



Coventry Village News

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. SEPTEMBER, 1980

VOL. VI NO. 9

NEIGHBORS HOLD SMALL PARTY

If one accepts the Sun Press attendance estimate, over 100,000 men and women of every conceivable age, color, heritage and philosophical persuasion had one hell of a fine time at the 1980 Coventry Village Street Fair.

Many, many people and institutions helped make the Street Fair the success that it was, and they were so credited in the official program. A printer's oversight therein embarassingly omitted our thanks to Cleveland Heights City Council and its Planning & Development Committee (Councilmember Marjorie B. Wright, Chair) for their confidence and support. Lots of folks pooped out of the woodwork to pitch in after the program was sent to press, so we express our appreciation to:

Max Badger
Warren Bendler
Stephaine Berger
Martha Brown
Dave Burwasser
Charles Campbell
Ann Caywood-Brown
Coventry Books
Pam Drumheller
Peter Goldsmith
Philmore Hart

Heights Art Theater
Heller Electronics
Icarus
Inuit Galleries
Irv's Deli
Paul Klein
Eric Kraus
Bobbie Littell
Kathy Littell
Al Lastig

Fran Lustig
Jeff McConocha
Paul Schak
Tim Wallace
Ed Walter
Darvis Wanton
Elaine Warren-Pavelka
Cathy Wassail
Lou Zipkin
Tom Ziska
Aleks Zoltai

...and to the hundred-plus musicians who entertained us, to the volunteers who stood barricades for a total of sixty hours, to the kids who put in over four hundred work-hours sweeping the street and schlepping garbage bags, and to anyone we've (more than likely) overlooked.

Oh, yes. . . There's one last person to thank. For passing along your wisdom and experience to your successors, for allowing the Street Fair planning process to take its natural course, and--like an old trooper smelling the grease paint again--for turning up at the Fair when you were most needed: THANK YOU, ALAN RAPOPORT, Member of Council and 1977-79 Street Fair Chair.

It should come as a pleasant surprise to Coventry Neighbors, Inc., that this year's Street Fair ended with an unexpected budget surplus of over \$2000, the result of several factors:

- 1) increases in booth permit fees to allow for inflationary rises in production costs;
- 2) issuance of highest-intensity (highest-fee) booth permits in greater proportion than in prior years;
- 3) outright donations of several costly items which had been included as expenses in the original budget estimates; and
- 4) vigilant cost control on the part of the (Continued on page 2)

NEIGHBORS PARTY (Continued from page 1)

Street Fair Committee, whose Chair feared certain tar-and-feathering if he presided over a deficit.

Ancient CNI resolutions mandate that any surplus in the Street Fair account be carried forth as seed money for subsequent fairs, and/or be returned to the commercial district in the form of public amenities and improvements, with membership approval. Such expenditures, and the fiscal and political mechanics of making them, are now under discussion among CNI officers.

Media coverage of the Fair unfortunately was disproportionately concentrated on a very atypical incident in which one group of vociferous persons attempted to "settle" political differences with another group of vociferous persons by attacking them and their property physically. There were neither arrests nor injuries; the aggressors, numbering five or so, comprised less than one half of one one-hundredth of one percent of an otherwise congenial crowd; and the Cleveland Heights Police admirably restored order without application of force.

Another unpleasant surprise was the production by Sunshine II, a drug paraphernalia shop at 1809 Coventry, of counterfeit reproductions of the official Street Fair Staff T-shirts without consent of CNI or the artist. Sunshine II sold these items during and after the Fair despite protest from CNI officers, and without compensating either CNI or (more to the point) the poster artist with a share of the profits from these sales. As a result, CNI will have to incur the expense and nuisance of securing copyright upon such designs in the future. CVN readers who share a sense of disapproval of this lack of fair play might, it is hoped, indicate this to the management of Sunshine II.

The 1980 Coventry Village Street Fair Committee will now rise to take a final bow before retiring to piece together remnants of their personal lives --at least for a few months!

