



Coventry Village News

JULY, 1982

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

Vol. VII No. 7

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS INCORPORATED
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND

THE 10th ANNUAL COVENTRY VILLAGE STREET FAIR

- Saturday, July 10, 3 PM - 8 PM and Sunday, July 11, noon - 7 PM
- The Pine Arts area at Coventryard Mall will feature ceramics, copper enamels, textiles, leather and more watercolors, oils and photography than ever before
- As usual we'll have continual music, on three separate stages.
- Impromptu street performances will happen at the mouths of Hampshire and Lancashire Roads.
- Scores of Coventry merchants and invited vendors will offer all kinds of merchandise and food.
- "Kidstuff" at Coventry Library and School will provide fun for children and their parents.
- There'll be information booths galore.
- Please remember that all laws, including parking regulations and laws prohibiting public consumption of alcohol, remain in effect during the Fair.
- ITS NOT TOO LATE to join in the fun - VOLUNTEERS are needed to man barricades and work on clean-up. If you can help come to our Information Booth located next to Inuit Gallery.

SHAKER MAN CHARGED IN COVENTRY FIRES

Arthur T. Deitz, 32, of 15830 Van Aken Boulevard, Shaker Heights was charged Monday in Cleveland Heights Municipal Court with starting the series of fires that have plagued Coventry during the past two years.

Painstaking detective work, beginning in March was credited for catching the suspect while he was talking on the phone to the Cleveland Heights Fire Department from a phone booth in the Shaker Rapid Transit shelter at Shaker Blvd and Coventry. He was bragging about a garage fire earlier.

Chief Martin G. Lentz praised Coventry residents for their cooperation during this very tense period.

Hats off to Chief Lentz and the Cleveland Heights Police for the bang up job they did on this one.

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

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PERSONS wishing to submit copy for the September issue may do so by sending it to the EDITORS, COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS, 1621 Eddington Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118 no later than August 20. Please include your name, address and phone number. While unsigned items will not be published, your name may be withheld upon request.

COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS will not be published during August.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: CNI Meeting Notes

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. voted at its June 8 meeting to take out petitions to dry up Irv's Bar, support a request by The Saloon to install additional video entertainment devices, and participate in planning for a Coventry youth center.

The vote on drying up Irv's was taken after extensive debate on the degree of "dryness" demanded by the situation, the impact on other area businesses, the legal and political realities involved, and the possible alternatives. Mayor Alan Rapoport and the CNI Board of Trustees each came to the meeting with action recommendations; the organization eventually charted a course slightly different from either. (See related story Page 3.)

Phil Imperi, co-operator of The Saloon, has requested City permission to increase the number of video games at that business from five to seven and asked CNI support. Although CNI has taken a frosty attitude toward such devices in the past, that has been premised on their role in children's environments. Imperi was persuasive that his business--a bar--already excludes minors as a matter of course, and that he was taking prudent steps to protect other tenants of the same building from game noises. The final motion of support was conditioned upon any complementary exterior changes being in conformity with the Coventry Village design standards as fostered by the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation.

Coventry PTA is fostering plans for a Coventry youth center, to provide an alternative for youngsters to the "head shop" ambience that has asserted itself recently on the commercial strip, and is inviting Roxboro Junior High and Heights High PTA Coventry Merchants Association and CNI to participate in the planning. After some debate on the concept itself in various possible forms, the organization voted to participate in the planning thereof. (See Neighborhood Watchdog, Page 13, This issue.)

-- Dave Burwasser, Secretary

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS VOWS TO DRY UP IRV'S

by

David R. Burwasser

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will undertake a local option campaign in two Coventry apartment precincts, including the site of Irv's Bar, to prohibit service of any liquor by the drink.

The vote at the June 8 monthly meeting was taken in an atmosphere of patience tested beyond the limit. The subject has been explored at the previous CNI monthly meeting and the intervening Trustees' session. Over this time, repeated incidents witnessed by various members had eroded the only serious inhibition--the hope that less drastic action could be equally effective. By June 8, the only remaining questions were "How much?" and "How far?".

