



Coventry Village News

FEBRUARY, 1981

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

Vol. VII No. 2

NEIGHBORS MEET AGAINST CRIME

BY

Carol Hamilton

Shocked by the recent shooting of a local youth during an attempted hold-up, upper Hampshire area residents met on January 15 to discuss crime in their neighborhoods. Approximately 70 people gathered in the Hampshire Road home of Coventry Neighbors vice president Bruce Hennes, to hear the remarks of Cleveland Heights Police Chief Martin Lentz on his personal experiences with crime in our area.

Also in attendance were Police Inspector Capretta, assigned to the immediate area; Council members Dick Weigand and Alan Rapoport, both Coventry residents; Cleveland Heights Commissioner of Community Relations Larry Mattes and Nancy Hubbert of the Community Relations Staff; and Larry Beam of the CH Planning Dept.

Lentz felt that local crime statistics probably do not exceed those of other parts of the country. When the assembled group was asked how many of those present had been attacked, robbed or harassed on the street, several hands were raised. In regard to the frequency of robberies committed in our area, Lentz felt that the relative affluence of Cleveland Heights attracts the would-be thief seeking resaleable goods such as cars, silverware, leaded windows, TV's and stereo equipment. Lentz said the citizens' best recourse in helping prevent robberies is to be alert and report to police the first sign of suspicious or unusual activities on their street. Lentz advised residents to serve as the eyes and ears of the community to supply police with information about crimes in progress.

Other discussion related to incidents in which pedestrians have been accosted, followed or chased home or attacked in apartment garages or hallways. These occurrences have caused some residents to be anxious about persons who congregate at night in Coventry parking lots and in front of late-hour Coventry businesses. Some women expressed fear of shopping Coventry after dark for these reasons and they wondered if higher visibility of police in that immediate area would make the commercial strip safer at night.

The temper of the meeting was one of community pride on the part of citizens and a sincere desire on the part of Cleveland Heights Police to cooperate with area residents in keeping their neighborhoods safe and attractive. The time seems right for the recently organized Anti-Crime Task Force to develop solutions to our common security problems.

Coventry neighbors interested in learning how they can help make life uncomfortable for criminals on our streets are encouraged to join the Anti-Crime Task Force being organized now. For details call Bruce Hennes at 321-4670.

The meeting was called under the auspices of the Upper Hampshire Association and the Coventry Neighbors Anti-Crime Committee. Attendees were mostly residents of the Hampshire-Superior-Euclid Heights-Coventry quadrangle.

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*	ON THE INSIDE	*
*		*
*	<u>BUS PROPOSAL UPDATE</u>	*
*		*
*	<u>NON-UFW LETTUCE AT P-N-P</u>	*
*		*
*	<u>ASCHERMAN REORGANIZES</u>	*
*		*
*		*
*		*
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BOOS & BRAVOS

- BRAVO:** Acknowledging that noise from motorcycles causes more annoyance than any other traffic noise source, the Environmental Protection Agency has issued motorcycle noise standards to become effective January 1, 1983.
- BOO:** Those large green garbage Dumpsters that regularly block the sidewalks of lower Hampshire most weekdays are unsightly and dangerous. This nagging problem has been going on for years and it's usually the same apartment buildings that are the offenders. Why can't the City of Cleveland Heights take care of this situation once and for all?
- BOO:** The west sidewalks of the Coventry commercial area (between Open Pantry and High Tide) are as littered and trashed as they have ever been. C'mon folks; just because it snowed doesn't mean the neighborhood can't be clean.
- BOO:** The "NO LEFT TURN" sign on upper Hampshire at Coventry is virtually ignored by westbound motorists. Perhaps some tickets are in order.

-- Charles Owen

COVENTRY CROSS-TOWN BUS PROPOSAL: UP-DATE

Four months have elapsed since the Coventry PTA's proposal for a Coventry Rd. cross-town bus route was sent to RTA. RTA personnel have sent written acknowledgement of having received the proposal. We have heard nothing more. No hearing date has been set.