Larry Beam - City Liaison
Diane Bersnak - Traffic & Safety
Kathy Cerveny - Crafts
Linda Cook - Elderly Transportation
Debbie Graves - Children's Programs
Debbie Heller - Clowns & Mellow
Bruce Hennes - Publicity

Joan Jordan - Booth Allocation & Hassles
Tom Lee - Legal Support
Abby Linhart - Music
Jim McConocha - Electrical Systems
Charles Owen - Finance
Ellen Strong - Merchant Liaison
Kathryn Young - Sanitation & Drudgery

--F. David Gill

CAR CARE: NOT FOR MEN ONLY

The League of Women Voters and Atlantic Richfield company are responding to the need for energy conservation by sponsoring a series of free car-care clinics at Rossman's ARCO service, 2268 Warrensville Center Road at Silsby, University Heights. For information and reservations call Jean Dreifort at 932-9442. Clinics start in September.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BY

Charles J. Owen

*Coventry Neighbors Inc. was recently awarded \$5,000 in CDBG funds through the Operation Pride Program for various neighborhood improvement projects. Twenty-five hundred dollars (the upper limit) is earmarked for additional benches and new bicycle racks at the soon-to-be-completed park in front of the new CoventryYard. A like amount will be used to purchase four park benches for the "Commons" between Hampshire and Lancashire Roads next to Musicians Towers. In addition the Upper Hampshire Street Assn. was granted \$2,380 for 17 shade trees to be planted on the tree lawns of upper Hampshire.

* The new Mayfield Road municipal parking lots (#3 and #10) have been paved and striped. Power hook-ups for the decorative lamps should be complete in early September. Sod work will wait until autumn when the weather is prime for planting.

* Street Light conversion on the Coventry commercial strip is complete.

* Waterline work on Euclid Heights Blvd. is almost complete, while work on the Mayfield Road waterline has begun. The Mayfield construction area will be between Coventry and Kenilworth Roads.

* What shall we call the new minipark? Send suggestions to Philmore Hart, 3080 Essex Road, Cleveland Hts., 44118. First Prize: the thanks of a grateful community.

OPERATION PRIDE GRANTS TOTAL \$11,934: "CREATIVITY" RAPPED

Cleveland Heights Council authorized \$11,934 worth of Operation Pride grants, out of CDBG funds, at its August 18 meeting. Out of this, a total of \$7,380 was authorized for Coventry area. Projects of Boulevard Neighbors, Caledonia Neighbors and Neighbors for Noble-Nela were also approved.

Quite a few projects were turned down, including a Coventry Neighbors request for reimbursement for tools and a much larger Coventry Merchants Association project for benches in the north end of the mini-park. Council expressed some disappointment that many of the rejected proposals lacked "creativity."

Some neighborhood activists took umbrage at this language. One suggested that lack of provision of basic amenities by the City gave rise to "uncreative" proposals to make up the difference. Another reflected that the City had made for itself a certain reputation for lack of receptivity to any but the most banal suggestions from neighborhoods.

More to the point, it may be that the street and block associations who requested Azalea bushes or illuminated house numbers genuinely perceive no worse problems in their neighborhoods that the City could address. If so, this is an indirect but impressive vote of confidence for the service departments of the City. Perhaps Council should be commending those service crews rather than admonishing neighborhood leaders.

--Dave Burwasser

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

by
Joan Farragher

District voters will be asked to approve two School Board levies on November 4, 1980, totaling 6.9-mills. The larger levy, for 6.5-mills, is mostly for continuation of base-line operations through 1982 (4.87-mills), with the remainder for restoration of 45 classroom teachers and two elementary reading teachers (out of four cut), both in September 1981; and for books, supplies and equipment. The 0.4-mill levy is to keep all school buildings open for the next two years.

If the levies fail on November 4, a special vote slated for November 16 will re-offer the 6.5-mill levy only. Failure of the 0.4-mill levy will be taken by the Board as a mandate to close a school by fall of 1981.