"How much?" related to a basic choice: Ohio law permits a dry-up of all liquor by the drink, or of liquor by the drink excepting beer and wine. This was resolved in favor of the harsher restriction. The probability that the troublesome element at Irv's would have no problem adding hip flasks to the many illegalities in which they presently indulge, prevailed over the notion of taking only the action that was obviously necessary.

"How far?" also related to choices under Ohio law. A local option of this sort must be undertaken by two adjacent precincts. Since there was no intent to include the Saloon in the dry-up, and since CNI is not well organized north of Mayfield, the practical choice of the second precinct narrowed to the all-residential precinct west of the precinct holding Irv's, and the mostly-residential precinct to the south that takes in the commercial strip on the west side of Coventry between Hampshire and Lancashire. CNI chose the latter; the logic that the district affected should include residents most affected by the problem proved more persuasive than reluctance to pre-empt a potential business decision for so many merchants. Only voters registered in the precincts to be affected may vote in a local option election.

Petitions will be taken out and circulated by residents of the two-precinct district thus created. The approximate boundaries are Mayfield, Coventry, Lancashire, and Hampshire Lane; a precise description will accompany the petitions from the Board of Elections. Non-residents of the district can participate in financial support, literature distribution and the other "back room" functions essential to any successful political campaign.

"NOW JUST WAIT A DAMN MINUTE, COVENTRY NEIGHBORS. . ."

Some time or another, you may have felt like saying just that to some decision, position or declaration of Coventry Neighbors, Incorporated--especially if you are a Coventry resident, merchant or landowner. Disagreement is the raw material of politics, in an age in which virtually everything public is political.

So what's the easiest way to tell CNI to wait just a damn minute?

*** JOIN !!! ***

Five bucks a year. Seven gets your family in. Three suffices if you are elderly. Where else on the street can you get a deal like that?

But what does it get you? It gets you a chance to say, "Wait a damn minute," before the fact. Your input becomes part of the original decision, instead of the external environment in which the decision is made. Your frame of reference can become Coventry Neighbors' frame of reference--if you let us in!

There's a membership coupon on the back of this issue. So DON'T wait a damn minute; fill out the coupon now (after reading the incisive copy on the other side!) and send it along.

-- Dave Burwasser, Secretary

BOOS & BRAVOS

BRAVO: The new sign over Jeannie and Lorraine's Food Project rates an "A."

BOO: Speaking of signs, Sunshine II, our neighborhood dope toy and clothing store has remounted the sign from their old location at their new location. The sign is a complete eyesore and is a direct slap-in-the face to the progressive design standards that the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation, Coventry Merchants, and Coventry Neighbors have been working so hard to implement in the Coventry Village commercial district. Somebody really blundered in allowing this situation to exist.

BRAVO: New grass has been planted on Euclid Heights Boulevard thus correcting damage resulting from the recent road reconstruction. Now if we could only get rid of the "temporary" power pole and traffic sign posts at the Coventry/ Euclid Heights intersection. . .

-- Charles J. Owen

COVENTRY HELPS HEIGHTS CONGRESS NEAR GOAL

Thanks from the Heights Community Congress (HCC) to all Coventry residents who have shown their support by contributing to the 1982 HCC membership phone-a-thon. A total of \$13,724 in pledges to date, against a goal of \$15,000, have been garnered in part because of the following Coventry neighbors who served as phoners or drivers:

PHONERS:

John Aram	Liz Brown	Joanna Buck	Eve Laudenbuck
Tina Manuel	Chris Martin	Nancy McGervey	Rev. Tom Vossler
Maureen Weigand	Mary Kay Wojtylak		

DRIVERS:

Joanne Balis	Tom Bier	Hester Butterfield	Carla Fletcher
Don McKelvey	Ed Paller	Mary Ubbelohode	

If you have not contributed to the membership phone-a-thon yet, you may still help us reach our goals--both financial and outreach--by sending your tax-deductible contribution to : H.C.C: 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44118.

