



Coventry Village News

JULY, 1983

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Vol. VII No. 7

A FOND FAIRWELL TO PETER

Coventry lost one of its pioneers and leaders recently when Peter Schliewen, owner of Record Revolution, was killed in a driving accident on Shaker Boulevard on Thursday, June 16. The death has been duly reported and discussed, but the impact is only just being felt. Sometimes you just take the presence of a person for granted. Only when they leave do you find out how much they meant to the community and the people in it.

Many people will only remember Peter as the owner of the record store, or as the person who sued Parma over its drug paraphernalia ordinance. That is unfortunate. Those of us who knew him a bit better will remember so much more.

Some of us will remember the first merchant to care about the appearance of his storefront, a man who loved flowers and who personally washed down the sidewalk many mornings. We will remember him as a good merchandiser who succeeded in business on Coventry in the early '70s when it was not easy. We will remember his support of each and every Coventry merchants organization and his unsolicited donations of money to keep the Coventry Village News alive.

We will remember other items as well. We will remember that Peter was an early supporter and trustee of the Free Clinic. He also organized efforts to hire off-duty police to patrol Coventry on weekend evenings and helped make a success of the summer youth work program under CETA to clean up the street.

There is so much more one could say. Peter was a tough, honest, principled, energetic, and hard-working guy. As one merchant noted, he was "a leader on Coventry who showed us the way." He was our neighbor and our friend, and he will be missed. It is fitting that the Street Fair will be dedicated to him this year. Peter would have liked that, I think.

Peter is survived by his wife, Janna, and two children, in addition to his many friends. Donations in his memory can be sent to the Free Clinic, where a plaque is being dedicated in honor of his work.

-- Alan J. Rapoport

CNI CELEBRATES 10th ANNUAL STREET FAIR

This years Coventry Street Fair, the tenth annual neighborhood celebration of summer, will be dedicated to the memory of Coventry merchant Peter Schliewen, killed recently in an auto accident. Coventry Neighbors invites you to join us for music, arts, crafts, food and fun.

There will be continuous musical performances on three stages. Performers will include Mr. Stress, I-Tal, Lost Bob and the Ozone Ramblers, Michael Spiro, John Bassett and many more. Artisans will display ceramics, painting, (Continued on Page 3)

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT. . .

SUMMARY - MAY 10th MEETING

- Accepted the resignation of Trustee Debra Heller.
- Accepted the date of October 29 for Second Annual Halloween Party.
- Endorsed Library Levy
- Moved to support Dan Gray's request of the Planning Commission for variance needed to open his new Deli/Restaurant.
- Heard a presentation from Jan Johnston from the Citizens Advisory Committee regarding applications for Community Development Block Grant funds.

AT THE JUNE 14 MEETING

Nominations were received to fill the vacancy on the board of Trustees due to the resignation of Debra Heller. Nominated were Larry Beam, Bobbie Littell and Bob Shields. Further nominations will be accepted from the floor at the July 12 meeting prior to the election.

YOUTH CENTER RECEIVES GRANTS

The Coventry Youth Center has recently received two grants totaling \$20,000 it was learned today. The first is from the St. Ann Foundation and the other through the George Gund Foundation through the aegis of the Greater Cleveland Neighborhoods Association. These grants provide matching funds to permit the release of the \$10,000 block grant from the City of Cleveland Hts. Combined with grants from the Eaton, Fox and Wolpert Foundations and from the Kiwanis Club of Cleveland Heights, the money will permit the center to hire a professional director. Further funds will still be needed to hire the additional staff necessary, pay the cost of using Coventry school, and cover business and equipment expenses.

The Coventry Youth Center board meets at 8 P.M. on the third Thursday of each month at 2728 Lanca-shire Road. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21. The Board welcomes anyone wishing to observe and/or join actively in its efforts to establish the Center. Further information may be obtained by calling the Coventry Youth Center, 371-3480.

