



Coventry Village News

SPECIAL EDITION

YOU ARE INVITED TO A NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI) serves the Coventry Village area by keeping its residents and merchants informed and involved in the issues that have an effect on the quality of life in their community. A few of the issues that have been dealt with over the years are commercial and neighborhood revitalization, code enforcement, housing preservation, trash/litter abatement, and planning and zoning issues.

All authority in CNI rests with the membership who elect a Board of Trustees every October, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Trustees at Large. The current officers reside in both single family and multi-family residences. Coventry Neighbors, Inc., has no paid staff, and has a committee structure which lends itself to the tasks at hand.

With the cooperation of the City of Cleveland Heights and the Coventry Merchants Association, 44 trees will be planted in the Coventry commercial areas. This project was financed through the organization's special tree fund. Other activities include the constant monitoring of City Council actions affecting the neighborhood, observing and commenting upon the effectiveness of City departments and services, and maintaining citizen participation in the City's planning and development process. CNI also publishes an informative monthly newsletter, the Coventry Village News, and sponsors the Coventry Village Street Fair each summer. CNI has submitted proposals to the City of Cleveland Heights for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds and has applied for a Neighborhood Self-Help Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

At the risk of oversimplification, the way to effect change is to group together with like-minded people, plot a course of action, and follow it through. CNI has been very successful in effecting positive change and with your help will be even more effective. We are volunteers and we are your neighbors. We cannot promise immediate results, but we can offer you the opportunity to act in concert with others who are willing to match your interests and efforts. CNI's focus is derived from its current membership and leadership. Our interests can be flexible.

Our regular meetings are always held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month on the lower level of the Unitarian Church at 2728 Lancashire Road. The agenda usually includes various committee reports, the City Council report, short presentations by private and/or public lobbying units, and the "old and new business" portion. The meetings are always well punctuated by enthusiastic audience participation.

The meetings are limited by the desire to end by 10:00 p.m. and a normally massive range of matters to be considered, squeezed into a once-a-month three-hour meeting, leaves precious little time for free-wheeling discussion.

Since 80% of our present activities occur at our regular monthly meetings and the other 20% are usually conducted between meetings by the Trustees, we want to encourage more of you to take an active part in CNI activities.

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We are going to begin a series of informal meetings that will be held in each corner of the Coventry neighborhood. These "Priority Workshops" will be a chance for non-members and non-active CNI members to exchange ideas with those who are currently active. We will identify problems and potential areas of present and future Coventry Neighbors, Inc. involvement and progress rapidly to deciding our course of action. In other words, we will talk about those things that are not possible to discuss at the regular monthly meetings due to time considerations.

The meetings will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m., dates and locations as follows:

Wednesday, April 16th at the home of Bruce Hennes, 2910 Hampshire Road

Wednesday, April 23rd at the Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road

Wednesday, April 30th at the home of David Burwasser, 1621 Eddington Road

Thursday, May 8th at the home of Barbara Orban, 2816 Berkshire Road

If you cannot attend the meeting in your area, feel free to go to another.

There are macro concerns that cut across every sub-neighborhood of Coventry Village such as trash, traffic, safety, and code enforcement. Some would also add the Coventry commercial shopping district as a major priority since property values of the homeowners and the quality of life for the apartment dwellers are all intertwined.

There are many of you with the expertise that we all need to help us better our neighborhood and there are also a great number of you with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. Please come to our meetings and help your neighbor and yourself.

If you have any questions, please be in touch.

Charles J. Owen
CNI President
321-1268

Bruce M. Hennes
CNI Treasurer
Priority Workshop Coordinator
321-4670