



Coventry Village News

DECEMBER, 1982

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Vol. VII No. 11

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS INC. PRESENTS
 OLD FASHIONED, NEW ENGLAND STYLE
 FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Fa-la-la's will be on tap for Coventry as CNI sponsors its 1st Annual, Old Fashioned, New England Style, Family Christmas Caroling, on Sunday, December 19. Carolers are asked to meet at 3 PM at the Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road where they will receive copies of the words of the songs and an itinerary. Singers will have an opportunity to run through the songs with song leader, Gusti.

We'll start our Caroling at Musicians Tower, on the Lancashire side then proceed up Lancashire to Coventryard Mall and then down Coventry and Hampshire to the other side of Musicians Towers where we will disband. There will be hot chocolate & cookies served at the home of Tom Lee on the corner of Hampshire and Hampshire Lane following the Caroling.

With all the singers in the area we should be able to get together a lusty chorus. If you have an instrument not affected by uncertain temperatures, bring it along (particularly if you can play it). Be sure to wear warm clothes. Kids of all ages from 6 - 60 are welcome.

Donations of Christmas cookies would be appreciated and can be made by calling Bobbie Littell at 321-8397 after 7 PM.

FOOD COLLECTION BOX IN COVENTRYARD

There will be a food collection box for the Heights Hunger Task Force on the lower level of Coventryard Mall next to Peel-Rite Health Foods until December 24.

The Hunger Task Force is sponsored by the Interfaith Council and operates a Hunger Center in the Euclid Avenue Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road. Donations are taken from schools, churches, community groups and individuals as well as major food companies.

All kinds of wholesome, nourishing, non-perishable food items and toiletries are being requested.



COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS is published monthly by COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. in cooperation with the HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS.

EDITOR:

Barbara M. Littell

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Debbie Heller, Chair; David R. Burwasser, Dennis Coughlin, F. David Gill, Bruce Hennes and Kathryn Young.

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Douglas M. Fabish, Debbie Graves and June Wortman

PRODUCTION STAFF:

Carol Gibson and the Heights Community Congress Staff.

ALL opinions and statements are strictly those of the respective writers, except when clearly identified as formal positions of CNI, CVN or HCC. Circulation 1,500.

PERSONS wishing to submit copy for the January issue may do so by sending it to the EDITOR, COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS, 1526 Coventry Road, #4, East Cleveland, Ohio 44118 no later than December 22, 1982. Please include your name, address and phone number. While unsigned items will not be published, your name may be withheld upon request.

STARTING in January subscriptions will be available for those who do not live in Coventry or who do not wish to become members of CNI. The cost will be \$5 per year (11 issues). CVN will continue to be sent to all CNI members and be available at various retail establishments in Coventry Village.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: CNI Meeting Notes

NOVEMBER, 1982

The Editorial Board has designated Bobbie Littell Editor of the Coventry Village News, and Debra Heller Chair of the Editorial Board--the latter a 6-month term. Nonmembers of CNI who want to be assured of receiving CVN regularly, but do not want the obligations of membership, may subscribe for \$5 per year.

A new Membership Committee will be co-chaired by Dennis Coughlin and Kathryn Young.

Planning & Zoning Committee duties will be broken up into manageable, individual chunks, typically focusing on one building or one project. Doug Fabish has agreed to keep us posted on the Heights Interceptor Sewer project.

All Committee Chairs who are not Trustees are invited to attend Trustee meetings and share the perspective of their particular involvements. The Trustees request that committee reports, whenever possible, be made through the CVN. When timing makes this impossible, a typed or clearly hand-written copy of each report delivered at CNI meeting should be given to the Secretary at the same meeting. These requests are in the interest of speeding up the meetings, a subject on which CNI members have been commenting lately.

COVENTRY HONOR ROLL

So many merchants have been making an effort to clean up their areas that CVN wishes to recognize the efforts by publishing an HONOR ROLL monthly. They are:

- ABC Appliance, Inc. - The Cedar Chest -
- Centran National Bank - High Tide Rock
- Bottom - Irv's Deli - Open Pantry - Pass-
- port to Peru - Revco Drug - Trapezoid -
- Turkey Ridge - Coventryard Management

If you know of some merchant who keeps the area clean and his/her name is not on the list, please send it to The Editor, 1526 Coventry Rd., Apt #4, East Cleveland, Ohio 44118.

* The Editor and Staff of the *
 * COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS wish *
 * all of its readers a HAPPY *
 * HOLIDAY SEASON and a HAPPY *
 * and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. *
 * *
 * Bobbie Littell *
 * *

PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE, PEOPLE'S VICTORY

The importance of Coventry's vote to curtail liquor services at Irv's Bar is not that Coventry Neighbors Inc (CNI) painted a more convincing picture than Irv Gulko. It is that CNI provided Coventry with the chance to choose which was more convincing, and enforce that choice.