COVENTRY VILLAGE. . . We Watch Out For Each Other

CNI CELEBRATES 10th ANNUAL STREET FAIR(Continued from Page 1)

leather goods, clothing and much else. Food stands will offer menus ranging from such standards as ribs and burgers through true delicacies offered by some of the neighborhoods' fine restaurants. Jugglers, mimes and clowns will perform and mingle with the crowd.

The fair will open for business at 3 PM on Saturday the 9th. "The Fanfare," part of the 10th Annual Celebration will feature a performance of "The Daffy Dan Coventry Village Kazoo Band and Chorus," at about 6 that evening, and a balloon lift-off will follow. Closing time will be promptly at 9 PM.

Activities will resume again at noon on Sunday. The Family Program will offer demonstrations of fencing, computers, and aikido and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department will take finger-prints of youngsters. At 5:30 PM, "The Masquerade," a costume contest, will offer awards in four categories--full costume, face painting, mask, and group. The Fair will close at 7 PM.

We hope you come--and enjoy yourselves.

We hope, too, that some of you will join us in doing the massive amount of volunteer work that makes the Fair possible. We still need people to work on the barricades, helping with problems at the points where streets are blocked to traffic. We also need energetic folk to help dispose of trash during the fair, and to sweep the streets each night, after it. All volunteers are supplied with free lemonadé, the young ones are fed, many are given official Street Fair t-shirts. All have fun and leave with a sense of accomplishment.

--Kathryn J. Young, Street Fair Chair

COVENTRY BOOKS TO CLOSE

by

Larry R. Beam

Coventry Books is going out of business. A final, court-ordered liquidation sale will begin on June 27.

It was losses at a second store, in Berea Commons, that killed Coventry Books, says proprietor Ellie Strong. "If I had never tried to open the Berea store, I'd have stayed in business in Coventry for ever," Ms Strong said. "I love Coventry, and the area has supported my business well."

Coventry Books opened its doors in 1972, amidst the Street's first strong surge of revival. The business expanded rapidly in its first three years, outgrowing its first location, the shop front that is now the entrance to Record Revolution. In moving to its present location, it replaced a construction contractor whose windows were among the least attractive in the neighborhood.

Like many small businesses, Coventry Books reflects clearly the personality and style of its owner. Ms Strong is one of the area's most active and involved merchants. She is a past president of the Coventry Merchants Association, and she spearheaded recent merchant efforts to obtain more parking for the neighborhood. Just a few weeks ago Cleveland Heights City Council allocated \$300,000 for that purpose. Ms. Strong was deeply involved in the development of the Coventry Village Improvement Program, part of a City program that uses federal government money to pay a substantial part of the costs of new signs and other improvements to store facades. Her business was one of the first to make storefront improvements assisted by that program.

She plans to remain involved in neighborhood merchant activities until additional parking is actually built. "I have to see it through," she said.

Ms. Strong plans to focus her future efforts on custom bookbinding and repair. Her services will be available through High Tide/Rock Bottom. She hopes eventually to start another business, this one concentrating on old and rare books.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:WEST SOMERTON ROAD GETS TREES

West Somerton Road is now GEORGE WASHINGTON AVENUE! Thanks to the City's help with a "Neighbors in Action" grant and their expert advise, 28 flowering cherry trees adorn the tree lawns. Under the direction of Emrick Sabo, City Forester, planting sites were selected at least 10 feet away from water and gas lines and well away from trees on adjacent yards or already on the tree lawns. Several sites had to be abandoned after bedrock was struck 6 inches below the grass. One water line miraculously escaped injury when a hidden "W" was discovered under the snow.

The Somerton Road Tree Committee wants to thank the local school children for not pulling up or moving the red and yellow yarn-flagged marker stakes. The entire Street population owes a vote of thanks to the following volunteer workers who freely give their Saturday, their ingenuity, and their muscle power to planting the trees (even though 7 of the workers would not have trees on their own tree lawns):

Bill Pello	Bob Peterson	John Hammond
Paul Alandt	Jane Teasley	John Eggar
Chuck O'Brien	Joe & Peggy Eggar	Jerry Troel
Bud & Shirley Ricketts		

The Tree Committee will bring additional fertilizer around in late Spring but urges the homeowners to keep the trees well watered and under a watchful eye.