--Dave Burwasser
Trustee for Coventry.

RECLAIM AMERICA!

National People's Action will move from coast to coast in September to "Reclaim America" for the jobless and underemployed. . .the right to affordable heating.. .the right to buy or rent a safe, sound, affordable home. . . for senior citizens, small farmers and small business persons. . . For information, contact Heights Community Congress at 321-6775

CITY TO INITIATE APARTMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

by

Barbara M. Littell

Cleveland Heights may have come up with a solution for problems created by the city's deteriorating apartments. City Council voted at the June 21 meeting to authorize a contract with the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NRC) to help develop an Apartment Improvement plan based on the needs of the community as defined by its members. The plan involves a working partnership between property owners and managers; tenants and community representatives; lenders; and the City who will develop a plan to meet Cleveland Heights housing needs and to implement that plan.

The AIP is based on a model developed in Pittsburg in the 60s, and refined and tested in a variety of communities throughout the US. It makes use of highly sophisticated computer technology to help develop strategies for working out local problems. Consultants from NCR will come to Cleveland Heights as facilitators. As outside people they will bring together the four groups who are sometimes at odds, and help them to reach consensus, according to Judy Charlick of the Housing Preservation Office. NCR has already contacted the lenders and have gotten a good reception, she said.

Many of the apartments to come under this program are in Coventry and the City will be looking for apartment tenants and owners willing to participate in the partnership, according to Larry R. Beam, city planner. Anyone wishing more information may call Beam or John Gustat of the Housing Preservation Department who will be the administrator.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS RECEIVES CITY GRANTS

by

Charles J. Owen

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. was recently awarded three "Neighborhoods in Action" grants (allocated from Cleveland Heights Community Development Block Grants) totaling \$2,546. The money will allow the CNI Environmental Concerns Committee to institute urban beautification projects at Municipal Parking Lot #20 (next to Coventry Pizza). According to CNI President Charles J. Owen, planner of the project, the tree island at the front of the lot will see brick pavers installed and two sturdy Pin Oak trees planted. Ornamental cast iron tree grates will be placed over exposed soil in order to reduce compacting. In addition, the dilapidated Rock Court Woods retaining wall will be scraped and painted tarragon, a color that will help the wall blend into the natural environment of the Rock Court Woods.

In order to help CNI's goal of a cleaner Coventry streetscape, Mr Owen noted that two new litter bins will be added to the commercial district. Some projects not funded have been submitted under a Commercial Areas Improvement Fund (CIAP) grant request currently being pursued by the Coventry Merchant Association.

In other grants news, the Somerton Neighbors Street Club received \$1,050 for 30 ornamental cherry trees for their tree lawns.

COVENTRY VILLAGE . . . We Watch Out For Each Other

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: And Yet More About Sitting Meters

To the editors:

I see that the pompous and the gored have taken umbrage with your April Fools story, re: sitting meters in Coventry. Pret not. You have accomplished the second of journalism's two historic goals - to print the news and raise hell.

To those who, using a yardstick unavailable to anyone but themselves, measure the article as "unprofessional," I say poppycock. Numerous daily newspapers still engage in April Fools story to the harm of no one who can read a calendar. Professional is as professional does: in this profession, at least. Don't judge a community paper by the New Yawk Times.

As one who in his Hippier days occasionally braved the police state that Coventry then represented, I found the story an incisive piece of satire. The very fact that it was believed by so many should give liberty-loving Coventryites cause for reflection. A city that so regulates its residents and guests stands perilously close to stultification - indeed, the evidence of such stagnation are rampant and readily visible to those who can look up from their daily routine and see them. In the quest for some form of utopian perfection the city has done its level best to grind the poor and the unconforming into the powder with which it would fill the illegal cracks in driveways. It would ban them as it does parking just when the party gets rolling. It would prohibit them as it prohibits non-garaged camper vans.