CNI entered this fight reluctantly, if not embarrassedly. The right of diverse people to inhabit the street without harassment was a founding issue of CNI, and the connection between a healthy neighborhood and healthy local businesses was an early CNI insight. A local option symbolically contradicts both. But when some of the people on the street won't stop harassing others--when one business casts a pall over the others--a choice must be made.

CNI carried both of the two precincts by differing margins. In Irv's precinct (1-B) CNI won handily, 118-67 on the "wine and mixes" question and 114-70 on "hard liquor"--majorities in the sixties and margins around 25%. In the Musicians Tower precinct (1-K), consisting mostly of the Tower where Gulko had almost a free hand campaigning, it was more of a squeaker: 167-143 and 159-148, bare majorities and margins of a few percent. As it is easy to register and turn out voters in a closed environment like the Tower, while the rest of the two-precinct district experiences frequent turnover, Tower precinct voter participation was almost twice that of Irv's precinct, making the overall vote close.

In many respects the whole campaign was a re-validation of Murphy's Law: If anything can go wrong, it will. CNI decided to go on the November ballot, and then found its troupes exhausted from a very successful Street Fair and hard to turn out for petition circulation to meet the late-August filing deadline.

CNI had a choice of which precinct adjoining Irv's to include in the legally required two-precinct district. Convinced by the logic that the elderly are a natural consistency against rowdies, CNI chose the Tower precinct. CNI then found out, not only that Tower residents are seldom out after midnight when the rowdies are worst; not only that Tower residents frequently enjoy breakfast at Irv's Deli; but that Tower residents included Irv Gulko's mother.

CNI went into the campaign with a clear issue of public safety--and, through the manipulated blunders of others, found itself embroiled in a racial issue.

But then Murphy's Law began to work on Irv, too. Gulko dragged race into the campaign, stimulating a clash of outraged Cleveland Heights opinion leaders. But many of those opinion leaders had never heard of Irv's Bar before, and when they checked out the facts they, too, agreed--in print--that the bar was a problem and CNI was behaving reasonably.

Gulko soured Musicians Tower on CNI, to the point where concern arose over an honest vote count. So CNI exercised its right to have a challenger present at the polls, turned the Tower into its election-day operational headquarters, and is more confident of the Tower count than any other.

Gulko formed and secured the endorsement of the "Coventry Businessmen's Association," producing confusion over the position of the established Coventry Merchant Association (CMA). In consequence, CMA was forced to put out a letter it hadn't planned, reaffirming just before the date of the vote that CMA did indeed endorse CNI.

And, finally, Gulko did manage to get his corner a good deal quieter after the local option petitions were filed--and thereby demonstrated that he could have done so at any time, but would do so in fact only under extreme pressure. It can be argued that Irv Gulko was defeated not by CNI but by Irv Gulko.

If there is a lesson in this, it is to any business in any neighborhood not to be tempted to exploit that neighborhood; the neighbors can fight back. Already, CNI has been contacted by a neighborhood organization in Cleveland, wanting to know how to put together a local option campaign. . .

-- David R. Burwasser

(NOTE: The above represents the private opinion of a CNI officer and is not to be construed as an official position of CNI or CVN. BML)

APARTMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE FORMS

by

Barbara M. Littell

In early December between 35 - 40 tenants, landlords, representatives of lending institutions, municipal officials, interested citizens, and representatives of various community resources will travel to Saw-Mill Creek State Park where they will hold a two day organizational workshop, the first step in the development of an Apartment Improvement Program (AIP) for Cleveland Heights.

The work sessions will be conducted by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NRC) of Huston, Texas who have helped to develop such programs all over the country. The unique part of this program is that it is tailor made to suit each individual community, according to Andy Fly, NRC's consultant working with Cleveland when he spoke to CNI at its November meeting.

The program makes use of highly sophisticated computer technologies to develop strategies to deal with the problems as they are defined jointly by tenants, landlords, lenders, and city officials using the specific resources of the particular community.

It is hoped that the workshop will result in the formation of an Interim Partnership Committee to design the basic guidelines for the Cleveland Heights AIP; such as the development of building selection criteria, and planning for tenant organizations for each building in the program.

Invitations to participate have been sent to about a dozen lending institutions, ten property owners, and ten tenants. Representatives of Inspectional Services, Administration, Planning, Housing Preservation, Housing Services, and Community Relations departments of the City are expected to attend as well as representatives of the Heights Community Congress and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

Once the Interim Committee has accomplished its work, a permanent committee will be established to monitor the implementation, according to John Gustat, Director of the Housing Preservation Office and AIP Co-ordinator.

