



Coventry Village News

OCTOBER, 1980

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

Vol 6 No. 10

ELECTION MEETING--PLUS!

The next meeting of Coventry Neighbors, on October 14, will be the annual election meeting for officers of the organization. Although only dues-paid members may vote, and no new members will be accepted until the end of the meeting, other interested neighbors are welcome.

At the same session, we will be asked for an endorsement by CNI of the combined 6.9-mil school levies on the November ballot. There will also come to us a request for support of a Coventry cross-Heights bus route to facilitate movement of public school pupils and expand the opportunities of both Coventry shoppers and Coventry merchants. The organization's support for the Heights Community Congress in a fair housing lawsuit will also be solicited. We will receive another progress update from architect Philmore Hart, of Neighborhood Design 3, on the restoration of the Coventry Commercial strip.

Related stories on some of these items are below or inside.

You are holding in your hand one important product of Coventry Neighbors. Another is local leadership. Come help us produce it.

COVENTRY ROAD BUS LINE PROPOSED

A movement has begun to petition RTA to start a Coventry Road bus line, that, tentatively, could run between Shaker Square and the Superior Rapid station in East Cleveland. Originally proposed to help the Coventry area students who now, in the absence of any direct public transportation or school-financed bus service, have a two-mile walk to Roxboro Jr. High, the plan appears capable of helping many other groups. Interest has been shown by senior citizens, Shaker Square merchants, East Cleveland merchants and development groups, Heights High students from Coventry and Roxboro areas, and Roxboro students traveling to the skating pavilion. Coventry Merchants Association and CH-UH PTA Council have voted to write the RTA in support of the plan. Additional endorsements have come from the Coventry Elementary School PTA, the Cleveland Hts.-University Hts. Board of Education, and the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corp. Petitions to provide some prediction of potential rider count are being circulated by Coventry merchants, and by the CH-UH Board of Education's Community Department to students who might ride the bus regularly. Petitions are also available for signing at Musicians Towers and Coventry Library. Anyone interested in signing or helping circulate a petition should call June Wortman at home 321-0246 or at the office 371-7698, right away.

June C. Wortman

BOOS AND BRAVOS

BRAVO: Thanks to Carroll Drug for pulling all the weeds in front of their store.

BOO: To Richard Snider of Norwood Properties (formerly Renterprizes). While their new Kenilworth Arms Condominium project received a lot of hoopla on the front page of the September 11th Sun Press, Norwood Buildings on Hampshire Road. (Hampshire Manor and the Alexander) suffer from high weeds, many burned out exterior light bulbs and plywood boards that have been on the tree lawn for close to a year. While lamenting the fact that many buildings in the older suburbs are deteriorating, Mr. Snider said to the Sun Press, "I love these old buildings."

BOO: To Lakewood Cemetary for their deteriorating sidewalks along Mayfield Road.

BRAVO: A hearty cheer and tip of the lid to the following property owners and residents for helping to make Coventry and Cleveland Heights a proud and beautiful community!

1630 Belmar	2452 Edgehill	3414 Lincoln
1634 Belmar	2472 Edgehill	1812 Middlehurst
1849 Cadwell	2630 Edgehill	No. 34 Mornington Lane
1999 Coventry	2673 Euclid Hts.	2415-17-19 Overlook
2774 Derbyshire	2729 Euclid Hts	2423-25 Overlook
2775 Derbyshire	3059 Euclid Hts.	2469-73 Overlook
2924 East Overlook	2630-32 Hampshire	2978 Somerton
2009 Edgehill	2404 Kenilworth	3006 Somerton
2421 Edgehill	2432 Kenilworth	3049 Somerton
2440 Edgehill	2707 Lancashire	1833 Wilton.

--Charles Owen

DANCE CENTER DIRECTOR DIES

We were saddened recently by news of the passing of John Begg, artistic director of the Dance Center. Begg, who was a leading force in dance in the greater Cleveland area, was a native of Canada. Begg enjoyed a very successful career on Broadway, having appeared in some of the great musicals in the forties such as Oklahoma, South Pacific and CanCan. He toured with his own company for ten years before coming to Cleveland to teach in the 60's. Although legally blind, his students claimed that even if you were in the back row he always knew when you were out of step.

He moved into the Coventry area when he became dance director for the Fairmount Center for the Performing Arts, in 1975. He was always full of fun and laughter and livened up many a session at Arabica.

The thing that most of his students remember about him is that he did not just teach the steps of a dance, he taught one how to move with the music.

Shortly after having drawn the winning number of the Fine Arts Quilt raffled by the Center at the Street Fair, this summer it was discovered that he had cancer. For the remaining five weeks of his life he was cared for, round the clock at his Euclid Heights Blvd. apartment. He died, as he lived -- with grace. He will leave a large gap in the tapestry of Coventry.

--bml

COVENTRY LIBRARY NOTES

BY

Debbie Graves, Librarian

Coventry Library's fall programming is beginning in October.

Preschool Storyhour will have two sessions this year, at 10:30 and 2:30 beginning October 8. There will be stories, songs and games for children ages 3-5. This program will end December 10 for the fall season.

Afterschool specials will be held on Tuesdays at 2:30 and 3:30 for all school-age children. Stories, games, crafts and surprises will be a part of the full program, which will last till December 9.

Pottery readings will continue on the first Sunday of the month at 2:30 after the kickoff session October 5.

The Book Discussion Group will meet the last Monday of each month. Book for the October 27 session will be "Ordinary People," by Judith Gust; and for November 24, "Passages," by Gail Sheehy. Copies at Coventry Library.

Halloween Hysteria: 3:30 - 4:30, October 30; all school age children welcome.

