



Coventry Village News

September, 1985

Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

BISTRO TO ADD BAKERY AND GOURMET FOOD OUTLET

Alton Doody & Co. has committed itself to plans for a French bakery and true gourmet food store to Coventry Village. It will be located in the large--more than 3,000 square foot--space at 1824 Coventry once occupied by Coventry Books, and more recently by a low-quality bakery and food store.

No name has yet been selected for the business, and plans remain sketchy. There will be some seating. Mr. Doody and his staff say that Bistro des Artistes, the restaurant they're building across the street, at 1823 Coventry, will have first priority. Construction work began there on September 23; Mr. Doody hopes to be open by December 1.

STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE WITH STRONG LDC INCENTIVE

The commercial area of Coventry Village is taking on the fresh look of tasteful, old architecture thoughtfully restored.

Extensive work, including new signs, much rebuilding, and paint was completed this summer on the facades of twelve Coventry Village businesses. Improvements have begun on at least six more. Plans for several others are still in discussion stages. Few if any of these projects would have been considered without the large financial incentives provided by the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC). The LDC is an arm of the municipal government which distributes Community Development Block Grant money to encourage the revitalization of older business districts in all of Cleveland Heights.

Charles Owen, a past President of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., (CNI) is chairman of the LDC committee that reviews storefront renovation plans before financial assistance is granted. Owen's committee insists on genuinely thorough and sensitive renovation and pays careful attention to design details before approving plans. Other CNI members who sit on the committee are Maryanne Rodeywald, Ralph Greve, and this reporter. The committee also reviews projects after their completion for compliance with original plans and quality of workmanship.

The eight businesses in the Coveham building (1773 to 1791 Coventry Road, just north of Hampshire on the east side) now have new signs, and re-built and freshly painted fronts. Though the project dragged on over more than two years, it is now finished. The project cost \$24,236.72. The LDC will pay a rebate of more than \$11,700 to the building's owner, William Ross Realty.

Just to the south of that building, the four business tenants of the building that includes Coventry Laundromat (1793 to 1801 Coventry Road) also have handsome new signs and awnings. A battered blue and white metal covering was removed from the building. The brick underneath was extensively repaired, and replaced where necessary. The project cost more than \$41,000. The subsidy from the LDC will total \$17,700. (Continued on page 4)

AVONDALE NEIGHBORS: A NEW ORGANIZATION IN NORTH COVENTRY

Avondale Neighbors is a recently-formed coalition of residents in the portion of Coventry Village North of Mayfield Road and west of City Hall. On Monday, October 7, the new group will meet to elect officers and set goals. The meeting will be held at 1632 Coventry Road, 7:30 PM.

The group has held preliminary, organizational meetings last month. On Sunday September 15, it sponsored a picnic gathering for children and adults. A local jazz band, called Strictly Instrumental, entertained. The group wants to thank these Coventry Village businesses for their support: Popcorn Parlour, Deli Delicious, Coventry Mart, the Saloon, Coventry Fresh Fish, the Corkscrew, Coventry Shoe Repair, Rainblue, Dolly's Attic, Tommy's, Passport to Peru, Grum's, High Tide/Rock Bottom, Oriental Imports, Irv's, Arabica, and the Inn on Coventry.

HALLOWEEN PARTY: OCTOBER 26

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will hold its annual Halloween Party of Saturday, October 26, from 8:00 PM to midnight in front of Coventryard.

There will be entertainment and a costume contest.

These parties, now in their fourth year, have been great fun and have attracted crowds averaging 1,000 people.

Julie Washington and Marion Fisher are co-chairs of the event.

HCC OFFERS FREE WORKSHOPS ON HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Heights Community Congress is offering a series of workshops designed to teach techniques for saving energy in the home. Some of the conservation measures offered can reduce your heating bills at no cost at all; all the measures discussed are low-cost.

Up-coming sessions will be on Monday, October 7, 7:30 PM; Wednesday, October 30, 7:30 PM; and Thursday, November 21, 7:30 PM

The workshops will be held at the Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation office, 2843 Lee Boulevard (near Mayfield Road).

Free energy audits and loans for energy-saving projects at interest rates as low as 5% are available to many households through this program.

Call the HCC at 321-6775 for further information and workshop reservations.

PLANNING BEGINS FOR 1986 STREET FAIR

Organizers of the 1986 Coventry Village Street Fair will hold their initial meeting on Monday, October 12, 7:30 PM at the home of Kathryn Young, 2504 Kenilworth Road (near Overlook).

Among topics to be considered at the meeting will be expansion of the fine arts programming, further increases in family activities, and the possibility of applying for grant money to off-set higher costs.