The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NRC) will prepare a Real Estate Investment Analysis Model for Cleveland Heights with the data collected in the development of the program, which will cost the City \$30,000. However, the City will then be eligible for a Federal grant of \$35,000 to help to implement the program.

Persons wanting more information about participation in the AIP may call Gustat at 371-6694 or the Heights Housing Service at 371-6595.

STREET TALK

Christmas Trees are bloomin' in the shop windows and the holiday excitement is beginning to build. It's a little hard, though to get into the Christmas spirit with the thermometer hovering between 65 - 70.

I hope no one will need this reminder either - but we can't count on it so - according to the City's Info Pak, City Ordinance 521.04 (f) (Continued on Page 9)

CHARTER CHANGES CONCENTRATE COUNCIL CLOUT

Cleveland Heights voters passed seven out of nine Charter amendments in the November election, enhancing the posture of Council in almost every instance--including one of the rejections.

The questions were put on the ballot by Council, winnowed from recommendations of the Charter Review Commission, whose deliberations were covered last summer in CVN. The amendments were opposed politically by Citizens for Heights Progress (CHP), a Cleveland Heights body that supports Republican and conservative Council candidates. The Cleveland Heights Democrats ("Dems"), who also sponsor Council slates, supported the proposed changes.

The one direct rebuff was refusal of permission for Council to levy up to 10 mills of "inside" property taxes without a popular vote. The 8-mill limit retained is a bit of a fossil; when put into the Charter it was the limit for all Ohio cities, chartered or not. Ohio has since raised the general limit to 10 mills. This was the only question opposed in detail by CHP, which tersely urged rejection of the others as tinkering with the City Manager form of government. The voters overwhelmingly rejected the millage hike but accepted all but one of the other changes.

Other votes enhanced the position of Council relative to checks and balances by the electorate. The voters rejected a reduction in the signatures needed for a referendum--a device to submit a Council decision to the people. The voters agreed to a restriction on recall elections: a requirement that recall sponsors publish a succinct statement of the reasons for recall.

Two measures were approved giving Council a stronger hand relative to the City Manager. One declares the City to be an equal opportunity employer and requires the City Manager to report City employment data annually to Council and the public. Another removes the City Manager from the Planning Commission, a body with quasi-veto power over certain legislation. Plausibly, these items drew the charge of tinkering from the CHP, long enamored of a free hand for the Manager.

One amendment gives Council the right to hire a private audit for the City--requested by Council in the face of inadequacies in the State Auditor's office, and deemed necessary for good fiscal management and better bond ratings. Another eliminated a potential source of friction between Councilmembers by equalizing their stipends. How CHP could regard either as offensive to good government is a mystery.

Two other amendments subtly enhanced Council as an institution, rather than incumbent Councilmembers. These eliminated the need for affidavits on Council candidacy petitions, give more time to gather nominating signatures, shift the filing deadline and provide for write-in candidates. The restrictions thus relaxed are barriers to fresh candidates and make election easier for candidates backed by experienced campaign machines such as CHP and the Dems. The voters marginally reduced the importance of such machines, thus enhancing Council's relative position, as the machines' influence is entirely derivative from the powers of Council.

CHP sent out a last-minute anti-amendment mailing. The Dems responded with a small, mimeographed polling-place handout on cheap paper stock, epitomizing "too little, too late." The Dems had several favorite issues riding on these votes, but were too embroiled over what Mayor Rapoport said to James Neff to campaign. Characteristically, given a chance to push for fundamental change, the Dems assembled a circular firing squad.

Whether either "campaign" influenced the votes is argueable. As one Councilmember observed, the wide differences in vote margins and the near-equality of vote totals suggest that voters gave each question careful, separate consideration.

-- David R. Burwasser

(NOTE: The above represents the private opinion of a CNI officer and former member of the Charter Review Commission and is not to be construed as an official position of CNI or CVN. BML)

FROM HIZZONORS DESK:

On November 15, City Council approved a budget for the 1983 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. A total of \$1.5 million was allocated among thirty-seven programs.

A few "themes" emerge in the budget. One is a new Council dedication to long range planning. Thus, the budget calls for repair of Kenilworth Road (\$275,000) as part of an overall streets program promised to the voters last June when they approved a bond issue. Other items reflecting this concern include funding for an aerial photo survey (\$5,000), gradual replacement of stop signs (\$8,400) and fire hydrant replacement (\$50,000). Ironically, the concern was also reflected in a decision to cut in half, a proposal to fund commercial area improvements, budgeting \$50,000 instead of the \$100,000 requested by staff. Council is giving more attention to items still on the drawing boards and less to starting new projects.