-- Somerton Road Tree Committee:
Shirley Ricketts & Peggy Eggar

BURWASSER SPEAKS AS BURWASSER

At recent Cleveland Heights Council Meeting, CNI President David R. Burwasser addressed Council as David Burwasser, private citizen. In his remarks Burwasser was critical of the city managers' apparent attitude towards representatives of the School and Library Boards. He clearly introduced the issue of the managers' public behavior into the councilmanic race.

During the coming fall campaign Burwasser may not be the only member of CNI to speak publically of his private views.

A few weeks ago he addressed a public hearing on Viacom's request for a rate increase. In a local newspapers account of the event he was identified as associated with Coventry Neighbors, Inc., a fact that he did not mention at the hearing but that was introduced by the reporter as identification.

There is some danger that what CNI officers or activists say in public might be taken to reflect the attitude of the organization. This is very far from the case. Anyone who attends more than just a few CNI meetings will be aware of the length to which the organization discusses every possible detail before voting to take a position on anything. Concern about this is uppermost in the minds of most CNI members and is reflected in the disclaimer contained in the stated policy of the Coventry Village News, "All opinions and statements are strictly those of the respective writers, except when clearly identified as formal positions of CNI, CVN or HCC."

It is hoped that on the pages of the CVN and in our political forums we can be free to express our differing, individual, private opinions without seeming to represent our organization.

-- Barbara M. Littell

PICK-N-PAY SITE TO BE REDEVELOPED

by
Larry R. Beam

The City of Cleveland Heights has received a developer's plan for the large-scale redevelopment of the Pick-N-Pay site and other land in that block. Because of sensitive land acquisition efforts currently under way City officials refuse to give any details of these plans. A formal announcement of the plans may be made as early as August.

Several other proposals for that site have been made in the last decade. A proposal made four years ago called for a new 30,000 square foot Pick-N-Pay store to replace the present 12,600 square foot store, about 30,00 square feet of additional shop space, and a large parking deck. The plan now being studied by the City may be a revival of this plan, or something quite new.

The land in question is zoned for the largest buildings allowed anywhere in Cleveland Heights. The Zoning Code identifies the entire block where Pick-N-Pay stands as a Special Development District--the same zoning category as the land at Cedar-Fairmount where a project known as The Top of the Hill has been proposed. The Top of the Hill, which would stand about 18 stories high, and contain many shops, restaurants and offices in its lower levels, received most of the necessary approval from the City earlier this year.

LIBRARY NOTES

by
Debbie Graves Shoup, Librarian

The Summer Scoop Reading Program will continue the whole summer at Coventry Village Library. Children who are able to read up through those who have completed sixth grade are welcome to join the program, read ten books and join us for a special finale at the end of the summer.

Don't miss the first Summer Concert on the Playground, July 17 at 3 PM. Tapestry, a classical woodwind trio will perform for families, and neighbors. This is co-sponsored by Coventry Elementary School PTA and the Friends of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library. Hope the whole neighborhood will come out for it !!!

In case of rain, Coventry Library will be the concert site.

LIBRARY SCHEDULE FOR JULY

- July 5, 12 - Preschool evening Storytime 6:45 PM
- July 6, 13, 20, 27 - Toddlers Storytime 9:30 AM
- July 6, 13, 20, 27 - Preschool Storytime 10:30 AM
- July 6, 13, 20, 27 - TRS - 80 Orientation 3:30 PM
- July 7, 14, 21, 28 - TRS - 80 Orientation 7 PM
- July 11, 18, 25 - TRS - 80 Orientation 3:30, 7 PM
- July 17 - 3 PM Concerts on the Playgraoud - "Tapestry," a classical woodwind trio

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NOMINATIONS BEING SOUGHT FOR IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

September 1, 1983 is the deadline for nominations for this year's Annual Community Improvements Awards sponsored by the City of Cleveland Heights and the Heights Community Congress.

