



Coventry Village News

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NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

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COVENTRY NEIGHBORS COMMITTEES FORMED

BY

Charles J. Owen

At its November 1980 meeting, Coventry Neighbors, Inc. membership authorized the officers to expand the present committee structure of the organization. The new committees being formed are:

- Community Affairs
- Physical Environment
- Public Relations
- Commercial Area
- Crime
- Newsletter

In addition, the following task forces were established:

- Goals & Purposes
- Street Fair
- Constitution & Bylaws

Why are these committees being established? It is envisioned that the new committee structure will help solve some organizational problems that have been building up over the past few years. For example, CNI meetings have a deserved reputation for being too long. It is hoped that the meetings will become shorter as similar topics are collected together under one report. It may be expected that discussion will be more focused and less lengthy.

It is also hoped that the committee structure will make it easier for neighborhood people to be involved in areas of specific interest. Increased neighborhood participation will enable CNI to undertake needed community projects that have been going unattended for too long.

Initially, CNI Trustees will be responsible for getting the committees on their feet. Our goal is to involve as many persons as possible into at least one committee. The more people that serve on committees, the easier and more fun the committees can be.

Please look at the committee descriptions below and volunteer for the one that most closely represents your interests.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Liaison with external organizations other than City of Cleveland Heights and Coventry Merchant Assn. Example: Street Clubs, PTA, Library, HCC.

COMMERCIAL AREAS: Develop CNI efforts for commercial revitalization on Coventry. Liaison with Coventry Merchant Assn.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: Develop strategies to improve the physical environment. Example: tree care, litter and trash control, cleanup campaign, traffic and parking.

CRIME: Research of neighborhood anti-crime programs that could apply to Coventry.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Getting the word out about Coventry and CNI.

NEWSLETTER: Preparation and production of the COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS.

GOALS & PURPOSES: Study and recommendation of CNI positions for consideration by the full membership.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS: Modernization and simplification of CNI regulations.

COVENTRY VILLAGE STREET FAIR: Work with your neighbors to produce the ever popular annual Street Fair.

A convenient tear slip is provided on the bottom of page 2 so that you may choose which committee you would like to join. Fill it in and mail it NOW.

ONE MILLION OR BUST!

by Debbie Graves, Librarian

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights library system may circulate its one millionth book this year, making the annual circulation exceed the million mark for the first time ever. We're hoping all Coventry neighbors will come to the branch of your choice and take out as many books as you can carry home. The borrower of the millionth book will be given a special award.

* * * * *

The annual Coventry Library Open House will take place December 14, Sunday, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. An eventful afternoon is planned for all our friends and neighbors. Coventry Library Building has just been designated a Cleveland Heights landmark. A ceremony for the recognition of the Landmark designation is in the planning stages for that afternoon, in the Library. The Dance Center will perform at 3:00, courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Six dancers will introduce the audience of all ages to jazz, modern dance and ballet. The performance will take place in the Dance Center Studio. Refreshments will be served by C.L.A.C. (Coventry Library Advisory Committee) in the Library.

* * * * *

On December 29, Winnie the Pooh will be shown at Coventry Library. Tickets will be available by mid-December for the movie, which will be shown at 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM. This movie was brought to the Library by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Friends of the Library.

SOCIAL CHANGES PRODUCE NEED FOR CROSS-TOWN TRANSPORTATION

BY

June C. Wortman

(Ed Note: Mrs. Wortman furnished COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS with a copy of her final memorandum to the RTA on the Coventry bus proposal. From four single-spaced legal-size pages of demographics and statistics (not counting the map) we excerpt the author's summary.)

The Cleveland area public transportation system is essentially an east-west system. Perhaps during the years when the system first evolved east-west was the major direction of travel, with downtown as the central focus. The growth of inner-ring and then outer-ring suburbs has changed the pattern somewhat. First the movement of people was out, but they still traveled to jobs in the city. More recently, people have been moving back in, or not moving out of the inner-ring suburbs. Some want to avoid long hours of travel time, and have more time with their families. Some want to live near their employment in the university area, in local schools and hospitals, in businesses that are not downtown. Some remain out of financial and physical necessity, being unable to drive or afford the car so necessary to life in the outer suburbs.

Children have, by choice and necessity, become more independent. But as traffic has become more intense, and as the crime rate has risen, the streets have become less safe for walkers and bikers.

The increased cost of living and the need for energy conservation are more recent facts of life leading families to give up the second car.