A second theme is the continuation of good social programs. Examples are the Housing Preservation Center programs (\$369,650), the office on Aging (\$22,450), Heights Housing Service (\$161,450), and Fair Housing Litigation (\$15,000). There is also an evidence of continued commitment to support efforts of groups outside City Hall which have benefited the City: The Challenge Fund (\$27,600), The Heights Community Congress (\$20,000), and the Cuyahoga Plan (\$30,000).

A third theme is dedication of money to capital improvement. Council did listen when its Citizen Advisory Committee urged some shift from the heavy capital emphasis of past years, on fire station construction. But it also saw fit to fund Kenilworth Road reconstruction, park improvements (\$60,000), Neighbors In Action grants (\$20,000), commercial area improvements, rebates for facade improvement through the Local Development Corporation (\$45,000), traffic signs and signals and fire hydrant replacement. Thus over one third of the budget will go to capital improvements directly -- more goes that way indirectly. Emphasis was shifted in part but this theme definitely remains.

A fourth theme is willingness to experiment. Council did fund two new programs on a one-year-only basis to give them a chance to succeed as private ventures: The Coventry Youth Center (\$10,000), and The Heights Parent Center (\$9,000). It also budgeted money for a loan to The Jewish Community Center (JCC) for renovation (\$98,000), conditioned on a firm commitment by the JCC to maintain operating facilities in Cleveland Heights for at least 20 more years. Finally, Council recognized the fine work of our Local Development Corporation rebate program, budgeting \$15,000 more than it asked for as a sign of Council's faith in the future of the program.

These are my personal impressions of the "whats" and "whys" of the CDBG budget. Council was forced to make tough legislative decisions and compromises, and it did so. The result is a budget with good priorities that reflect our citizens' desires for good City services and a little bit more.

-- Mayor Alan J. Rapoport

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOLIDAY DINNER

Volunteers are needed for the annual "Holiday Dinner" co-sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Cleveland Heights Interfaith Council. The dinner is Christmas Day, 12 Noon at Beaumont School, 3301 North Park Boulevard.

Volunteers are needed for transportation, meal preparation, serving, set up and Clean-up. If you are able to donate an hour or two on December 25th, please phone the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging, 371-6535

GIVING YOU THE BUSINESS

News about the businesses we depend on. . . Irv's is advertising for a barmaid. Dosen't sound like he is planning on going anywhere. Irv advises that the case is headed for court where the question of whether the ballot issue actually revoked his permit to do business on Coventry will be decided. Otherwise the ban would go into effect when ratified 30 - 90 days after the election. In the meantime Irv says that major changes are in store for his operation. The front landing will be removed and the steps to the basement closed off. He plans to put a bar-b-que operation in with window service to the street. He claims that his legal costs so far this year are in excess of what it would cost one person to go through college and law school. . . The Food Project provides a new resource for all Coventry residents. Mitch Segal and Greg Wilson, the new co-owners, are bringing an outlet for homeopathic medicine to the Food Project. Homeopathic medicine is a non-invasive form of treatment involving the use of food and dietary supplements, under a doctor's direction, to treat an ailment or illness. Mitch is currently undergoing instruction in what a doctor might be expected to recommend so that the Food Project can be sure to have the necessary items in stock. Mitch also promises that soon we will see fresh produce in the shop. It will be flown in from California and will be certified organic. Prices on vitamins and dietary supplements are dropping due to the Food Project's additional buying power and some management changes instituted by the new owners.

-- Douglas M. Fabish

HCC ANNOUNCES HERITAGE HUNT WINNERS/NEW TRUSTEES

This year's winners of the House Hunt Contest created for the Heights Community Congress' "Height Heritage Tour 1982" were awarded their prizes at the 10th Anniversary Week-End Celebration in November.

Because there were four perfect score winners and only three prizes, there was a drawing for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, with an honorable mention gift added. Linda (Mrs. Kent) Johnston won the free sitting and photograph from Herb Ascherman. Jack and Mary Boyle won the hand sculptured, covered container by Honey Meir-Levi, Bill and Barbara Collins won the books donated by Coventry Books, and F. David and Lyn Cooper Gill were given a copy of the collector's item, In My Day, oral histories of our city by some of its long-time residents.

On the Sunday afternoon Annual Meeting the following new members were elected to the HCC Board of Trustees: Jenny Gearhart, Youth Class; Dennis Nierman, Civic Class; Chris Bailey, Independent Religions Class; James McLemore, Interfaith Class; and Howard VanKleef, Individual Membership Class.