One of those poor, misguided fools who brought us liberty said, "that government governs best which governs least." Cleveland Heights has, in recent years, ignored that dictum to the point that a transparently satirical story about sitting meters strikes a very responsive chord in the readership.

You have done your job well. Keep raising hell.

--Jim Strang
North Ridgeville

(The writer has been a newspaperman and Cleveland Heights observer for 15 years.)

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS EXPAND SCOPE

The enormously successful Cleveland Heights Community Improvement Awards program has added a new category to its scope of awards for 1982. "Additions" is a new classification designed to recognize improvements that are not easily visible from the street.

The six older categories--individual residence, multi-family, business and commercial, Street Award for overall effort, Tender Loving Care for sustained effort, and Special Projects for endeavors that don't fit into other categories--continue as in previous years.

City Council, the City Manager and the Heights Community Congress have drawn together a highly talented group of residents for the awards committee. The award presentation on October 10 at the Jewish Community Center will include an art exhibit and a slide show, as well as the extemporaneous wit and wisdom of Improvement Award Chair Philmore Hart.

ANYONE may nominate ANY improvement made to any place or property in Cleveland Heights since 1975. Nomination deadline is September 1, 1982. Nomination forms and additional info can be obtained from Barb Lind, HCC, 321-6775; or John Gustat, City Hall, 371-6694.

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other

"HEAD SHOP" MOVES AMID CONFLICT

by

Barbara M. Littell

Sunshine II, Coventry's "head shop" has moved across the street from 1809 Coventry to 1788 amid conflicts with most of the forces in the Coventry community.

The PTA has been upset over what they see as a blatant disregard for community standards. Three area PTAs have petitioned Cleveland Heights City Council to initiate legislation to force such shops to conform to standards acceptable to parents of young children who are exposed to controversial, tasteless window displays.

CNI and the Coventry Merchants Association (CMA) are concerned about owner David Gouda's disregard of community design standards developed by CMA under the aegis of the Local Development Corporation (LDC) regarding signs and facade renovation.

A number of community residents are upset because the sign which had been at 1809 was moved to the new location without review by the or any official City board.

City Manager Richard V. Robinson says no other review was required. As long as the existing sign meets zoning code requirements there is no legal way to prohibit moving the sign to a new location on the same street. They need permission to move it, but the sign itself does not need review as long as it meets the legal requirements of the code. Sunshine II requested permission to move the sign and it was granted by the Building Department.

The design standards adopted by the CMA do not have the force of law, Robinson said. However up to 50% of the cost of facade renovation and signage could be rebated provided the work conforms to the design standards adopted in 1979 and endorsed by CNI.

Gouda admits that he has gotten off on the wrong foot in Coventry - this was one of six stores that he owned and it was managed by someone else, he stated. Gouda and his wife, Kathy, who now manages the store, are in charge and they intend to conform to Coventry standards and values. He has discussed a new facade and signage with the City Planning Department, he said.

The move, which tripled his floor space, he said, will allow him to diversify and to bring in a line of mod clothing in addition to the usual "head shop" paraphernalia and "drug toys." He says that part of the motive for the move was to take the shop out of the most frequented path for Coventry Elementary School students. He noted, in the new store all of the drug related equipment is at the rear of the store, out of sight of children passing on the street, as requested by the PTA. It is to be noted, however, as of this writing there are drug related items in the window.

COVENTRY WOMAN HELPS ORGANIZE NUCLEAR PROTEST

When Cleveland Heights Council passed its nuclear freeze resolution early in June it was a triumph for one Coventry resident. Joy Marshall of Berkshire Road, wife, mother and graduate student has recently added another dimension to her busy life. She has become a community activist.

As one of the sparks of Concerned Mothers and Citizens for Social Responsibility (CSR), she helped get people to lobby Council for the resolution.