In order to qualify for consideration, the improvements must be visible from a public right of way and may be: additions, restorations, renovations, new construction, painting and maintenance which may include exterior facades, interior treatment visible from the outside, exterior spaces, sitting areas, landscaping, graphics, lighting, street furniture and signage.

Anyone may nominate any improvement made to any place or property in Cleveland Heights since 1975.

A committee consisting of Philmore Heart, Chair, Lois Cooper, Ken and Gretchen Foran, James Jensen, Terry McGowan, Casey Medley and Elaine and John Szilagyi will select from those nominated projects which meet the following selection criteria:

- value to the improvement of the community;
- catalyst to encourage others to upgrade their physical environment;
- respectful of surrounding places, spaces, buildings & people;
- provides social, economic and/or aesthetic benefit to the community.

Each project selected will be awarded a Certificate of Recognition and will become eligible for an award. A panel of 5 jurors selected from the community will choose award winners in each category whose projects go beyond the ordinary in aesthetic appeal and clearly enhance the physical environment of the neighborhood.

The award Display & Presentation will be held in October at the Jewish Community Center. Nomination forms may be obtained by calling the Heights Community Congress office at 321-6775.

STREET TALK

It feels like there is something in the mind--"Daffy" Dan Gray, who was so hot to get his restaurant open for Street Fair, has cooled and has made little progress of late. He is not talking. Could that have anything to do with the fact that the City has received new plans for the Pick-N-Pay parcel? Adding to the uncertainty comes the unfortunate closing of Coventry Books and the untimely death of Peter Schleiwen. Many people are wondering what happens next on Coventry

Rumor has it that an unidentified party is negotiating for the purchase of Coventryard, Ritleyard, and the three apartment buildings on Lancashire, behind Coventryard. The prospective purchaser says he is going to raze the apartment buildings to provide parking for the Yard and other commercial buildings. Other parties, including Ken Ross, the owner of several near-by buildings, and the City of Cleveland Heights, may become involved in this matter.

Yet another rumor concerns an apparently unrelated proposal which calls for the division of large apartments in several buildings in the area. Three or four suits would be made of the existing large suits. Three buildings would apparently be involved. This matter would, of course require the approval of the Board of Zoning appears.

I asked Gray, what's with the t-shirts?" and learned that he sold the t-shirt business a while back to a Joe Tracy from Strongsville who serves as president of Dan Enterprise, Inc. which runs 13 of the t-shirt shops, which at one point numbered 23, Custom Screen Printing, and Advance Midwest Knitware, the national distributor for Hanes t-shirts. Gray is a member of the Board and serves as a consultant on promotion and marketing. "Daffy Dan's T-Shirt Shop" on Coventry has recently been remodelled. They have a bright new look with many new items of knit fashionwear. Stop in and say "hello" to Ann Oswald, manager.

Gray says he got involved in this newest venture because he loves Coventry and can't stay away.

(Continued on page 8)

COALITION FORMS AT TOP OF CEDAR HILL

A group of neighbors from the Cedar/Fairmount shopping district, lead by residents of the Buckingham Condominium on Euclid Heights Boulevard, have formed the Cleveland Heights Gateway Coalition - An Association of Neighbors Dedicated to Preserving the Residential Character and Architectural Heritage of the Cedar Hill Neighborhood.

The Coalition sponsored a rally on June 13 to protest the Top of the Hill high-rise project proposed for the point of land at the intersection of Cedar and Euclid Heights.

Between 100 - 150 residents and media representatives attended. An 18 ft. drawing was mounted on the side of the Buckingham depicting how the project will tower over the surrounding area but the planned helium balloon to demonstrate the height of the proposed building failed to materialize.

It would seem that the Coalition is yet another example of the political process at work. If people feel strongly about a cause they need to get out and work for it. If enough people work hard enough-for long enough-they can have an impact on their neighborhood. It worked in Coventry.