The HCC Board of Trustees holds a public meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Main Public Library on Lee Road at Bellwood at 8 PM.

COVENTRY VILLAGE - RUMOR CONTROL HOT LINE

CALL: GRETTA 371-6625

M - F 9 - 5 PM

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE Bruce Hennes, Chair

An estimated 1,000 participants and spectators crowded the Coventry mini-park for the first Annual Coventry Hallowe'en Party, October 30, sponsored jointly by Coventry Neighbors and the Coventryard Merchants Association.

First Honors for the best costume was awarded to Jeff Frayer who came as a mummy. Nancy Mueller, a Christmas tree and Howard Cash, a gift package, and Debbie Rennie, a bumblebee were awarded Honorable Mention. The judges were Pete Copeland, Plain Dealer photographer, Joe Polevoi from High Tide Rock Bottom and Debra Heller, CNI Trustee. They were assisted by revelers assembled.

Many thanks go to Don and Lilly Horwat who donated gift certificates from Carroll Drug and Lilia and George Fitzpatrick for his donation of tickets to the Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Heights Theatre.

Thanks go out to everyone who made this event special:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Arabica | Debbie Heller | Bob Shields |
| Larry Beam | Susan Hennenberg | Dominic Tomoro |
| Ben Berkey | Lonnie Hennes | Jesse Watson |
| David Burwasser | Carl Jones | Barry Weinberg |
| John Campbell | Bobbie Littell | Gwen Young |
| Janice Cline | Mayfield Music | Jayne Young |
| Dennis Coughlin | James McManos | Joel Young |
| Diana Cyganovitch | Marcia Nolan | Judson Young |
| Jim Evans | Marcia Polevoi | Kathryn Young |
| Marion Fisher | Rich Robinson | |

FINANCE COMMITTEE Dennis Coughlin, Chair

As CNI has grown so has its financial responsibility. Operating Expenses for 1982 are 50% higher than those in 1981. However, revenues are down 30%. The projected deficit for 1982 is in excess of \$250. The Finance and Exective committees are striving to protect against another such deficit in 1983 through the formation of a strong financial policy and investigation of methods of increasing the operating revenues of the organization.

Operating revenues of CNI are obtained primarily from dues with a small amount coming from donations and gifts. Income from the annual Coventry Village Street Fair are designated to be used for special projects only. Plans are being made to increase the 1982 membership; to sell subscriptions to the CVN to non members; and to attempt to raise more funds from outside sources for the various committee expenditures. There are no plans nor is there any expectation for the dues structure to be changed. It is felt that through policies now being instituted 1983 will see both a growth in CNI and a non deficit operation.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Dennis Coughlin & Kathryn Young, Co-Chair

At the Trustees meeting in November a Membership Committee was formed. The Co-Chairs are Dennis Coughlin and Kathryn Young. The new committee will be responsible for recruiting new members and renewing old memberships. Plans being considered include the production of a flyer describing CNI and its committees. Any person interested in helping are encouraged to contact the committee chairs.

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . . We Watch Out For Each Other

COMMITTEE REPORTS(Continued)

PLANNING & ZONING SEWER SUB COMMITTEE

Douglas M. Fabish, Chair

The Heights Interceptor Project (HIP) is proceeding on schedule. HIP is in Phase I, the sewer system evaluation. Smoke testing, involving the generation of smoke within the sewer system to see where it comes out and thereby determine what is hooked up to what, is taking place in our area now. Flow monitoring is going on to determine how much "stuff" is currently flowing through the pipes. Geologic testing, to determine if tunneling under the street to place the interceptor underground is feasible, is not complete. If tunneling is not feasible interruption of Coventry Road traffic patterns could take from 18 to 24 months. Current plans envision construction taking place no sooner than 1990. This should change if Congress increases allocations.

EDITORIAL BOARD REPORT Debbie Heller, Chair

The Editorial Board (EB) of the CVN meet to examine the structure of the publication, to develop new policy, and to confirm previously applied policy. The group had unanimously voted to ask Bobbie Littell to continue as editor. Ms. Littell accepted the appointment.

The operation of the CVN has been divided into three function components: editorial, production and distribution. Bobbie Littell will be responsible for the editorial component, Tony Wagner has accepted the responsibility for the distribution; the third component, production, is currently in need of a coordinator.

The Board agreed that its function is to set policy for the CVN, and to implement policy by setting broad guidelines for the editor. Problems with, or complaints about content of should first be brought to the attention of the editor, either by word, or in a "Letter To The Editor." If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved it should be brought to the attention of one of the Ed. Board members to be dealt with during the Ed. Board portion of CNI's Trustees's meeting.

