

The Party's Not Really Over

The Fourth Annual Coventry Street Fair is over now, but the after-effects linger. Discussions on the street inevitably turn to the Fair. In the eyes of those who worked so hard to organize the Fair, one can still see sparkles, as if the opening of the road to traffic at 8 p. m. on Sunday was not an end, but rather only one step in a continuing process. Apparently, the 1978 street fair is already on many minds.

The Fair was a Coventry Neighbors, Inc. production from start to finish this year. It was a great success. Although nobody could say for sure, estimates that 40,000 people came to attend the festivities were not being discounted. There were no major incidents, and as one Cleveland Heights Police Department officer noted, "People behaved themselves." Due to the presence of some 25 temporary trash containers, 24 push brooms, and several Coventry neighbors, the street was clean after the Fair. Many suggested that the street was cleaner after the Fair than it had been before the Fair.

Merchants were pleased, and for good reason. Some made as much as \$3,000 during the two days. As promised, the Fair had more art and food for sale than any previous Fair. There were three rib stands, with CNI member George Anthony Moore's stand being widely deemed the best of the lot. The people who worked the garbage detail can attest to the volume of corn, watermelon, pastries, etc. consumed.

There was a lot of beer consumed, too. Despite this, the Fair was remarkably free of drunken behavior. Police rigorously enforced the law, banning open public consumption of alcohol, but they did so in a professional manner which headed off hostility. One observer stated that he felt the police were "firm, but understanding."

It seemed as if more families and more local residents came than in prior years. This was perhaps due to the emphasis on local publicity reflected in the Fair's \$350 budget for advertising.

Overall, the 1977 Fair was the best of the Coventry Street Fairs. It has generated enthusiasm which can, hopefully, be tapped for other projects. Moreover, it has brought some extremely talented people out into the open and convinced them that ambitions can be converted into realities, given some time, money, and sweat. The 1977 Street Fair marks what many expect will be a point of departure for Coventry Neighbors, Inc. and for Coventry. It is definitely only a beginning.

- Alan Rapoport

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*The next meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will take place on Tuesday, August 9, 1977, at 8:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Society on Lancashire Road, across from Musician's Towers.*

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### President's Street Fair Committee Report

Not many people really understand or appreciate all the work that went into planning and running the 1977 Coventry Street Fair. A hard working committee of 14 spent three months to make two days come off just right. Some special mentions are appropriate.

Frank Obermeyer could have stayed in his Glass Llama store in Coventryard and remained apart from the Fair. He has a nice store and a growing business. But he had ambitions for a better Coventry. Without him, merchant contact and finances would have degenerated into confusion.

Elvie Zell has worked on craft fairs before. She did not need to handle reservations for booths and hassle about where to locate them. Without her, the Street Fair could never have served its purpose as a vehicle for local artists.

Karen Lind is a very busy person. Her list of public and community activities is so long that one wonders how she finds time to work and sleep. When the challenge of making various arrangements for the Fair came up, she could have passed the work up. She didn't. Without her, the Fair would have operated like a squeaky wheel lacking grease.

David Budin minds his own business. A talented musician himself, he had no ambition of challenging the Belkin Brothers in the promotion game. But when the suggestion was made that good entertainers might perform for free, David decided he could find those entertainers. Without him, the Fair would have seemed awfully quiet.

F. David Gill is a determined fireball of energy. When someone was needed to find 60 unpaid neighbors to stand one-hour shifts at lonely barricades blocks away from the Street Fair, he volunteered. You cannot convince others to be public spirited unless you radiate that quality yourself. F. gave a damn and he set out to find 60 like-minded individuals. Without him, there would have been no "room" for the party.

There were others, too, and I don't mean to slight them by being briefer in my description of their roles. Ed (Crudley) Ritz designed our posters. Debby and Sany Levine did much of our publicity. Eileen Van Vlack and Mitchell Coffee were there when you needed them, as were Judith Ayers, Pam Ritz, and Lavonne Miether. The committee worked as a team. No one was paid.

I have served on many committees, and I honestly feel this one was the best by far. Each and every person on it was intelligent, dedicated, and hard-working. We all had a good time and everything came off fine. Without them, the 1977 Coventry Street Fair would never have existed.

- Alan Rapoport

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*Note from the Street Fair Committee: Alan is much too modest. Although he is unaware, as yet, of this addition, we wanted each of you to realize how fully he gave of his time, energy, and self in this effort. His leadership of the group is what kept us going. Thank you, Alan! (Is this the right time to ask you to Chair the 1978 Street Fair Committee?)*

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Tenant Hassles? --Coventry Tenants' Meeting

For those interested residents of the Coventry area, there is going to be a tenants' meeting on Thursday, August 4, at 2745 Hampshire Road, Apartment 3. We have already had one tremendously successful meeting, where a large enthusiastic group discussed the common problems of the area, planned a clean-up day for August 27 on Hampshire Road, and agreed to print a tenants' pamphlet.

Special invited guests at our next meeting include Paul Marucci, representative from the Inspectional Services Department of Cleveland Heights, and Phil Starr, director of the Cleveland Tenants Organization.

We hope that you can join us on August 4th when your ideas and support will be most helpful. If you have any questions, call Joyce Cohen at the Heights Community Congress, 321-6775.

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Coventry Library Activities:

- Man-Made Monsters: Crafts for ages 6-10 - Monday, August 1, 3 p.m.  
Thursday, August 4, 3 p.m.
- Coventry Library Players: Drama for ages 9-14 - Monday, August 1, 7 p.m.
- A wild rumpus: Closing Day Program, Thursday, August 4, 7 p.m.
- FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL: Monday, August 29th, 7 p.m. (Free tickets and info on file at Coventry Library, August 15.)

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*Join us in rediscovering the rich heritage of Cleveland Heights by opening doors to our landmark buildings.....* HEIGHTS HERITAGE TOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS THE FIRST ANNUAL HEIGHTS HERITAGE TOUR, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1977

- 4:30 p.m. Leave Rockefeller Building for an escorted bus tour of Cleveland Heights Landmark Houses.
- 7:00 p.m. Arrive at Mornington Lane Condominium Ballroom for cocktails.
- 8:30 p.m. Arrive at the Cleveland Trust Bank, Rockefeller Building for dinner.

Donation of \$35 per person includes tour, cocktails, dinner and Landmark Guide-book. (\$15 tax-deductible donation to benefit Heights Community Congress) Call the HCC at 321-6775 for further information.

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Executive Editor: Alan Rapoport      Contributing Editors: David Burwasser  
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