A Concerned Mothers March held on Mothers Day was planned to gather a group for a picture to be circulated internationally to promote citizen based protest against nuclear proliferation throughout the world. She expected a few people - her expectations were far surpassed and she recognized that she was not alone in her concern. Since that time she has been working to help people make their feelings known. As a child of the 60's she remembers the "teach-ins" and has helped form CSR to help people to understand the idiocy of nuclear war.

An arts festival and concert are being planned for summer, she said. Anyone wishing to join either CSR or Concerned Mothers may call her at 321-4571.

** COMMUNITY CALENDAR **

- BULLETIN BOARD -

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 5 COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 PM
City Hall
- 6 LIBRARY - Schoolage Special - 3 PM
Those Were The Days, Session I - 7 PM
CAIN PARK - Mostly Modern Amphimusic - 7 PM
- 7 LIBRARY - Toddler Story
Time - 9:30 AM
Preschool Story Time - 2:30 PM
TURTLE PARK - Story Time - 10:30 AM
- 8 LIBRARY - Star Stamp Club - 1:30 - 2:30 PM
CNI Trustees 7:30 - 2910 Hampshire Road
CAIN PARK - Folk Dancing 8:30 - 11 PM
- 10 COVENTRY STREET FAIR - 3 PM - 8 PM
- 11 COVENTRY STREET FAIR - Noon - 7 PM
- 13 LIBRARY - Schoolage Special - 3 PM
Those Were The Days, I 7 PM
CAIN PARK - Mostly Modern Amphimusic - 7 PM
CNI - General Meeting - 7:30 - Library
- 14 LIBRARY - Toddler Story
Time - 9:30 AM
Preschool Story Time - 2:30
TURTLE PARK - Story Telling - 10:30 AM
- 15 CAIN PARK - Folk Dancing 8:30 - 11 PM
- 17 CAIN PARK ARTS FESTIVAL
Noon - 9:30 PM
- 18 CAIN PARK ARTS FESTIVAL
Noon - 8 PM

HEIGHTS REALTY MONITORS NEED TROOPS

The Heights Community Congress (HCC) is looking for volunteers in the Coventry neighborhood to assist in a new real estate monitoring program, The Homesellers Registry. HCC contacts by mail all residents of Cleveland Heights who are selling their homes via a realtor--asking that the sellers record, to the best of their ability, the real estate companies showing their homes and the race of each prospect. The purpose of the program is to determine whether houses in each neighborhood are being marketed fairly to all qualified buyers.

Volunteers are needed to make follow-up phone calls, at their convenience, to homesellers, urging their participation in the program. Please contact Gay Quereau, 321-6775, if you are interested.

MERCHANT NEWS Bobbie Littell

The Coventry Merchants Association has made application for \$12,000 of the 1982 Commercial Area Improvement Fund to be used for planters, benches, trash receptacles, fencing and signs in accordance with the goals of the Coventry Village Improvement plans adopted by them in 1979.

Included in this years grant application are monies to help to create a mini-plaza in front of Lot #20 (next to Coventry Pizza) at the bus stop; for murals consisting of the CMA logo painted on a number of buildings; and entrance signs designating the Coventry area, to be erected on Euclid Hts. Blvd at Lancashire and Coventry.

Most of the merchants have extended their hours for the summer months. A partial list follows.

- High Tide/Rock Bottom Mon - Fri 10 AM - 9 PM
Sat. 10 AM - 8 PM
- Tommy's will be open from noon - 8 PM on Sun.
- Passport to Peru Mon & Tues, Thurs & Fri 10 - 8
Wed & Sat 10 AM - 6 PM
Sun 1 - 5 PM

JOIN COVENTRY NEIGHBORS - TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ON BACK PAGE

- BULLETIN BOARD -CAIN PARK OFFERS VARIED PROGRAMS

"Vacation in the City" is the theme of the Cleveland Heights summer program and many activities are planned for July.

The Cain Park Annual Arts Festival will be "by far our best ever," according to Festival Coordinator, Audrey Feinberg. In addition to the 105 selected artists and craftpersons who will offer a variety of wares there will be music, "Dancing Under The Stars," and food, food, food.