The Editorial Board regular meeting is part of the CNI Trustees Meeting. We welcome your comment.

MORE STREET TALK

"No owner or occupant of abutting lands shall fail to keep the sidewalk free from snow, ice or any nuisance." Last year it was necessary to send out a lot of letters warning people they would be cited if they didn't clear their walks. . . Let's hope that won't need to be done again this year. . . Speaking of snow clearing, no one responded to my call for volunteers to clear the snow from the sidewalk on Lancashire from Musicians Towers to Coventry. I can't believe that there is not one person living in that area who is willing to help make life a little bit easier for our senior residents during the hard winter months. If you are willing to give just one hour of your time occasionally, call the Unitarian Society and leave your name. You will be contacted. The number is 932-1698.

Dobana's opened its second shop of the season, James Prideaux "Mixed Couples." I keep running into company members grabbing a bite at Tommy's and hear that the show is very funny. As usual it's still the best theater buy in town. Curtains are at 8:30 PM, Thursdays and Saturdays; Fridays at 9 PM and on Sunday 7:30 PM. It runs until December 18. This is one of the better theatrical companies in Cleveland with a well deserved national reputation. Get to know it.

(Continued on Page 12)

**** COMMUNITY CALENDAR ******- BULLETIN BOARD -**DECEMBER

- 1 LIBRARY - Preschool Story
Time - 10:30 AM & 2:30 PM
CVN - Production Deadline
- 3 PTA COUNCIL - Meeting -
Heights High - 9 AM
- 4 GUILD POTTERS CO-OP - Holiday
Pot Sale - Library - 10 AM -
6 PM
- 5 CVN - Assembly - Heights
Community Congress - 2- PM
- 6 CH CITY COUNCIL - City Hall
7:30 PM
- 7 LIBRARY - School Aged Story
Time - 2:30 & 3:30 PM
Preschool Story Time - 6:45 PM
- 8 LIBRARY - Preschool Story
Time - 10:30 AM & 2:30 PM
CNI - Trustees Meeting - 7:30
PM - 2910 Hampshire Road.
- 10 CHANUKA BEGINS
- 12 COVENTRYARD - Kids Day -
Noon - 4 PM
LIBRARY - Coventry School
Chorus - Concert - 3 PM
- 14 LIBRARY - Heights High
School Dramatics Club -
Famous Childrens Stories
3:30 PM
Preschool Story Time -
6:46 PM
CNI - General Meeting -
Library - 7:30 PM
- 15 LIBRARY - Preschool Story
Time - 10:30 AM & 2:30 PM
- 17 SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR CHRISTMAS
VACATION
- 19 CNI - 1st Annual Old
Fashioned, New England Style
Christmas Caroling - 3:00
Unitarian Society - 2728
Lancashire Road

LIBRARY NOTES . . . Debbie Graves, Librarian

Two very special treats will happen at Coventry Village Library in December. On December 12 at 3 PM, the Coventry Elementary School Chorus will present a concert of wonderful winter songs and selections from Broadway musicals. About 70 children will be coming to perform for us. We hope the entire neighborhood will join us for this exciting event, especially those who don't have children in the schools. It will be an exciting demonstration of what our schools are doing for and with our young people.

A second program on December 14 will involve the Dramatic Club from Heights High School. They will present versions of Famous Children's Stories for the children at 3:30 Tuesday afternoon. We are very excited about their participation in the final School Aged Storytime for this year.

NUCLEAR FREEZE GROUP OFFERS PROGRAMS

Families and local organizations are invited to use the resources of the Cleveland Heights Nuclear Freeze Campaign. Programs can be arranged on a variety of topics related to nuclear disarmament. Among the available programs are: A NASA research scientist who will speak on the strategic weapons balance between the US and the USSR; a professor or the history of science and technology who will speak on the history of the arms race; a physician who will speak about the medical effects of nuclear war.

There are many more highly qualified speakers, as well as a variety of films and slide programs.

The Cleveland Heights Freeze Group encourages families to invite neighbors and friends to invite neighbors and friends (including older children) to their homes, as well as larger meetings sponsored by organizations. To arrange for a program call: Rich Fein, 932-2625 (days) or Nina McLellan, 721-8216 (evenings)

ALL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE. . .

JANUARY 1, 1983

- BULLETIN BOARD -** COMMUNITY CALENDAR **COVENTRYARD TO HOLD "KIDS DAY"

Sunday, December 12 will be "Kids Day" at Coventryard Mall. From noon until 4 PM there will be a free Magic Show featuring Charles Pendragon, free photographs with Santa Claus, free ice cream cones from Haagen-Dazs and free balloons from Eclectic for children under 12 accompanied by an adult.