Since delay of this kind is standard procedure for bureaucracies responding to citizen requests, we suggest that the time has come to remind RTA that we are waiting, less and less patiently, and that we have not given up or blown away. CNI, in its January, 1981 meeting, voted to send such a letter. All citizens who want a Coventry Road bus route are encouraged to write personally to Harry Alexander, RTA president of the Board, at 615 Superior Avenue, N.E., Cleveland, Ohio 44113. Ask him when we will be given a hearing date. Tell him why you want the bus service. Explain how you would use it, how often you and your family would ride it.

DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE THE POWER OF A SINCERE, HAND-WRITTEN NOTE.

DO NOT ASSUME OTHERS ARE WRITING.

DO ASSUME THAT THE SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORT TO GET A BUS ON COVENTRY DEPENDS ON YOU.

Act now. Don't put it off, or you'll never write. And then you'll never get a bus.

--June Wortman

Community gadfly, neighborhood activist, Coventry PTA Legislation and Social Action Chairman, and potential bus rider.

** COMMUNITY CALENDAR **

- - - - COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - - - -

JANUARY

- 29 DOBAMA - OPENING
Thurs. - Suns. till
Feb. 21. Waltz of
The Toreadors.

FEBRUARY

- 1 DOBAMA -COVENTRY
THEATER PARTY
7:30 PM
- 2 CLEVELAND HEIGHTS
COUNCIL meets, 7:30 PM
City Hall Court Room
- 3 COVENTRY LIBRARY
After School Special
2:30 & 3:30 PM
- 4 COVENTRY LIBRARY
PreSchool Story Time
10:30 & 2:30
- 5 COVENTRY BOOKS
Autograph Party
Nikki Giovanni (Poet)
3:00 PM
- 5 CNI - TRUSTEES
2910 Hampshire
7:30 PM
- 7 COVENTRY BOOKS
Bookbinding Class
11:00 - 12:00
- 8 COVENTRY LIBRARY
Poetry Reading
P. K. Saha - Poetry of
India & Alan Zimmerman
Poetry of China.
- 10 COVENTRY LIBRARY
After School Special
2:30 & 3:30
- 10 CNI - GENERAL MEETING
7:30, Unitarian Society
2728 Lancashire
- 11 LIBRARY -PreSchool Story
Time, 10:30 & 2:30
- 12 FAIRMOUNT THEATER OF
THE DEAF - OPENING
Thurs. - Suns. till
March 8. "The Miser"
- 14 HEIGHTS COMMUNITY
CONGRESS - Deadline
for "Stompin' at the
State."
- 14 COVENTRY BOOKS
Bookbinding Class
11:00 - 12:00
- 15 LIBRARY - Dungeons &
Dragons - Shawn Miller,
Dragonmaster 2:00 -
4:00 PM
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

LIBRARY NOTES.Debbie Graves

Coventry neighborhood was very supportive of the Coventry Library and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System as we attempted to reach one million in circulation for 1980. Although we missed the million mark by about 7,000 books, the Coventry Library had an increase of 20% in its Dec. circulation. Thanks go to the community, and the Coventry PTA and its social chairman, June Wortman for the support of the Library System.

As 1981 begins, we are starting to plan for a new year when we know we can make the million with your support. How about everyone taking out at least 10 books a month?!! ...

We'd love to have more help on our card catalog project. We're seeing the beginnings of the move as all the bids have been accepted. The following contracts have been awarded: general renovation, Seiffert Construction Inc.; heating, Vadakin Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Inc.; plumbing, Gorman Lavelle Piping Co.; electrical, Tatonetti Electrical, Inc.; elevators, Otis Elevator. It is anticipated the work will begin in March.

Clint Nelson, The Griot (on African storytelling) will appear at Coventry Library, Feb. 21, at 2:00PM. Mr. Nelson will draw children of all ages into his dramatic art. Come one, Come all and don't miss this very special event.

Due to popular request, our drama group, the New Decade Players will begin Feb. 25 at 4:00 for all school age children. We will be doing The Brenttown Musicians and possibly another play sometime in April. All children interested should contact the Library to register.