The larger levy is pursuant to the recommendations of the Lay Finance Advisory Committee appointed by the Board. Those recommendations included development of a master plan and closing of one school. No particular school was mentioned, and a junior high school closing would realize more than double the savings of an elementary school closing.

The 0.4-mill levy resulted from concern by the Board that, to follow the lay committee recommendations, they would have to select which school to close before developing the master plan, and that their selection might not be the best. The smaller levy gives the voters the option of keeping all the schools open until the plan is finalized. The passage of this levy is not a commitment never to close a school; it is a commitment not to close a school for two years. Failure of this levy would result in the closing of a school in the fall of 1981.

The master plan is to be developed through a hired consultant and formation of Lay Advisory Committees to the Board. The proposal was accepted, and the Board is seeking volunteers. If you are interested contact a Board member or the Superintendent (371-7330) immediately. The selection should be completed by early September.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IS BLACK EDUCATORS' THEME

by
David R. Burwasser

The Heights Alliance of Black School Educators (HABSE), in cooperation with the School-Community Relations Program of the CH-UH schools, is sponsoring a workshop for parents at Heights High, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Saturday, September 27. The goal is to assist parents in becoming more knowledgeable about, and actively involved in, the schools of the district.

The workshop will consist of three simultaneous sections for elementary, junior high and senior high levels. Topics are Conferencing; Key Questions; and School Policies and Procedures.

The Workshop is designed for all parents; HABSE especially encourages parents of black children, parents of children new to the district, parents of children who have transferred from private or parochial schools, parents who are foreign born or maintain a bilingual home, and parents of children involved in extracurricular activities.

For additional information contact the School-Community Relations office, 371-7238.



REPORT

NEWSLETTER OF YOUR SCHOOLS

AUGUST, 1980

Since our last report, "YOUR SCHOOLS" has taken the following actions:

August 4: Excerpts from a statement of "YOUR SCHOOLS" at CH-UH School Board Meeting

"Your Schools" believes that to assure quality public education, the following restorations must be made:

- 60 certificated classroom teachers to achieve the 25 to 1 student - teacher ratio, and
- those certificated non-classroom personnel who are an essential part of the educational process. . ."

August 14: Excerpt from a letter in the Sun Press by Jerry Saidel (Pres., "YOUR SCHOOLS")

"... Although "YOUR SCHOOLS". . . believes that the levy should be larger than 6.5 mils to rehire more teachers, we recognize the existing political and economic constraints. The 6.5-mil levy does provide for a partial restoration of teachers and the 0.4-mil levy offers the public an effective referendum on the continued operation of all schools for the next two years. . ."

August 26: "YOUR SCHOOLS" formally endorses both school levies.

August 28: Excerpt from letter in Sun Press by Joyce Norr, (member, "YOUR SCHOOLS")
". . . Because it is difficult to understand the rationale of the decisions concerning the levy without a first-hand explanation, it is important for concerned citizens to attend community meetings where the issues about the school levy will be discussed. "YOUR SCHOOLS" will provide facts and explanations about the levy and the Lay Finance Committee report at a public forum on Tuesday, September 16 at the Main Library on Lee Road at 8 pm. (SEE OTHER SIDE)

_____ I would like to know more about "YOUR SCHOOLS".

_____ I am enclosing \$5 for membership in "YOUR SCHOOLS."

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

I would be interested in working with the following Action Group(s):

School Board Monitoring _____ Public Relations _____ Membership and Finance
Communications _____ Voter Registration _____ Levy Campaign

SEND TO: Mina Saidel, 3149 Chelsea Drive, Cleveland Heights, 44113



ABC's of the \$CHOOL LEVY

"YOUR SCHOOLS" WILL PRESENT
THE FACTS AT A
PUBLIC FORUM WITH PARTICIPATION OF...

C.H. - U.H. SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT:
LAY FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

AVA HASTERT
SAM WOLPERT
BAIRD TENNEY
DAVE FREDMAN (U.H. COUNCIL)
EDRIC WELD

C.S.U. DEMOGRAPHICS EXPERT:

★
★
★ ASK QUESTIONS ^{THAT} CONCERN YOU!