All of these social changes are leading people to an increasing use of public transportation. The need to link neighborhoods with each other instead of only with the central city will increase. Increased provision of cross-town (Continued on Page 8)

CITY I LAUGURATES TWO REFUSE PROJECTS

by
A Staff Writer

Cleveland Heights City Council legislated two new refuse collection programs into existence at its November 17, 1980, meeting--one encouraging recycling and another improving efficiency of trash transportation.

Council accepted a \$35,000 Gund Foundation grant for a demonstration project of paper recycling, to be carried out via the City's refuse collection service. Heights Citizens for Recycling, a private citizens' group, has developed the key ideas for this project over the last few years. The city will contribute \$14,301 worth of in-kind services (but no cash) to the demonstration over a two-year span.

In another resolution, the City Manager was authorized to contract with University Heights and South Euclid for use of the Cleveland Heights refuse transfer station. A garbage collection truck is a specialized piece of equipment not suited to the economical hauling of trash over long distances. When a Cleveland Heights collection truck is full, it returns to the transfer station behind City Hall and dumps its load into an enormous semi hauler for later removal to landfill. The two neighboring cities have no such facilities and are using their collection trucks for, in the words of Councilman Dick Weigand, "haulage to increasingly distant landfill sites at increasingly higher fuel prices."

The legislation provides for South Euclid and University Heights to bring their refuse to the Cleveland Heights transfer station at a cost of \$11 per ton, with an "adder clause" included to cover escalation in fuel prices.

Both items were introduced by Weigand for Council's Municipal Services Committee, of which he is chairman.

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

by
A Staff Writer

Councilman Alan Rapoport reported to the November 11, 1980, Coventry neighbors meeting that the Coventry Yard mini-park will be re-sodded after addition of more fill dirt. The landscaping did not turn out as hilly as intended, due to a miscalculation of the volume of fill needed.

Mr. Larry Bean, of the City Planning & Development Department, told the same CNI meeting of a developer's plans for a convenience shopping operation at the corner of Mayfield and Middlehurst, where a disused service station now stands. The project concept is challenging because it calls for a number of curbcuts on a street that rises at a rather steep angle. Details will be forthcoming.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Executive Committee of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will meet on Thursday, December 4, at 7:30 PM at the Hennes residence, 2910 Hampshire Road. The committee consists of all officers and trustees of CNI. Other members of CNI are welcome to attend and observe.

PLANNING FOR PICK-N-PAY

by

David T. Burwasser

City Manager Richard Robinson directed the Coventry commercial architect/planners, Neighborhood Design 3, away from deep consideration of the Pick-N-Pay supermarket and its immediate environs, in deference to a Federal application plan for which mandatory public hearings have yet to be held.

The City Manager confirmed these facts during the November 17, 1980, City Council meeting, in response to a citizen's inquiry.

A separate architectural study of Pick-N-Pay and the surrounding land parcels held by the same owners, the Seigler family, was completed in preparation for an Urban Development Action Grant ("UDAG") application by the city. UDAG involves partial Federal matching of private development capital in blighted or blight-threatened urban areas.

The rest of the Coventry commercial strip is being reviewed for facade revitalization and coordination by Neighborhood Design 3, a team selected by the Coventry Merchant Association under the auspices of the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC). Mr. Robinson stated that he has diverted Neighborhood Design 3 from Pick-N-Pay because he did not want to be in the position of having expended resources at his command for two studies of the same site.

Neither study is to be financed out of the City's general fund. The pre-UDAG study was funded by a gift from a private source. LDC operations are funded out of Community Development Block Grant monies, another Federal source.

The city's own rules for UDAG applications state in part: "Prior to submission of a UDAG application, the City must give citizens the opportunity to participate. The City staff and the CAC will hold at least two public hearings in convenient locations, . . . insofar as possible, . . . in or near the neighborhood(s) to be affected by the UDAG grant." (Citizen Participation Plan, March 1980, p 13. CAC is the Citizens' Advisory Committee for the city's Block Grant program; see p 7 of the same document.) Mr. Robinson acknowledged that no public hearings have been held on any UDAG application for Pick-N-Pay. Robinson pledged that public hearings will be held in accordance with regulations when the City is nearer to making a formal UDAG application.

Plans and ideas from Neighborhood Design 3 have been developed out of a series of very public consultations, in accordance with the wishes of both the architects and the Coventry merchants.

MEETING INFORMATION

As regular attendees of Coventry Neighbors monthly meetings know, we have the best show in town (besides City Council). There is always something to interest everyone--or to totally bore almost anyone. But you have to take the good with the bad, the big picture with the details, and the serious with the frivolous. The bottom line is a sense of community and accomplishment.