Special thanks to Gar Hyler of Coventry Books, Dungeonmaster Shawn Miller, and the Society for Creative Anachronism, for making our Fantasy Festival an enjoyable afternoon for all. Dungeons & Dragons followers are welcome to join Shawn Miller on Sunday, October 19, for another game at 2:30. Let us know of any other games you'd like to learn and we'll try to find a teacher.

We are lacking for Junior high students interested in starting a book review group at the Coventry Library. Please come in and give us your name, and take a look at our new teen section.

ODDS 'N ENDS

It has been called to my attention that my interpretation of an incident which occurred at a recent Council meeting was in error. I heard the coaches of the little league hockey teams state that the doors into the ice which were in disrepair were not scheduled for repair. I heard the city manager say that the citizens were consulted. Maybe it was my lack of attention or even "selective listening" as suggested by City Manager Richard V. Robinson in his letter to me on the subject. If I am guilty of a journalistic blunder, I apologize. I must state, however, it was not clear to me that the specific problem raised had been heard by Council and been duly noted and scheduled for correction. That being the case, however, what was the ruckus all about?

East Cleveland has changed its overnight parking laws to prohibit on-street parking between 3 and 6 A.M. This could conceivably have an impact on Cleveland Heights parking patterns. If any Cleveland Heights residents in the Avondale area have been leaving their cars overnight in the neighboring suburbs, they now face the same kind of enforcement that they would be subject to in front of their own houses.

We understand that a coffee will be held for Dennis Eckart, candidate for the 21st district, at the home of Bruce & Lonnie Hennes, 2910 Hampshire, at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, October 19. If you would like to attend, call the Hennes's and let them know. Phone 321-4670.

The Fourposter by Jan DeHartog opens the season for Fairmount Theater of the Deaf, 1925 Coventry Road. This gentle marital spoof will run until October 19. Don't miss it.

We are privileged, here in Coventry to have not one, but two excellent theaters. We take things like that for granted. I recently attended a production in Lakewood, and missed the intimacy that we get here at FTD and Dobama.

BALLOT SEASON

Harry Stein wrote in the May Issue of Esquire, ". . . I was faintly amused to find myself one recent evening, on assignment, at a meeting of my neighborhood political reform organization. 'I'll bet,' said my companion, eyeing the studious yet eager faces around us, 'there's a higher concentration in this room of people who go to Eastern European movies than in any other room in the country.' But it didn't take me long, as I watched them in action, debating issue after issue--on how to protect local merchants from the encroachments of real estate speculators, on how to elicit more federal funds for mass transit, on which of several doomed candidates to support--to feel stirrings of real admiration for them. These were the people who had been working all along, through the bad years and into the somewhat less bad. While we'd gone about the glorious business of occupying buildings and issuing 'non-negotiable demands,' they were the ones who'd gone door to door, election after election, in the service of my beliefs. At the end of the meeting, as the political reformers adjourned to the back of the room for coffee and fond talk of Adlai Stevenson, I was surprised to see an old acquaintance from my college days. He too had been involved in what we like to call the movement--not as a leader, but he'd done more than his share of angry yelling--and we fell into easy conversation. After a few minutes, I broached the question: 'Tell me, how did you end up in this place?' He smiled faintly. 'I'm here because of all the slogans from the old days, there's only one that continues to make sense to me: "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."'"

Every year in the fall the traditional affirmation of the American social order begins. It is election time at all levels of federal, state and local governments. Although there is less media attention, it is also the annual election of officers for Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Every year we hear of a lower than last year voter turnout and a more uninformed voter. The fact that you are reading this indicates that you hopefully do not fall into either of these categories.

To improve the quality of life in our area requires more than informed passive interest.

Casting your vote in an election is one of the things you can do. Speaking for the upcoming CNI election, even if you are not eligible to vote, please do attend. Your opinion will be solicited and greatly appreciated.

There has been a lot of talk lately in Coventry Neighbors about priorities and agendas.

Frank Trippet, in the Sept. 1 Time Essay, wrote that small town life is "low key living, easy friendships, neighborly neighbors, front porch sociability, back fence congeniality, (and) down town camaraderie."

If the previous description does not accurately reflect the current state of Coventry Village, perhaps it can. In fact, perhaps this aspiration can be the priority that binds the watchers, the doers, the politicians, the apartment dwellers, the homeowners, the merchants, the landlords, and all the friends of Coventry Village.

A small town atmosphere in an urban setting is an attainable goal. Please join us.

--Bruce M. Hennes

OUR TOWN

PARTY

The Heights Community Congress is being sued in Federal Court, accused of discouraging black homeseekers from buying in Cleveland Heights. This lawsuit has received backing from both state and local real estate associations. Since 1973, the Heights Community Congress has been firmly committed to an open and integrated community. We will not allow the real estate industry to stop us! Please show your support by planning to attend:

"OUR TOWN PARTY"
FOR BENEFIT OF THE
HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS
DEFENSE FUND

FUN...FOOD...RAFFLE...DANCING...BEER...AUCTION...!!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1980
8:00 P M

ST. ANN'S CHURCH - WALSH HALL 2175 COVENTRY

\$4 IN ADVANCE, \$5 AT THE DOOR, B.Y.O.B. - BEER WILL BE SERVED

OUR TOWN PARTY TEARSLIP

- We are planning to attend "Our Town Party." Please reserve _____ tickets at \$4 each. I have enclosed a check payable to the Heights Community Congress in the amount of \$_____.
- I regret that I cannot attend "Our Town Party." Enclosed is my donation to the Heights Community Congress Defense Fund.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
(print) (print)

Send to: Heights Community Congress, 2158 Lee, Cleve. Hts., 44118