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1980
TIME: 8 P.M.
PLACE: MAIN LIBRARY, LEE ROAD

"YOUR SCHOOLS" ... IS A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
FOUNDED IN 1945 TO PROMOTE QUALITY PUBLIC
EDUCATION IN THE C.H. - U.H. SCHOOL DISTRICT

FANTASY FESTIVAL -- CANNING CLINIC -- LIBRARY PLANS

There will be two Sunday programs in September, as suggested by Coventry neighbors who attended the Coventry Merchant's architectural meeting in May.

On September 14, Ms. Marissa Warrix will give an hour-and-a-half canning clinic starting at 3:00 PM. She is from the "Seed to Shelf" program of the Cooperative Extension Service. We hope that she will be particularly helpful to those who have been using the community garden on Hampshire. All are welcome.

On September 21, the Fantasy Festival will commence at 2:30. The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) will be on hand to joust, dance and play music of medieval days, with Laurelen Darkbane and many others. Each SCA member adopts a persona of the middle ages and takes a new name, costume and occupation. SCA members will discuss their lives in this time and demonstrate their lives in that time between 2:30 and 3:30.

At 3:30 Shawn Miller will discuss Dungeons and Dragons with all who are interested. At 4:00, Gar Hyler of Coventry Books will discuss fantasy books with adults. and Librarian Debbie Graves will talk to children about available children's fantasy. We hope this program will appeal to everyone!

The Cleveland Hts-University Hts Library Board has voted to approve recommended drawings for the inner space of the renovated Coventry Library. These drawings will be available at the Coventry Village Library for the Community's perusal.

In response to some questions raised at the August 1980 Coventry Neighbors meeting: Exterior cleaning of the building was far enough down the priority list for renovation that it is not included in present renovation plans. Position and size of the sinage are expected to be the same.

RECOMMENDED READING

The most striking change in the history of Coventry Neighbors has been the developing spirit of cooperation with City Hall. At one time, CNI plans for any action included some reflection on how we were going to fight the City for what we wanted; now, we typically consider what kind of help we can expect from the Hall.

Some folks in Coventry figure City Hall has "wised up." Some folks at the Hall figure Coventry has "grown up." These explanations do not necessarily preclude one another, but they do not exhaust all the possibilities either.

The City government has a basically narrow view of who and what belongs in Cleveland Heights. Coventry Neighbors originally fought this narrow-gauge mentality. Over 10 years the City has broadened its horizons of the permissible just enough to include a great deal of Coventry; and CNI has bought into the narrow view of suburban virtue, now that some of it includes most of us and what we like.

This somewhat gloomy review was prompted by an article in the Sept/Oct, 1980 Mother Jones, "Up & Coming Amid the Down & Out," by Katy Butler (p52). It's about "gentrification" of inner cities, mostly in the San Francisco Bay Area. What it describes is not exactly what's happening in Coventry, but it's not exactly not what's happening, either. It's biased, and its factual base may be open to challenge. But for anyone who cares why we're doing what we're doing, it's worth a read. Available at Coventry Books.

-- Dave Burwasser.

HERE COMES THE JUDGE

"Public Service Sentencing of Offenders" will be the topic when Judge Sara Hunter speaks to Coventry Neighbors at its next regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1980 at 7:30 downstairs at the Unitarian Society. This novel idea might make an interesting impact in Coventry. Come and hear more about it.

ODDS 'N ENDS

Geel Golly! Whizz! The fence is down from around the mini-park. Now Coventry shoppers are free to come and go as they please. Free even to break an ankle if they should happen to fall off the nice new sidewalk into the rubble that surrounds it. But still there's progress. Maybe when it's all finished we can have a party.

Rumor has it that Council will hold a public hearing Wed., Sept. 24 at 7:00PM at City Hall on the Fire Station Issue. A large attendance is expected and if there are too many people to be heard, a second hearing is planned for Oct. 7, same time, same place. Council will meet in extraordinary session sometime in early Oct. to consider possible new land acquisition which should be ready for action in Oct.