What can someone who does not attend regularly expect? First, a welcome by the President, introductions all around, officers' reports, committee reports, perhaps a brief report on the library, the schools or City Council, followed by old and new business. Many times there will be a presentation by an individual or a group either to inform us or to ask our support for one thing or another. The meeting is ended with 'good and welfare,' a chance for anyone to rise and speak their mind on anything.

The topics of discussion range from tax issues, sanitation and commercial revitalization to parking lots, City Hall and Board of Zoning Appeals considerations.

Our method of conducting business is defined by Robert's Rules of Order. Since we walk a fine line between a semi-professional neighborhood organization considering vital issues of the day and area, and a group of neighbors trying to better Coventry Village, strict parliamentary procedure is usually NOT adhered to, although the Chair does not hesitate to use it when necessary.

While Robert's can be tedious, it is the way that Coventry Neighbors can be controlled by the general will within the whole membership, particularly if the agenda is crowded or the discussion spirited.

The meeting itself is always punctuated by enthusiastic discussion. It is a fact that in any small group, particularly one in Cleveland Heights, the discussion can often be dominated by those who are the most articulate, well-versed in a particular subject, or loudest. The Chair is therefore quite responsive to an outstretched hand, and particularly those who seldom speak. If you attend, and have something to say, please say it!

Much has been said about the length of our meetings. *The Chair strives mightily to end by 9:30 to 10:00 PM.* Unfortunately, the massive amount of information to debate and digest, and the right of those present to speak, often dictate a later adjournment. Many times a meeting ends with fewer folks than it started with, but we hope you'll stay throughout. You never know when something that will interest you will come up, and there is always a chance to speak informally with your neighbors after the meeting.

Our meetings are always held on the second Tuesday of every month, starting at 7:30 PM, at the Unitarian Church on Lancashire. You will find both young and old there, split fairly evenly between homeowners and renters. Anyone may speak during meetings, even if not a member of Coventry Neighbors (although dues are nominal--why not join?). Voting, however, is limited to those who have been members for at least 30 days previously.

If you have any questions about Coventry Neighbors, please contact me or any of the other officers.

--Bruce L. Hennes
Vice President, Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

TOGUCHI ERA ENDING AT ZONING BOARD

Architect Fred Toguchi, long-time member and chair of the Cleveland Heights Board of Zoning Appeals, has informed Council that he does not wish to be considered for re-appointment when his current term expires in early 1981. This closes an era in the history of the Zoning Board, and leaves the next Board chair with the classic 'tough act to follow.'

Mr. Toguchi's chairmanship was noteworthy for an increased attentiveness, in reviewing "big" development plans, to the expressions of the 'little' people who would have to live in the plans once they were made bricks and mortar. His reputation for even-handed firmness was such that Coventry neighbors invited him to moderate three successive Council candidate nights--in 1975, 1977 and 1979--and in each instance was rewarded with an informative, well-run public discussion of public business.

Coventry neighbors' appearances before the Zoning Board during the Toguchi years were an important part of CNI's education in thinking, speaking and acting competently in matters of land use and planning. That is the way the Zoning Board has been run in this span of time. This was no exclusive favor to CNI; anyone who came before the Board had the same opportunity for a fruitful education. The undersigned has seen a number of groups and individuals ignore that opportunity, usually to their own cost.

City Council, hoping to maintain the balance of special skills on the Zoning Board, will probably seek another architect willing to forego business with the City for a term of years on the Zoning Board. In this it may well succeed; Council's chances of finding a replacement for Fred Toguchi in any fuller sense are more remote, and I personally wish them luck.

--Dave Burwasser

MEMBERSHIP IN COVENTRY NEIGHBORS INCORPORATED

Seldom has a community had the need to articulate its needs and wishes, as Coventry. Seldom has an organization answered such a need as consistently, thoroughly and effectively as Coventry Neighbors, Inc. The more we do, the more we learn; the more we learn, the more we see things to be done. Join the process in the new year.

Individual (\$5.00) Family (\$7.00) Senior (\$3.00) Membership (check one)

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE:*** _____ ZIP: _____

Make check payable to COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. and mail to Coventry Neighbors, 2745 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

ARABICA MOVES TO COVENTRY YARD - NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS SEEN

Within the next five weeks or so, Arabica Coffee and Tea will be moving into the new Coventry Yard, and will thus become the first tenant of that much-publicized resurrection. Arabica, owned by Carl Jones, Jean Dooley, and Susan Bures, has been one of the neighborhood's most conspicuous successes, and has outgrown its present confines.

The store opened in September 1976 in what was then the courtyard to the rear of the original Coventry Yard. After suffering heavy water damage from the February 1978 fire which claimed that development, the business moved to its current location at 1864 Coventry Road, and opened in April, 1978.