"Sweany Todd," a popular New York hit will be at the Alma on Thursdays - Sundays till August 21. Curtain is at 8:30 PM

The Mostly Modern Amphimusic series will be heard July 6, 13, 27 & 28. This popular offering brings you both modern and more traditional classical music in a beautiful outdoor setting. Concerts start at 7 PM.

The Cain Park folk dancing programs will be on the Amphitheatre stage every Thursday through July 15. From July 22 till August 18 the dancing will take place in the Recreation Pavilion. Instructions are held between 8:30 - 9:30. After that you're on your own till 11.

ENVIRONMENTAL NOTES: Street Tree Tips

The early years of a street tree are very crucial. The most important thing one can do to insure a healthy and beautiful tree is to provide lots of water. Rainfall is not always dependable, so if the tree is to survive it will need help. In the warm seasons, try to give them at least 12 gallons of water per week. The water should seep into the soil and not run off. Soil becomes compacted in time and may need to have the top couple of inches of ground broken up. Make extra sure that you do not damage any roots!

Dog owners please take note: dog urine is not a "natural" benefit for trees. Urine kills fragile feeder roots which the tree needs to survive.

Bicycles and trees do not make a good couple. Locking a bicycle to a tree will damage bark, which results in an open invitation to disease and harmful insects. As an alternative, look for the eyebolts on many parking meters that are specifically designed for bicycle chains. The Environmental Concerns Committee will be installing additional eyebolts on all Coventry Village Parking meters this summer.

--Charles J. Owen, Chair
Environmental Concerns
Committee, CNI

** COMMUNITY CALENDAR **JULY

- 19 CH COUNCIL - City Hall
7:30 PM
- 20 LIBRARY - Puppet Show -
3 PM - Janie & Tracy
Reinhart
- 21 LIBRARY - Toddler Story
Time - 9:30 AM
Preschool Story Time 2:30
TURTLE PARK - Story Tell
ing - 10:30
- 22 LIBRARY - Star Stamp Club
1:30 - 2:30 PM
- 25 LIBRARY - Concert On The
Lawn - Ganassi Early Music
Festival 3 PM
- 27 LIBRARY - Those Were The
Days, Session II
7 PM
CAIN PARK - Mostly Modern
Amphimusic - 7 PM
- 28 LIBRARY - Toddlers Story
Time - 9:30 AM
Preschool Story Time -
2:30
TURTLE PARK - Story
Telling 10:30 AM
CAIN PARK - Mostly Modern
Amphimusic - 7 PM

AUGUST

- 3 LIBRARY - Those Were The
Days - 7 PM
- 4 LIBRARY - Toddlers Story
Time 9:30 AM
- 5 LIBRARY - Star Stamp Club
1:30 - 2:30
- 10 LIBRARY - Those Were The
Days - 7 PM Session II
CNI - General Meeting -
7:30 PM - Library

STREET TALK

As the result of all that "hoopla" about our sitting meter story and the commentary by TV5's Joel Rose, a committee invited Rose to Coventry to see what it's really like. He came, complete with production and camera crews. Rose was dress consistent with his image, dressed in a dashiki, bandana, love beads, pants rolled up, sandals with a guitar strapped on his back. He looked a little strange cavorting around Coventry trailed by TV cameramen - apparently telling it "like it is." The program is to be aired July 5 and at this writing it remains to be seen what the TV 5 editors do with it.

Joan Jordan, one time CNI/CMA activist was deserted Coventry for the sunny coast of California where she will work on the Hunger Project. Best wishes to Joan in her new life. . . Congratulations to CNI's F. David Gill and Lynn Nicely on their recent engagement. We understand an October wedding is being planned.