It looks like city staff did it again. They recommended \$20,000 worth of improvements to the hockey rink without consulting the people who use it. Some of the volunteer coaches showed up at a recent Council meeting to point out that the doors onto the ice are in a sad state of disrepair and they are not on the schedule of improvements. Will staff ever learn?

Our Unitarian friends inform us that they are renting out spaces in their floodlit parking lot for a modest fee. For more info call Rich Wortman at home, 321-0264 or at the office 444-1707.

Both Dobama and Fairmount Center are announcing subscription sales NOW. Subscriptions are a good idea because you get to see things you might put off seeing; you get a discount on the price; and, the theater is able to have some of their seasons income up front when it does the most good. Call the theaters to see what a bargain subscriptions can be. We ought to be proud of the fact that we have two excellent theaters in Coventry - they are part of what makes Coventry such a great place to live.

COUNCILWATCHER'S CONCLUSION: Those who like hot dogs and respect the law ought not observe the making of either. . . The Optimist believes this is the best of all possible worlds. The Pessimist fears that the Optimist may be right. . .

--bobbie littell

GOOD LUCK, LINDA! Active Coventry Neighbor, Linda Cook has moved back to her home town of Kansas City, Missouri. The energy and dedication that she invested in CNI were in inverse proportion to the brief time she spent with us. Her greatest service to CNI was the co-ordination of a pilot program for free transportation of the elderly to and from the Coventry Village Street Fair. Thanks to Linda's efforts, this service is likely to become a permanent feature of future Street Fairs.

Linda tells us that she has (quite predictably) gotten involved up to her elbows in Kansas City's 49-63 Neighborhood Coalition, named for the numbered streets which define its bailiwick. Now, if 49-63 would kindly send us about five of their activists, we'll call it an even trade!

--F. David Gill

BOOS and BRAVOS

- BRAVO:** The Burke Building of 1850 Coventry Road is undergoing a quality exterior painting. The building, owned by Ken Ross, is the home of the new Diane's on Coventry.
- BOO:** *When are Carroll Drug, PeeWee's Bicycle Shop, and A.B.C. Appliance going to pull the weeds from their sidewalks? When will Carroll Drug replace the missing globe from the lamp fixture at their front door?*
- BRAVO:** The new window dressing at Quality Quilt & Bedding, 1811 Coventry, is a sight for sore eyes.
- BRAVO:** Dust City Update--Euclid Heights. Blvd. waterline construction is almost done.
- BOO:** *To the nitwits who play "automobile squeezing" by going straight ahead from the RIGHT TURN ONLY lane on westbound Mayfield at Coventry.*
- BRAVO:** For the extra work done by Lou Zipkin and Tom Ziska to clean up Coventry Yard area specifically for the Street Fair.
- BRAVO:** To Peter (Record Revolution) Schleewin, "Daffy" Dan Gray, Marcia (High Tide Rock Bottom) Polevoi, and Ray (Passport to Peru) Taylor who were seen hosing down their sidewalks on a recent Saturday morning. It sure helps to improve the appearance of our neighborhood.

LOCAL-BOY-MAKES-GOOD-AGAIN DEPARTMENT

Congratulations go to Hampshire Road neighbor Harvey Pekar, whose latest "underground" comic, American Splendor #5, was released in August. This is an impressive, literate work made all the more charming by the fact that it's home-grown.

Harvey Pekar's tales are expertly illustrated by R. Crumb, Gary Dumm, Greg Budgett, and Gerry Shamray. Of particular delight to locals are unmistakable depictions of Coventry architecture and beloved neighborhood folk.

Pekar has hit his stride as an author who ought to be taken seriously. American Splendor #5 is clearly the product of an author possessing human compassion and a mature self-confidence - characteristics glimpsed but briefly in his earlier works.

American Splendor #5 is available for \$2.00 at many Coventry shops. Although it is a comic book, its accurate transcription of common Street discourse may make it inappropriate for the kids.

--F. David Gill

