

COVENTRY VILLAGE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
FORMS

The new Coventry Village Business Association (CVBA), brought into existence at the behest of the City to contribute to local commercial area redevelopment planning, has already sent to City Hall two messages on that very subject. CVBA wants enforcement of Coventry area parking meters halted between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m. And it has presented a detailed redevelopment outline to the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) for expenditure of Cleveland Heights fourth year Community Development Block Grant funds.

CVBA consists of 45 business owners and landlords in the Coventry commercial strip; this is out of a total of 65 businesses on the street. Dues consist of a \$50 initiation fee (or in-kind equivalent) and an annual assessment of 10¢ per square foot for merchants and 3¢ per square foot for landlords. (Shopkeeper/landlords are assessed 13¢/sq. ft.). At its November 10th meeting, CVBA elected a seven member Board of Trustees, who subsequently selected officers and committee chairs. Elected were: Frank Obernyer, chair of CVBA and co-chair for City and community liaison; Norm Kijewski, vice-chair/secretary of CVBA and co-chair for liaison; Lou Kusner, treasurer of CVBA and membership chair; Tommy Fello, architectural review chair; Gene Rocco, maintenance chair; Chris Patronik-Holder, promotion and advertising chair; and Irv Sachs. Sachs is the only landowner on the Board; at the November 10th meeting a tie between Sachs and Dr. Phil Imperi was resolved by Imperi's unilateral withdrawal in recognition of the importance of having a landlord on the Board.

At the same meeting, CVBA voted unanimously to request elimination of parking meter enforcement between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m. (when the overnight on-street parking ban goes into effect) on Coventry and all adjacent streets and lots. This position was supported by a large majority vote at the following Coventry Neighbors meeting. The last time this issue was raised with the City, then-City Manager William Lahman indicated that the meters were strictly enforced because the merchants wanted it that way. That information got a good laugh at the November 10th CVBA meeting.

The plan presented by the merchants to the CAC includes a call for improved parking; careful and citizen-responsive future planning; upgrading of conveniences, such as benches, public restrooms, and a neighborhood information center; consistency of shop front designs; and preservation of, and respect for, Coventry's uniqueness as a genuine asset to Cleveland Heights. CVBA has been notified of the existence of a Coventry Report that area residents drew up for the City in 1974 and CVBA will be looking into that document, as well.

The next meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will take place on Tuesday, December 13, 1977, at 8:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Society on Lancashire Road, across from Musicians' Towers.

NEW STORE HOURS - - - - Coventry Merchants are extending their shopping hours for the convenience of their customers. They will have late evening hours on Thursdays and Fridays until 9:00 p.m. Support your local merchants!

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY REPORT

Well, why not. The President of the Country gets to say his piece on occasions, doesn't he? Now I'll take my turn to put forth some proposals about what CNI is, should be, can be, will be, and won't be in the year 1978.

First, what it is. CNI is an association of neighbors dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life in their neighborhood. It is a lobbying group, a social group, and continuing conspiracy. It is often altruistic, more often idealistic, occasionally realistic. It is not a fixed group either in membership or in structure. It is a vehicle whereby individuals can increase their individual power by pooling money, expertise, time, and energy. It has been effective in planning four Street Fairs, in distributing a newsletter, in lobbying for governmental action, and in keeping alive a "spirit of Coventry."

Next, what it should be. I feel that CNI should continue to be what it is. That will require dedication to the principle that neighborhood improvement is a non-partisan (but political) goal, requiring teamwork of neighbors, land owners, merchants, City Council, and City administrators. The old days of confrontation politics on Coventry are gone. CNI should be a constructive organization, with positive goals and solutions.

Next, what CNI can be. It can be the organization which helps organize plans to make the commercial strip more physically attractive. It can be the organization that pressures the City to improve its methods of housing code enforcement. It can be the organization which puts together a fifth Street Fair and other promotional and social activities. It can be all these things and more. With the help of the membership, it will be.

Which brings us to what CNI won't be. It won't be ineffectual, unmotivated, or insolvent. It won't be solely dependent upon other organizations for guidance or support. It won't be the tool of any small group of people. Not if those who represent CNI have anything to say about it.

These are my purely personal observations. If you share them, I hope you will demonstrate your support for CNI. Your dues will enable us to continue functioning. We also need your presence at meetings (at least occasionally) and your vocal support. CNI can only exist if you care.

- Alan Rapoport
President, CNI

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New Officers:

At the October 11, 1977 meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., the following new officers were elected:

- Alan Rapoport, President
- F. David Gill, Vice-President
- Joel Jordan, Secretary
- Karen Lind, Treasurer
- Bruce Millinger, Trustee-at-Large
- Al Lustig, Trustee-at-Large

A special note of thanks and appreciation is extended to Judith Ayers and David Burwasser, each of whom has served CNI and the Coventry community well as CNI officers during the past year.

The University Recycling Center (TURC)

The University Recycling Center (TURC) is a non-profit student organization at Case Western Reserve University that collects: newspaper, office paper (separate color and white), magazines, computer paper and cards, glass (separate clear, green and brown and remove all plastic and metal), aluminum, and crank-case oil, to be recycled. Our collection site is located on Circle Drive, between Adelbert and Cornell Roads, behind the Medical School, on the CWRU campus. The site is manned on Fridays from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m.

The residents of several apartment buildings in the area collect their newspapers in one place (storage room, laundry room) for TUC to pick up weekly. If you want your building to be on our pickup schedule, give us a call and we will set it up.

Feel free to call 368-2649 Monday - Friday (1 - 5 p.m.) if you have any questions.

Short Notes.....

....forgot to mention two more new stores which came to Coventry this summer: Cedar Chest and Grum's Sub Shoppe.

....by the way, Grum's rated a Community Improvement Award for the innovative remodeling job. Well deserved, we think.

....Ward's Folly was a real victim of the recent fire on Coventry. It will not re-open.

....Pick-N-Pay has a sign warning some parkers that after two hours, they will tow cars.

----which reminds me, did you know that Johnny's charges more for the tow when the police call than when you call?

- Alan Rapoport

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COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS

A Publication of the Heights Community Congress and Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Executive Editor: Alan Rapoport Contributing Editors: Karen Lind
F. David Gill
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Circulation: 650. All opinions contained in the Coventry Village News are solely those of the author unless otherwise specified. Official pronouncements of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will be noted. Articles for publication should be sent to the Editor, c/o Apt. 301, 2753 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, OHio 44106.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO YOU!