Remember our After School Specials for school age children and PreSchool Story Time. Check the community calendar for more information.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS.Taken From Info-Pak

The Community Relations Dept. of City Hall reports through its info-Pak that the Housing Preservation office is seeking landlords interested in renting to people in low income groups who are eligible for federal housing assistance through HUD. They also report the donation of some storm windows in assorted sizes which they are willing to share. Anyone interested, call 321-0100 X 298. Some help is also available with heating costs through the Home Energy Assistance Program. For further info call the HPO. The Hts. Housing Serv. rental program has been revived. Looking for an apartment? Call 321-0100 X 278.

The Recreation Dept.'s Running Forum is presenting a series of speakers on Monday evenings 8:00 - 9:00 PM. For further information call 321-0100 X 283.

Friends of the Library will be having a Book Sale the Noble Rd. Library, Feb. 29 from 10:00AM - 5:00 PM.

** COMMUNITY CALENDAR ** - - - - COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - - - -

FEBRUARY

- 16 CH CITY COUNCIL
7:30 PM - City Hall
Court Room.
- 17 LIBRARY - After
School Special
2:30 & 3:30
- 17 CNI COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
8:00, 1526 Coventry #4
- 18 LIBRARY - PreSchool
Story Time. 10:30 &
2:30 PM
- 20 ASCHERMAN GALLERY
OPENING - Photographs
of Bill Pappas, 7:30
10:00. Show runs till
April 1.
- 20 CVN DEADLINE
- 21 LIBRARY - Clint Nelson
"The Griot" 2:00 PM
- 21 COVENTRY BOOKS
Bookbinding Class
11:00 - 12:00
- 23 LIBRARY - Book
Discussion - 7:30 PM
"Woman of Independent
Means"
- 24 LIBRARY - After School
Special - 2:30 & 3:30
- 24 COVENTRY PTA - 7:30PM
- 25 LIBRARY - PreSchool
Story Time - 10:30 &
2:30
New Decade Players
4:00 - 5:-- PM
- 28 HCC - Stompin' at the
State. 8:00 - Mid.
- 28 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
Book Sale - 10:00 AM -
5:00 PM

MARCH

- 2 CH CITY COUNCIL
7:30 PM Court Room
- 3 LIBRARY - After School
Special 2:30 & 3:30
- 4 LIBRARY -PreSchool
Story Time 10:30 AM &
2:30 PM
New Decade Players
4:00 - 5:00 PM
- 5 CNI - TRUSTEES
7:30 PM, 2910 Hampshire
- 8 LIBRARY - tentative
Poetry Reading, 2:30 PM

HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS. Reid Robbins
Cleveland Heights Night at "Stompin' at the State"
on Saturday, February 28, promises to be a fun filled
evening for all to enjoy. This community party at
Playhouse Square is sponsored by the Heights Community
Congress and begins at 8:00 PM. There is a cash bar,
but no food service. Deadline for reservations is
Feb. 14, so get your theatre party together - without
delay.

Tickets are \$8.50 per person (\$7.50 for students
and seniors), and reservations can be secured by
sending a check (payable to the Heights Community Con-
gress to HCC, 2163 Lee Road, CH 44118. Please include
a self-addressed stamped envelope and your tickets
will be mailed the week of Feb. 16.

It is hoped that street associations, PTA's,
church clubs, etc., will organize their groups to make
this a real community event. So make plans to join
your friends and neighbors as we step back to the Age
of Swing, and enjoy a great time with a great town.
For further information, call the HCC at 321-6775

CNI COMMUNITY AFFAIRSbobbie littell

They will be starting work soon on the rebuilding
of Euclid Heights Blvd. Coventry Neighbors voted to
offer its services to the City to help make the project
as smooth as possible for the residents. Anyone wish-
ing to help with a telephone tree, or as a neighbor-
hood contact person, contact me.

There will be a meeting of the CNI's Community
Affairs Committee on Tues, Feb. 17, at 8:00, 1526
Coventry Road #4. At that time procedures will be set
up for maintaining the newly instituted Community
Calendar. Any organization wishing to be included in
this calendar is urged to have a representative at
this meeting. Any organization wishing to have its
concerns communicated in the CVN on the Community
Affairs page, please call me at 321-8397.

