inc.--which will appear in every issue.) This is admittedly an experiment.

Our assumption is that there are a lot of frustrated potential contributors "out there." Our theory is that if we provide a format and a vehicle, the readers will provide much of our material. In our opinion, the feelings of people in this community are not reflected in other media, and we want them represented in our own media.

There will be news. And commentary. And a lot of opinion, often unpopular. But we hope there will also be poetry, recipes, essays and letters. And anything else which creative people in this community can send in. In sum, we bring to this newsletter no stereotyped conception of what a newsletter could or should be.

We cordially invite your comments, your criticisms, and most of all, your participation.

NEW OFFICERS

At the October, 1975, meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. the following new officers were elected:

Karen Lind, President
Bruce Millinger, Vice-President
Janet St. Clair, Secretary
Ester Brodsky, Treasurer
David Burwasser, Trustee-at-Large
Lillian Greenberg, Trustee-at-Large

A special note of thanks and appreciation is extended to outgoing President, Dennis Hiermann, who has served the organization and community as President for the past two years.

The next meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. is announced for Tuesday, December 9, 1975, at 8 P. M. in the Community Room at Musician's Towers.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS MINUTES

Several important issues were discussed at the November 24, 1975 meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Avery Friedman, legal counsel, spoke about Dorothy Weathers et al vs. Peters Realty Company et al, a class action suit concerning ~~racially~~ discriminatory practices. He brought the group up to date on the progress of the case. A motion ~~that~~ Coventry Neighbors commit \$200.00 to the case and try to persuade other neighborhood groups to help fund the legal action was adopted.

Amendments to the Coventry Neighbors by-laws proposed by the new Board of Trustees generated much discussion before agreement as to the proper wording was reached. Karen Lind, President, continued the meeting with a short account of the meeting held at Taylor Road School concerning what could be expected of the schools in view of the fact that the school levy did not pass, and a briefing on the status of the Heights Community Congress.

The meeting then moved on to new business. The article in the PD Sunday magazine highlighting the Coventry Area was noted by Karen, who also reported on the Community Development Block Grant funding for Ann Hunter, who was unable to attend the meeting. A flyer presented by Millikin Neighbors dealing with the possible demise of the Heights Housing Service was discussed, resulting in a motion to draft a letter in support of the Millikin Neighbors resolution and send it to the Cleveland Heights City Council. David Burwasser reported on the City Council meeting for November.

The most important decision arising out of the meeting was the adoption of by-law amendments which will hopefully provide for greater participation in Coventry Neighbors of individual delegates of block clubs, enabling the organization to better serve the community.

- Janet St. Clair

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IN CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., as one of the sponsors of the case of Dorothy Weathers vs. Peters Realty Co., is trying to raise \$400.00 to see this piece of housing litigation through to its final conclusion.

The suit, which was filed in April 1973, charged that Peters Realty Co. had refused rental of an apartment suite to Dorothy Weathers, a black, on the basis of racial discrimination. Ms. Weathers and members of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., using an established "checkers" procedure, had whites inquire into the availability of apartments in the building at 12509 Cedar, owned and operated by Peters Realty. The two sets of whites, immediately preceding and following Ms. Weathers were shown suites. Ms. Weathers was told by the custodian of the building, an agent of the realtor, that no suites were available.

In May, 1973, U.S. District Court Judge Robert B. Krupansky dismissed the case. Upon appeal to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, that Court reversed the decision of the lower and sent the case back to the District Court to declare the 'class action' nature of the case and to consider appropriate damages. Once again, however, Judge Krupansky refused to award damages and for the second time dismissed the case in February of this year. Immediately,

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HOUSING DISCRIMINATION (CONT.)

Ms. Weathers and her attorneys filed an appeal to contest Judge Krupansky's second ruling.

The \$400.00 needs to be raised to cover the printing and travel costs necessary to carry out the second appeal. To date, neither Ms. Weathers nor her attorneys have received any money in their attempt to protect the rights and interests of all the members of our community against discriminatory real estate practices. It is important that each of us take an interest in supporting Dorothy in this case.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made to Coventry Neighbors, Inc., designated for use in this litigation.

- Chris Mitchell

WE ARE GOING TO COVENTRY

*Fast-as-molasses Seymour
Works at County Welfare
Lives alone, in his rooms
Books, a tape recorder
Temporarily out of order
While around the corner
Are the wife & daughter
In their genteel squalor
Living better thru 'lectricity
Color TV, a new dryer
Watch the trash get higher
Watch the dust gather round the broom
Beard, ash & glasses Seymour*

*Play that damn piano
Then eat your supper with a spoon
After soup & crackers
Like a couple of characters
We'll go out & act as crazy as a loon
We are going gambling
Drinking & exploring
We are going to Coventry
To the C-Saw Saloon
Fast-as-molasses
Beard, ash & glasses
We are going to Coventry
To howl at the moon*

**
Daniel*

HERE A DOG...THERE A DOG...EVERYWHERE A DOG...DOG... BUT WAIT A MINUTE,
THIS IS CLEVELAND HEIGHTS -- NOT McDONALD'S FARM!

Hardly a block meeting occurs without some discussion of dogs. Those who own pets often consider them to be members of the family and any criticism of the pet is an invitation to neighborhood brinkmanship. Those who do not have pets object to the noise and residue of other people's animals and feel, often rightly, indignant that they must suffer the consequences of someone else's lack of responsibility.

Hold it folks, let's review a few of the local community standards concerning the subject of pets that have been legislated in order to protect our pets, as well as the rights of those who have chosen not to own pets.

First of all, dogs and cats are not permitted to run at large anywhere in the City. The animal is "at large" unless on a leash or on the owner's property. This, of course, is as much a protection for the pet as it is for the neighbors' property or for the person at the wheel of a car on a busy street. Loose dogs, especially, are often frightening to small children, elderly pedestrians and bike riders.

DOGS (CONT.)

discover that the only legal place for an animal to dispose of yesterday's supper is on the owner's property or between the curbs of public streets-- a neat trick. Any other place and it is the dog owner's responsibility to scoop it up (an empty milk carton or cereal box is useful) and drop it back in the home trash can. That's all part of the job, folks.

These are two of the most commonly disobeyed articles of the "General Offenses Code - Animals and Fowl." If you would like a complete copy of the Ordinance, which covers the number of dogs and cats permitted (it's two, folks, only two), prohibitions in public parks, exotic animals, cruelty, poison, hunting, wildlife, carrier pigeons, rabies, impounding procedures, and the general code penalty, you may pick up a copy at the Community Relations Office, in the City Hall Annex at Mayfield and Superior or from the Animal Warden. A few reminders in neighborhood newsletters might ease some of the tensions when pets and people mix. The Animal warden may be reached by calling: 321-0100, Ext. 272.

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