CMA ELECT OFFICERS

Coventry Merchants elected new officers at their October Semi-Annual Meeting. The results of that election were not available in time for inclusion in the November CVN. The officers are: President: Ellen Strong, Coventry Books; Vice-President: Marcia Polevoi, High Tide/Rock Bottom; Secretary: Carol Norwalk, Peel-Rite Health Foods; Treasurer: Katherine Kearney, Metropolitan Savings Bank. Also elected to the Board of Trustees was Paul Porges from Eclectic.

NEW BOOKSTORE OPENS

Mac's Backs Paperbacks opened recently at 1846 Coventry (upstairs), in the space previously occupied by Victoria Piglet. Mac's Backs sells a large selection of used paperbacks for half off the cover price. In stock are 7500 books, including recent bestsellers, classics, mysteries and science fiction, as well as an assortment of just about anything else you can think of. Some hardcovers are also for sale. The bookstore will be open seven days a week.

The shop is owned by Jim McSherry who has a similar store in Chagrin Falls, and is managed by Suzanne DeGaetano. Stop in and say "Hello."

TOURS OF HEIGHTS HIGH

Get a first-hand look of the educational opportunities at Heights High School on a guided tour led by five students. The next one is scheduled for December 9, 8:30 - 10 AM. Superintendent A. J. Abramovitz and Principal Michael Ferrato will be on hand to welcome you. Everyone in the community is invited. For further information, contact the Director of School and Community Relations at 371-7238

DECEMBER

- 19 LIBRARY - Early Music Holiday Concert - Psaltorella - 3 PM
- 20 CH CITY COUNCIL - City Hall 7:30 PM
- 22 CVN - Copy Deadline
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 31 HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY 1983

- 1 WELCOME 1983
- 2 CVN Assesby - Heights Community Congress - 2 PM
- 3 SCHOOL REOPENS
CH CITY COUNCIL - City Hall 7:30 PM
- 4 LIBRARY - School Aged Story Time - 2:30 & 3:30 PM
Preschool Story Time - 6:45 PM
- 5 LIBRARY - Toddlers Story Time 9:30 AM
Preschool Story Time - 10:30 AM & 2:30 PM
- 6 CNI - Trustees Meeting - 2910 Hampshire Road - 7:30 PM - Committee chairs are requested to attend.
- 7 PTA COUNCIL MEETING 9 AM - Oxford School
- 10 SCHOOL BOARD - Meeting 8 PM - 2155 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights.
- 11 CNI - General Meeting - Coventry Library - 7:30 PM



STILL MORE STREET TALK

Ted Erskine, a onetime Coventry resident formerly known as the "Button-Down Incentive Peddler," submitted this bit of local nonsense.

"The other morning, I saw a gentleman, holding three coffee cups, excuse himself from the table behind me at the Inn On Coventry. He sauntered out the door. I watched him walk the length of the interior Coventryard promenade, clanging the cups together with jaunty bravado, and disappear inside the Arabica. A few moments later, the man reappeared and, retracing his steps to the Inn, rejoined his companions, setting steaming cups of fresh coffee at their places.

"As I paid my breakfast check, I hesitantly asked the cashier about the singular occurrence. 'Oh, Then,' she smiled drolly. 'They do THAT all the time; they're the OWNERS of the Arabica. I guess it's just our professional courtesy. I'm sure if I'd go into their place for a sweet, I could take an order of OUR fries or chicken breast in with me!' As I walked out the door, I pondered this nouveau noblesse oblige: Does the staff of Bliss take a glass of sweet sauterne into Haagen-Dazs to complement the flavor-of-the day?"

OOPS, please forgive the error, the late Fred Toguchi was born in 1922 not in 1942 as erroneously reported in last months CVN. Somehow people don't proof-read dates.

There's another wedding and an engagement to report this month. One time Coventry resident, Nancy Mueller, who moved to Florida a few years ago, and then back to Cleveland this summer was married to Howard Cash on December 4 and I have it on good authority that CVN reporter, Librarian Debbie Graves and CNI member Vernon Shoup are starting to look starry eyed and make plans for a future wedding. Gee, it must be catching. See what you started,F.

Just got a call from the new Community Relations Department Staff Liaison to Coventry, Jean Harper, introducing herself. She asked me to tell y'all that she can be reached at 371-6620 (office) or at home 321-4250. Jean will also be the other contact person, besides Gretta Ryan, on the Rumor Control Hot Line.