ODDS'N ENDS

They're playing "Musical Stores" again on Coventry
The Video Center has closed. Casbah, who in 1977
closed its doors at 1801 Coventry and who opened
on Mayfield in December, moved in January into the
spot vacated by the Video Center. Early in February
Arabica will move into CoventryYard and Bill Jones
will move into that space. Pee Wee is moving out.
Dianne's has been sold, so I stopped in to see what
was happening. The management was too busy to talk
to me - so I just had lunch. Swordfish special was
good, and the waiter, Chris Callahan was superb.

(Continued on Page 5)

MORE ODDS 'N ENDS: Leslie Fortney, liaison to Coventry Merchants has submitted the following summary of winter store hours for Coventry Merchants. I wish I could type them out in column form to make them easier to read - but there just isn't room.

HIGH TIDE ROCK BOTTOM: Mon - Wed, Sat 10 am - 7 pm, Thurs & Fri 10 am - 9 pm.
CARROLL DRUG: Mon - Sat 9 am - 10 pm, Pharmacy 9 am - 9 pm; Sun. 9 am - 8 pm, Pharmacy 9 am - 2 pm. **ALLEN LOCK AND KEY:** Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5 pm, Sat 8:30 - 1 pm.
CORKSCREW: Mon 11 am - 9:30 pm, Tues - Sat 9:30 am - 11 pm. **CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK:** Mon - Thurs 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, Fri 9:30 am - 6 pm. **DIAMOND'S FLOWERS:** Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9 am - 5:30 pm, Wed 9 am - 4 pm, **SUN** 8:30 am - 10:30 am. **PASSPORT TO PERU:** Mon - Wed, Fri, Sat 10 am - 6 pm, Thurs, 10 am - 8 pm. **DESIGN LINES:** Mon - Sat 10 - on by appointment only. **LAUNDROMAT:** Mon - Fri 8 am - 11 pm, Sat 7 am - 11 pm.
FOOD PROJECT: Mon - Wed, Sat 10 am - 7 pm, Thurs, Fri 10 am - 9 pm, Sun noon - 5 pm.
TOMMY'S: ~~Mon - Sat 10 am - 10 pm.~~ **COVENTRY BOOKS:** Mon - Fri 10 am - 10 pm, Sat 10 am - 7 pm, Sun noon - 5 pm. **ARABICA:** Mon - Sat 8 am - midnight, Sun 9 am - 6 pm.
RAINBLU: Mon - Sat 11 am - 6 pm. **METRO SAVINGS:** Tues - Thurs 9:30 am - 4 pm, Fri 9:30 am - 6 pm, Sat 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. **COVENTRY BIKE AND SKI:** Mon - Wed, Sat 10 am - 6 pm, Thurs, Fri 10 am - 8 pm. **NEW WORLD BARBER SHOP:** Wed, Fri 8:15 am - 5 pm, Tues, Thurs 8:15 am - 7:30 pm, Sat 8:15 pm - 3:30 pm. **HEIGHTS ART THEATER:** Mon - Thurs & Sun 12:30 pm - 11 pm, Fri, Sat 12:30 - 2 am.

Another of our CNI officers has been honored by an appointment to the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation. F. David Gill, Trustee will also serve on the LDC's architectural committee. Congrats F. CNI, its officers and trustees offer a warm thanks to Peter Schilgen of Record Revolution, 1828-30 Coventry Road for his generous gift to Coventry Neighbors. . . In the same vein former CNI pres, Dennis Niermann was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Heights Democrats on the first ballot at the January 27 meeting. Also elected were Barbara Boyd, Doris Allen and Al Williams. . . Many thanks, also to DOBAMA Theater for asking Coventry Neighbors and Coventry Merchants to a very special showing of "Waltz of the Toreadors" followed by a wine and cheese party. Invites of CNI members were sent to current paid members (another great reason why you should fill out the tear sheet at the bottom of this page and send it in.)

We are looking forward to a great new year. . . Street Fair dates are July 11 - 12. Committees will soon be forming. . . and in the fall we have an election coming up. There will be 4 Council seats up for grabs, the muni-judgeship is up and there will be school boards slots open. It is very important that you go to the polls to cast your ballot - but that is the last step in the process. There will be various parties and special interest groups who will be evaluating and endorsing candidates. Get involved, now, and help people you agree with get on the ballot. I think those people who go around saying "politics is a dirty word" are the really true subversives in our society. Only you can make politics clean and keep it that way.