The new Arabica will be twice as large, will seat twice as many patrons as it now does, and will occupy more than one third of the street level of the new mall, adjacent to the Heights Video Center. According to Carl Jones, the store will have table and booth seating, and a stand-up coffee bar. Carl also plans expanded hours of service: 8 AM to midnight Monday through Thursday, 8 AM to 11 AM Friday and Saturday, and 10 AM to 5 PM Sunday. He notes that the expanded hours will create several new jobs for the community.

In addition to the present offerings of exotic coffees, teas, and pastries, the new store will feature fresh fruit and cheese plates accompanied by French bread.

It is hoped that Arabica's expansion into the new Coventry Yard Mall will stimulate more revitalization within that part of the commercial district. This could be the nudge that other prospective tenants have been waiting for. Perhaps soon we will see more confidence in Coventry reflected in sparkling, fresh, and appropriate businesses not just in Coventry Yard, but in the old Brunati's and in the storefront about to be vacated by Arabica. It is that confidence - the willingness to invest in our community - that richly merits our support.

— F. David Gill

 THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES JOIN DAVE AND ME IN WISHING YOU ALL THE HAPPIEST HOLIDAYS

— bobble littell

SOCIAL CHANGES PRODUCE NEED FOR CROSS-TOWN TRANSPORTATION (Continued from Page 3)

service seems likely to promote increased use of the Rapid Transit Systems, to go to other suburbs rather than just downtown. It is just possible that as transportation patterns change an increasing cross-fertilization and sharing between the various groups of Greater Cleveland may result. A sense of community, rather than an isolation and preoccupation with one's own immediate area might develop. Perhaps this is just a dream. But perhaps the RTA can help to make it come true.

— June C. Wortman

FOSTER HOME APPROVAL

Recently a new piece of legislation, Ordinance No. 120-1980 (PD) has been proposed by the Planning Committee to City Council. To the staff of the Cuyahoga County Welfare Department who have had to spend vast amounts of time in having foster homes approved in Cleveland Heights each month for the 27 foster homes in Cleveland Heights this is viewed as a very progressive and badly needed ordinance which is worthy of support.

Since 1978 every potential Cleveland Heights foster home applicant wanting to care for wards of the County must in addition to completing the licensure requirements of the Ohio Department of Public Welfare also make application to the Cleveland Heights Board of Zoning Appeals and be scheduled to appear at the monthly meeting of the Board along with agency representatives. A housing inspection is completed by the Board and the findings presented at the hearing. The families who must present their request at the hearing and answer questions of the Board have never viewed this experience as a happy one no matter how short the hearing may be. It is further viewed as some duplication of the process already completed by the agency prior to licensing the home.

The Social Service Workers of the Home Study Division of the County Welfare Department must do a complete home study following regulations which cover such areas as family stability, employment, income, health of all family members, treatment of children, adequate size of the physical facilities, size of the family and health and safety standards. There are 28 rules which must be successfully applied to every applicant before a home can be licensed. Joint and separate interviews with family members are required, in addition to 4 written references and medical reports on every family member. The State must then approve the Agency's recommendation before a child can be placed. Records are thoroughly read by the State's Licensing representative.

Under the new Ordinance the procedure at the City level would become basically an administrative one.

The foster home applicant once under study by the Welfare Department would be directed to place a \$25.00 application with the Zoning Administrator at City Hall, who would also review the necessary information from the Agency. The Zoning Administrator would arrange to inspect the applicant's home and apply criteria to evaluate such things as maximum allowable occupancy, maximum proposed household size, Housing Code, Building Code and Fire Code Standards for habitability and safety. All of this information would then be submitted to the City Manager who would approve or disapprove the application. If the application is rejected, the applicant could then place a new application with the Board of Zoning Appeals and be charged an additional \$25.00 to continue seeking approval.

Cleveland Heights is now the only suburb of Cuyahoga County where both the agency and foster home applicant must appear at a public hearing for approval. For the 780 other foster homes of the County this lengthy process is not required. In most suburbs no additional process is required.

I and others who have been closely involved with the current procedure are hopeful this new ordinance will be passed and continue to maintain the high standards Cleveland Heights is noted for.

For those of us at the Welfare Department who have the responsibility for implementing the foster home rules of the Ohio Department of Public Welfare, insuring quality of care is the key throughout, we have a responsibility to insure that our children receive the best of care.

--Suzanne Halbe, A.C.S.W.
Adoption, Foster Care & Home Study Adm.
Cuyahoga County Welfare Department