-- Bobbie Littell

CNI ENDORSES REQUEST FOR COUNTY SPECIAL ED PROGRAM

At the June CNI meeting Tom Furgerson of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board described the Cuyahoga County Board of Education's Early Intervention Center (EIC) of the Positive Education Program which wishes to rent empty classrooms at the Coventry Elementary School. The School has applied to the City for the necessary variances and they would like our support of this request.

The EIC serves pre-school children from the eastern part of Cuyahoga County who are developmentally delayed, who have language disorders, and who have had behavior problems. An Individual Educational Plan is developed for each child in cooperation with the sending school system.

A staff of four professionals and three aides develop social and academic competencies in the child and provides a structure in which parents learn the skills necessary to work with their own children. Parents participate in the program as aides to the professional staff.

The school day for children and parents who attend together is 9 AM - 12 noon. A special class for 6 - 8 children is also conducted for a normal school day with dismissal between 3:30 - 4 PM. All professionals are certified as special education teachers through the Ohio Department of Education.

The program is funded by special education allocations and Early Childhood Grants from the Ohio Department of Education. Tuition is paid by the sending school district.

Coventry Neighbors voted to endorse the School Boards request for the needed variances so that the rooms might be rented for this program.

-- Bobbie Littell

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

YOUR DUES ARE DUE.

MEMBERSHIP BLANK ON BACK PAGE

SEND IT IN TODAY!!

STREET TALK (Continued from page 6)

Congratulations to the Merchants Association on their newsletter "On the Street." It looks good--and welcome, too, to their new editor and administrative assistant, Cheryl Neal-Reed. We are all overjoyed to learn that the CMA's Parking Campaign seems to be going so well. The next few months, however will be the important ones. The City has applied for monies to allocate for parking in Coventry. Now it is up to us to get together and agree on what would be best for Coventry.

Since we won't be publishing in August be sure to mark your calendar NOW with the date of the second of the two Summer Concerts on the Playground at Coventry Elementary School, August 7 at 3 PM. Featured artists will be Hot Foot Quintet, a local Bluegrass Band.

Jean Harper of the City's Community Relations Department, who has been our contact person tells me that they have split her Roxborough/Coventry district in two and hired a new person for Coventry. She is Ella Holly. She has lived in Coventry for three years. Welcome aboard, Ella, we look forward to meeting you.

There were two trees cut down on Coventry. One in front of Trapezoid and one in front of the Russian Deli. I asked Greg, the beat cop, about it and he found out they were cut down by the city because they had been damaged either by vandals or weather and would be replaced in the fall.

I have been a little upset by one Coventry merchant who consistently stands outside of his place of business and "hawks" his merchandise. That kind of hard sell is unnecessary. If he wants to improve his business he could use some of the more effective means: improve his prices, the quality of his product or the atmosphere in which they are available. Going out into the street and bothering passers-by is an annoyance that drives away more people than it attracts.

David's Cookies plans to be open for Street Fair. Looking through the window it would seem they have tiled the whole place. . . The new Fish Store is a welcome addition to our street. It has good, fresh fish available, and they'll cook it for you on the spot. What a boon for these hot summer days. . . It's good to see Coventry's John Kelsey up and around 'bout as spry as ever after his recent stroke.

I hear Chris Webb from Hampshire and the cast of Pacific Overtures at Cain Park are doing a great job. It runs through August. From what I hear it sounds pretty good--Chris lives across the ally from me, and he sings in the shower. The news of Peter Schleiwe's accidental death came as a shock that Friday morning for he was one of the "street people" He was a "Coventry" merchant. As a merchant he was in business to make money--and he was good at it. He ran a successful operation because he knew what he wanted to do and he did it. He was on Coventry because he seemed to have little tolerance for the status quo--one of the things that makes a "Coventry" merchant. He cared about Coventry and his store--how it looked. His bold black and white awning, the flowers made Record Revolution stand out like a shout. He cared about the people. He listened sympathetically to the PTA's concerns about some of the products he sold being displayed to tempt children. He moved them to more inconspicuous locations. He organized and, at first, was sole support of the after-hours police protection now provided by the merchants after the regular patrolman goes off duty at 10 PM. The young musicians he encouraged were countless. Lee Erdorff, who owned the now defunct Express said "without him the paper not have provided an opportunity for many aspiring journalists to be published."