I've been disturbed lately watching kids on bicycles dodging pedestrians (particularly elderly ones) as they careen down the hill from Coventryard to Lancashire. I called City Hall to find out just what the regulations are. Police Chief Martin Lentz says adults are required to ride their bicycles on the street. Children under 12 are allowed to ride on sidewalks in the residential areas. In commercial areas there is no riding on the sidewalks. Bicycles are to be walked or attached to parking meters or bike racks. I would hope that those regulations would also extend to skate boards in commercial areas. I realize that that stretch is great for both activities, but they do present a hazard for those of us who's reflexes "ain't what they used to be."

One of the planters at Coventry and Lancashire was recently the victim of a run-away car which rolled down the hill and demolished both it and the street sign. City Service Director, Dominic Tomaro, has declared the planter irreparable.

Best wishes to Bill "Timbers" Swann, co-owner of Coventry Beverage and Pizza, who recently had lung surgery as the result of a bout of severe bronchitis. He'll be out of commission for a while but would love hearing from his many friends in Coventry. A card sent to the store will be sure to reach him.

Most everything that happens on Coventry has its effect. The infusion of new "fancy" restrants has had its effect on some of the old timers. One example of this was evident at Irv's last week. I ordered a corned beef plate. It was very prettily arrayed with a pile of beef, potato salad garnished with olives, and three slices of kosher dill pickles. On top of the pickles sat two lovely red, ripe strawberries.

One of the newest tips coming out of City Hall was to the effect that one-time Sun-Press reporter Bob Wilkinson, who deserted Cleveland Heights to edit a newspaper in Niagara Falls, will return to this area as Commissioner of Inspectional Services. We welcome him back. Jim Keller will now concentrate on zoning matters, according to the rumors.

Someone told me that there has been a poster around calling for writers to help prepare a parody of CVN. I'd love to have a copy to mount in my office. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

The CVN will not be published during August to allow your editors a respite from the never ending responsibility of coming up with yet another "interesting and informative issue." Dates and times of the August meetings will be found with the meeting notices and in the Community Calendar. See you in September.

--bobbie littell

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION REPORTS TO COUNCIL

by

Barbara M. Littell

Awarding Affirmative Action and Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) charter status, and changing the role of the City Manager (CM) on the Planning Commission (PC) and the BZA are some of the major changes recommended by the Cleveland Heights Charter Review Commission (CRC) in its final report approved July 1.

The Commission recommended that an article establishing an Administrative Services Commission to guarantee that Affirmative Action standards be applied to all employment, appointments to boards and commissions, and contract awards for services. This issue was raised by Harold Thomas at the May 24 public hearing and endorsed by the Cleveland Heights Democrats. There was a large turn out for the discussion of this issue, in which blacks outnumbered whites by about five to one.

The functioning of the Planning Commission and the role of the BZA were called into question by architect Philmore Hart, also at the public hearing. The commission decided to sidestep the charge to the PC, and recommended that the BZA be established by Charter, as is the PC, rather than by ordinance. It passed Hart's recommendation on to Council for its consideration. The Commission felt that with their original charge and their given time constraints they could not adequately study Hart's plan.

Examination of the role of the City Manager in relationship to the PC was part of the charge given the CRC by Council. The CRC felt that the CM's role was one of an advocate for the city administration's position in regard to a given issue before the PC, and that the PC's role was to weigh all sides and take action or make recommendations for action to Council. The CRC felt that this was not facilitated by the CM being a voting member of the PC.

Other changes recommended by the CRC regard: qualifications for Council candidates; some of the procedures for filing petitions for placement on the ballot and for write-in candidates; procedures for referendum petitions; for authorization of an independent audit; and changing the internal tax limitation to make it consistent with state standards.

Some general changes recommended were that a non-discrimination clause be added to Article II regarding powers of the City; and that the language of the changes made in the current revisions be as gender-free as possible.

The Commission recommended that no change be made regarding other procedures for petitions for placement on the ballot contained in their charge; and for initiative petitions; the procedure for the election of city council (at large) and choosing of the mayor; in the appointment of the city manager; and in the salaries of mayor and council.