--bobbie littell

You may become a member of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. simply by filling out this tear slip and returning it with your check, made payable to Coventry Neighbors, Inc. to Coventry Neighbors, 2745 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

Check one of the following classes of memberships:

Individual (\$5.00) Family (\$7.00) Senior (\$3.00)

CNI MEETING NOTES

The November 11, 1981, CNI meeting took two positions on current issues. The organization voted to support, conditionally, the sign changes that the Coventry Village Branch Library wants to seek. The Library wants to erect a sign on each side of the building that faces a street, to indicate the three uses of the building -- one each for the branch itself, the Potter's Gorp and the Dance Center. The total sign area is to be less than the Library currently uses under a prior non-conforming use, but it is over code and requires permission of the City. CNI voted to support the library, provided the sign designs are viewed and approved by representatives of the Environmental Concerns and Planning & Zoning Committees.

CNI also took a stand against proposed Council Resolution 110-1981, which would change the zoning regulation of public land, at least in the present form of the resolution.

Councilmember Alan Rapoport reported to the meeting that the City was repaving Mayfield Hill despite lack of a remuneration agreement with the City of Cleveland, because the road had been in such bad shape that prompt action had been indicated. Rapoport said City Hall hopes to negotiate a settlement on costs with Cleveland after the fact and also is considering repaving of Kenilworth, which is in similarly rocky shape.

Rapoport relayed a fact discovered by F. David Gill: An ordinance regulating video games and pinball games, arising from Texas, is before the United States Supreme Court for review.

In a special report, June Wortman discussed her activities on the public advisory committee to the RTA Board of Trustees. She shared several instances of poor internal communications and/or resource allocation decisions of questionable wisdom within RTA, and stated that RTA needs a lot more public attention.

-- gave Burwasser

WLYT TO HIGHLIGHT COVENTRY

Coventry Village, its people, its history, and its highly diverse culture, will be the focus of a one hour program, to be heard in two 30-minute segments on WLYT (92.3 FM).

The shows, to be aired December 20th and 27th at 8 AM on WLYT's "Behind The Lines" talk show, will focus on Coventry Village as it is today. But it will also look at the Coventry of old, and how the area made the transition from being something of a "hippie haven" to a sort of Greenwich Village. Hosted by WLYT's Judi Thompson, the show will feature interviews with members of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., Coventry Merchants, and other individuals who are part of the Coventry area. The show will look at some businesses flourishing there, and of course examine the history of Coventry. The main focus will be the people of Coventry -- those who live, work and participate in its life.

Don't forget to tune in Sunday, December 20, and Sunday, December 27th, at 8 AM on WLYT for an in-depth look at a fascinating, vital part of Cleveland Heights.

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other

HOW TO AVOID PICK-N-PAY'S NON-UFW LETTUCE

by

David R. Burwasser & bobbie littell

Pick-N-Pay was the program subject of the January 13, 1981 Coventry Neighbors meeting, and a major concern was the presence of "Red Coach" lettuce on the store's shelves. Susan Barlow, Pick-N-Pay consumer rep. and Kevin Drew of the United Farm Workers, each spoke on this subject.

"Red Coach" iceberg lettuce is a product of Bruce Church, Inc., a current unionization target of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers (UFW). UFW has called for a boycott of Bruce Church products in support of the farm workers. Pick-N-Pay had agreed not to purchase "Red Coach" lettuce, but on condition that the supermarket would be able to get sufficient guaranteed-quality lettuce (involving an extra inspection stage) elsewhere. Recently, Pick-N-Pay has reported itself unable to do this, and has resumed handling "Red Coach."

The position of Pick-N-Pay is that it is leaving "Red Coach" labels on the lettuce, so that customers who do not wish to buy it can avoid it. The UFW position is that the store's buying the lettuce from Bruce Church, Inc., relieves that grower of boycott pressure, a serious setback for the workers. UFW would like to see Pick-N-Pay restore its boycott.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., in a formal vote, adopted a resolution of support for the United Farm Workers' position.