Peter viewed Coventry as a place for business and as a way of life. A man whose personality highlighted the street, and smoothed off the rough edges of the street.--Jeff Erdorff, Manager, Turkey Ridge.

"He was a man full of life, a rare individualist. He did not seek trouble, but if pushed he stood his ground and pushed back--hard." --David R. Burwasser, Pres.

Sometimes charming--sometimes abrasive, Peter has been important to the evolution of Coventry. He made a difference--his absence will be felt for a long time.

-- Bobbie Littell

COMMUNITY WATCHDOG: Encouraging Odds and Ends

COVENTRY COMMUNITY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCLAC): still functioning. It will serve as a coordinating committee for activities sponsored and organized by clusters of interested people. Examples of ideas being considered: poetry writing for young people, adults, or both; performances by talented young composers and musicians who might otherwise have difficulty getting audience exposure; meetings of parents concerned about their teen-agers and wishing to prevent involvement with drugs and alcohol; an informational workshop for those wanting to know about how to deal with foreclosures, either to help themselves or a friend; a series of travel slides by a local adventurous traveler. If any of you out there think of other possibilities or wish to help bring about those already mentioned, call Debbie Graves Shoup at Coventry Library (321-3400) or Rose Perlman, CCLAC chairperson at (371-3795). The next meeting of CCLAC will be on Monday, September 26, at 7 PM at Coventry Library meeting room. The library needs you, and you need the library. Please come.

TALENTED STUDENTS FROM THE COVENTRY AREA: Of the five top scholastic awards for the highest three-year achievement, four went to Coventry students who live within a two block area: Stacey Silverman, Ann Morris, Becky Wetmore, and Becky Wortman. Stephanie Gibson was honored for her high score on the state scholastic aptitude tests. Pam Geber and Becky Wortman received awards for their contribution to music, dance and creativity. Phil Strauss received recognition for being on the honor roll for three years, as did Lisa Romanoff and Jeannie Van Tassel. Ann Morris received the top award for contribution to sports. All these awards were given at the graduation ceremonies at Roxboro Jr. High in June. Coventry can take pride in the achievements not only of these students but all others who contributed. If I have missed any, please let me know.

ACTIVE CONCERN FOR STUDENTS WITH PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR EDUCATIONAL HANDICAPS: I am pleased to see an increase in active concern for these children. One example is the presence on PTA Council Executive Committee of Carol Gwartz (291-2564) who keeps all of us informed on new developments in the assistance provided by the state and federal governments, and how these are reflected in the programs of the CH-UH schools. A recent and welcome service are the day camps for educationally and physically handicapped now provided through the Community Services department under the direction of Mel Einhorn. Carol reports on the organization of a volunteer committee of parents and others interested in getting information on what is available and working toward the provision of services that ought to be available. If you are interested in learning more about this committee call Carol. In future articles I plan to feature more about the services actually available in our city. The places to call for information, and also the lacks in the present services. In the meantime, if you want information, start with Carol Gwartz.

SUGGESTIONS WELCOME: I am always searching for subjects of interest for my column, either to recognize and inform about good things that are going on, or to point out service lacks or problems in service delivery. I would also welcome contributions from anyone who wishes to be a guest columnist. Every month I say I am too busy to write this column, but every month I am hooked on another one. How often does some one as opinionated and social action oriented as I am get offered a free soap-box? To the editors, both past and present, who have had the wisdom, the courage, and generosity to give me such scope, my thanks. I'm afraid you're stuck with me. I will enjoy my brief vacation; hope you will too.

-- June C. Wortman