You can now buy "Magic" at Coventryard Mall. Pendragon Magic has opened on the lower level. Propriator Chuck Pendragon (I really thought his name would be Uther) stocks all kinds of supplies, accessories and costumes for the beginning, advanced and professional magician.

Chuck got into magic when he was a kid as a way to help him relate more comfortably to strangers. By the time he was a teen-ager he had devoured every book on the subject he could lay his hands on and at 25 he toured with Conklin's Magic Midway, where they finally went broke in Maricaoibo, Venezuela. Now, after living the carnival life he has settled down in his home town of Cleveland Heights and will demonstrate and teach magic tricks to interested groups. He is also available to do magic shows.

Another of the new inhabitants of the lower level of Coventryard Mall is Jay Bond, leathersmith. Jay is a former Clevelander who spent 12 years in the west, in the navy, and studying anthropology. He took up leather working to supplement his income and spent his summers working in New Mexican resort towns. He uses old silver tools made by a Navajo in 1920, a gift from a man who had used them for 60 years. He promised never to give the tools to any museum where they could not be used. He will be located in the basement of Coventryard Mall through Christmas.

This issue brings to an end an year of publication. It has been a busy and exciting one, it has been a year that has seen many changes in Coventry. As we look forward to the coming year we can expect to see a lot more changes for that seems to be the nature of our times. Change is not always easy to live with, certainly it is not always comfortable, but working together we can make it easier to bear, and sometimes more exciting. Happy New Year, everyone.

-- bobbie litte ||

COMMUNITY WATCH-DOG: "The Walls Come A-tumbling Down!"

Start with 5 or 6 kids in September meeting at the Unitarian Society. Tell them about the Center being started by adults, the program to be planned and carried out by the kids, the consumers, with adults as advisors. Tell them the advisors are in the next room, available. Then leave them to do their work.

First comes the silly stuff, the grandiose ideas, the jokes about how to "con" someone else into doing it for them. Then they talk about having sports, a dance, a drop-in social place with food and records, a bulletin board listing odd jobs available. Then come the doubts - it wouldn't work because dances would be "all black" or "all white" - because black kids like different music and dance styles. A high-school student says yes, that problem does exist at Heights High - maybe they could deal with it in the Youth Center now, and avoid having the problem when they get to Hts. High. They joke about white kids learning "black-style" dancing.

The next meeting, add two black kids to the group. Add some bristling and braggadocio because the new kids are from Monticello, not Lutheran-East, Coventry, or Rox Jr. Add remarks made post-meeting, negative to the new kids. Now add more meetings, a few more black kids, the original two hanging in, bringing ideas. All this cooks together into plans for a dance, a date for it, ticket prices, decision to hold a drawing, accepting individual responsibility to approach the merchants for donations. Post-meeting comments begin to sound like "That black kid is nice!" or "He has good ideas."

Now add an invitation from WLYT, Judy Thompson, for a 40 min. session on "Cleveland Hts. Kaleidoscope" - two kids and one adult to take part. Winnow out those who can't come. Winnow out those afraid to come. Who is left? Two boys, one black, one white. One a Monticello 9th grader, the other a Coventry 6th grader. "Are you only in sixth grade? Gee, I thought you were in 8th, or 7th at least!" Mix the two brave boys on tape - come up with two terrific performances. Such trust in the Center and the adults planning it, such confirmation of the need, such expression of the search for something better in life than video games and TV, such excitement about the chances to plan it themselves! And such astonishment at hearing their own voices from outside their own heads!

Now add the public hearing at City Council, chaired by Councilperson Weigand. The kids all come, and new ones too. Their first time ever at council. They hear adults talk about the Center, the development of a "community" of people around this goal of helping kids. Who is that coming to the mike? One of the kids, the joker with the active mouth and agile brain. There he is, giving his name and address, starting with confidence, then suddenly quiet with the same nerves that afflict adults who present themselves before Council. The chairman, gently and kindly, thanks him.

By now the group totals 20. They have elected co-captains: a boy (black), and a girl, (white), each from different Jr. Highs. They have asked for, and now have co-ed basket-ball at Coventry School on Thursdays, 4:30-6:30 pm, refereed by the adult advisor. They also want a Rap Group, and in-door soccer is in the wings. They are still working on the dance. Their meetings are noisy but not rowdy. The advisors hear hear lots of "Shut up!" They meet almost weekly now, at their request.

Maybe they are all heroes. They have faced and overcome racial prejudice, sexual stereotypes, school rivalries, age differences, and even fear of City Council. Nothing can stop them now. No - they aren't heroes. They are normal kids, pulling down old walls, building a new world for themselves - and for us.

-- June C. Wortman

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other