Of course, the UFW would also like Pick-N-Pay customers to avoid buying "Red Coach" lettuce as long as it is on the stands. It is clearly labeled; it is only iceberg lettuce; and there are usually other iceberg brands to select as alternatives.

One way to avoid "Red Coach" and still get the lettuce you want is to consider other varieties such as leaf, romaine or bib lettuce. If it is merely greens you want, try substituting spinach, swiss chard or escarole. If you are determined to get iceberg and want to prepare for the possibility that your only choice is "Red Coach," another alternative is to buy more than you need when there is a choice available and preserve some. This can be done by washing the head thoroughly, removing the core, draining it well and, using a tool made for this purpose, or a small glass inserted into the core opening, stand it in a large bowl so that the leaves do not touch the bottom of the bowl, cover and refrigerate. Lettuce should keep two to three weeks.

A CLEANER COVENTRY?

by

Charles Owen

Persons interested in a cleaner Coventry are still being sought for the Environmental Concerns Committee of Coventry Neighbors. While about five people have signed up so far, ten would enable the group to be really productive. Our aim is to make Coventry a cleaner, more beautiful neighborhood. The types of things the committee would persue are boundless. All one needs is enthusiasm.

Let's see what we can accomplish . . . Together!

If you would like to become an active member of the Environmental Concerns Committee, please send your name, address and phone number to: Coventry Neighbors, 2745 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

PICK-N-PAY BUYING ITS OWN STORE

by

David R. Burwasser

The Coventry Pick-N-Pay will soon be its own landlord for the first time, consumer representative Susan Barlow told the Coventry Neighbors, Inc., meeting of January 13, 1981. The store has hitherto been a commercial tenant, and the fact that the landowner and storekeeper were different entities has been a serious obstacle to improvement of the store, a need acknowledged by everyone involved. Ms. Barlow, a Pick-N-Pay representative, told the organization that the property was in escrow and the title search underway as of the CNI meeting at which she spoke.

Pick-N-Pay is planning a much larger supermarket at the Coventry site, 30,000 square feet as compared with the present 12,000 square feet. This announcement was met with some warnings of probable--indeed, intended--opposition from the community.

Ms. Barlow did not have any information as to whether the chain planned to build additional commercial space or to participate in the federal UDAG grant for which the City is preparing an application. This raised the possibility that the input programmed into public meetings that are mandated under the UDAG process. City Manager Richard V. Robinson, speaking at the January 19 Council meeting, expressed confidence that the UDAG route would be used, and that in any event a project the size of the proposed store would be the subject of public hearings in the normal course of obtaining variances and other special permissions from the City.

Mr. Larry Beam of the CH Planning Dept. has indicated that the additional commercial space originally planned as part of the development was needed to generate enough revenue to keep Pick-N-Pay's net rental costs down to a reasonable level. With Pick-N-Pay now the landowner, that problem has been removed. If the additional space is not built, the UDAG application may have to be substantially changed.

Ms. Barlow reviewed Pick-N-Pay's plans at Severance Center for the CNI meeting. She assured residents that the Severance development does not presage withdrawal of Pick-N-Pay from Coventry, and cited its acquisition of the present site as evidence of Pick-N-Pay's commitment to Coventry.

ASCHERMAN GALLERY REORGANIZES

There's a new name on Coventry, The Cleveland Photographic Workshop. It's a new name but it has a familiar face. CPW is a private, non profit corporation. Its director is Herbert Ascherman. I went in and talked to Herb the other day and found that the change in name and status will enable him to do more of what he has been doing all along, and do it better. It will also enable the new corporation to accept grants and to use volunteers in its operation.

The stated aim of the new corporation is: to heighten the community awareness of photography as a fine art; to promote and develop photographers who reside in northeast Ohio; to educate the general public to the importance of photography; and to develop and provide a photographic resource center.

The CPW plans to meet these goals by holding photographic shows; providing a resource center; reviewing and critiqueing of photographic portfolios; holding workshops and seminars; and acquiring a permanent collection of prints of high artistic merit.

It sounds like this outgrowth of the Ascherman Gallery will be a distinct asset to our street. Congratulations, Herb. Keep up the good work.

bobbie littell