The CRC was convened by Council in April to review the charter and make recommendation for revision. In its charge Council delineated seven areas which it thought ought to be considered. The CRC studied these areas as well as the issues raised by the public, their own reading of the CH Charter and the charters of other similar communities, and testimony from experts in various areas under consideration.

The Commission held 9 meetings over a two month period. "It was impressive to observe the seriousness and diligence with which the Commission members approached their job," said chair Janet Burnside. The deliberations centered on "what makes sense." As one Commissioner said "If it's not broken don't fix it." The Commission's recommendations in a large measure modernize a number of technical matters making them consistent with current trends in state law and current requirements in petition and election procedures, Burnside said.

The next step in the process will be for Council to "digest the Commission's recommendations" and begin to prepare legislation to place changes on the ballot in November. The deadline for this is in early September, according to Mayor Alan Rapoport. Council has scheduled a special meeting for Monday, August 30 to consider this legislation. State law requires that charter (Continued on Page 12)

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH-DOG: A COVENTRY COMMUNITY CENTER - THE CONCEPTION

The nuptial couch for this conception was the move of Sunshine II to a choice new location, right near Irv's Discreet Bar. To their credit, Sunshine II has placed clothing and jewelry at the front, drug paraphernalia at the rear. The word is that the old location will be turned into a clothing shop, word met with skepticism by PTA types.

Coventry PTA has reacted on two fronts, first by requesting City Council to look into legislation to regulate (not ban) head shops. The request is supported by Roxboro Jr. High and Hts. High PTAs and by the PTA Council Executive Board. Legal research is needed to determine what laws have been supported by the Supreme Court, and what laws would be appropriate to the Cleveland Heights situation. The PTAs recognize the right of adults to buy items that are sold legally. The PTAs also believe in the right of children to protection from enticement toward either drugs or alcohol use. The PTA believes that both rights can and must exist together in our community.

On the second front Coventry PTA has invited Hts. High PTA, Roxboro Jr. High PTA, agencies, young people, parents, neighborhood organizations, and interested citizens to join in exploring the possibility of forming a youth center on Coventry. PTA views such a center as presenting a symbolic statement of community concern toward youth that is not now evident on Coventry. Thirty-six people attended the first meeting at Coventry Library on June 17. A smaller steering committee met on June 24, attempting to focus the many ideas so as to bring them back to the larger group for further action. An exciting development is the addition of three junior high and three senior high school students to the steering committee. Participating as equals, they have ideas, and bring view points of the young to keep the adults in touch with reality. They see that they are not alone in floundering and groping for concepts to move us ahead.

At present the feeling is jelling toward the idea that the age range of 11-16 needs a social center and activities of a sort not now provided; also that the center should target the normal range of young people, not the children with problems, for whom there are already many therapeutic services in the community. The program ideas seem to be fusing toward the following components: 1) a social center, with adult supervision; 2) a resource for education and referral for supplementary services of many kinds; 3) fun and creative activities; 4) public service activities, by and for the youth and adults in the community. The involvement of the young people themselves in the planning and carrying out of programs is a core principal, exemplified by their presence on this planning committee. Group members keep bringing up the possibility of having a real "community" center, serving other age groups as well, possibly at times when the young people are at school.

This is not just an impossible dream. The feeling is strong, especially in the younger people, that we will accomplish. Our next steering meeting will be at 7:30 PM on Thursday, July 8, at the Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road. We will focus on examining models for service already existing in the community. From this we hope to clarify further what we want, and how best to get it.

There is lots of room for any of you interested in joining our effort to move The Coventry Community Center idea from conception to birth. Non-parent adults, senior citizens, young people, parents, merchants, educators, therapeutic types, are not only welcome but needed. One of the students said afterward, "I've never been part of the work and thought that goes into making something like this happen. When we get it, I will feel so proud!" If you would like to be part of the thinking and working bunch that will feel proud, come to our next steering committee meeting. Or call me at 371-7698 if you would like more information.

-- June C. Wortman