For more information call 321-3413.

JOIN COVENTRY NEIGHBORS TODAY

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STOREFRONT FIX-UP . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Plans for the facade of ABC Appliance (1782 Coventry Road) call for the construction of a new brick facade. The removal several months ago of an aluminum facing from the building revealed brick and masonry work that is beyond repair. A new sign will be recessed into the facade. Some details of the old facade, especially the stone shields set into its top portion, will be preserved. The project is expected to cost \$15,000 to \$20,000; the LDC will likely rebate as much as \$8,000 of that cost.

A new facade design has been approved for the the building at 1807 to 1811 Coventry Road; it houses Coventry Fresh Fish and Biashara, an import shop. New signs are already in place there. Green ceramic tile will be installed on the bulkheads below the windows, and goose-neck lamps will be installed to light the signs and the alley just south of the building. The south wall of the building will be painted beige.

Work began September 23 on the Bistro des Artistes, 1823 Coventry Road. The facade of that new restaurant should be complete by the end of this month.

Work on Heights Hardware (1792 Coventry Road) will begin soon. When finished, that facade will resemble the neighboring Sunshine Too, one of the first storefronts in the neighborhood to be fixed up with the help of the LDC.

--Larry Beam

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS CANDIDATES NIGHT

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will hold its traditional Candidates Night on Wednesday October 9, in the Multi-Purpose room of Coventry Elementary School.

The event will begin promptly at 7:30 PM with the candidates for Cleveland Heights City Council. Candidates for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education will take the podium at about 8:30 PM.

Arnie Rosenberg, editor of the Sun Press, will moderate.

The evening will be videotaped for broadcast several times before election day on Viacom's two community access channels. Consult Cableviews for exact times and dates.

The event is free and open to the public. The location is wheelchair-accessable. Bruce M. Hennes, President of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., is event chairman.

UNITARIAN SOCIETY GETS NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR, OFFERS CONCERT SERIES

The Unitarian Society of Cleveland has announced the appointment of Laura Silverman as its Music Director.

The Society has also announced a series of performances, to be known as the Coventry Village Concert Series.

On October 13, the series will offer a performance by the Mornington Lane Trio (Boris Chusid, violin; Eric von Baeyer, cello; and Laura Silverman, piano). The performance will begin at 4:00 PM, at the Society's building at 2728 Lancashire Road, Coventry Village. A donation of \$3.00 is requested. Other performances in the series are planned for December 8, February 10, and April 13.

For further information contact the Society at 932-1898.

AROUND COVENTRY . . .

FLOWERS . . . For the first time in the six years since the City installed nine planters on the sidewalks of Coventry's business district, flowers bloomed in them all summer long. All it took to keep them growing was a bit of water in the dry spells.

This was an especially good summer for flower gardens all over Coventry Village. Carefully-tended gardens bloomed in front of homes and apartment buildings. We even saw some flower boxes on fire escapes and rear sides of apartment buildings, where their life and color provide especially welcome relief from urban starkness.

Among businesses here, Metropolitan Savings set the pace, as usual, with superb landscaping and gardening. Tommy's Restaurant and High Tide/Rock Bottom also did handsome work.

In front of the apartment building at 2556 Overlook Road, tenants Kathryn Jennings and Mark Lasticon did thorough landscaping, all for their own satisfaction, without remuneration. They planted burning bush, azalia, rhododendron, weeping cherry, an apricot tree, and several other species. Their landlord has repaired a porch and painted trim.

At the old Superior School House and in front of the Recreation Pavilion, the City of Cleveland Heights did excellent and extensive flower plantings.

When the bushes the City planted at the bus stop across from Tommy's Restaurant were destroyed by pedestrians over the summer, the City replaced them with larger, more sturdy bushes.

It's only with efforts like these that the neighborhood can be kept looking good. Though this was the best summer we recall, we hope for even more flowers and such next summer.

FAT CHOY . . . For about two years now, a sign in the window of Irv's Deli, 1798 Coventry Road, has announced that a Chinese restaurant, called House of Fat Choy, will open soon. Now a kitchen for the Chinese restaurant has been installed in a back room that was once part of the restaurant. And remodeling of the former bar area is nearing completion.

NEW LIBRARIAN . . . Shonny Long, who for years has worked part-time as a childrens' and adult librarian at the Coventry Village Library, has replaced Debbie Graves Shoup as Branch Librarian. Mrs. Shoup will continue with the Library system, working part time at the Main Library on Lee Road. Stephanie Tyus, from the Main Library, will become a full-time Childrens' Librarian at Coventry.

HENNES JOINS HAP BOARD . . . CNI president Bruce M. Hennes has been appointed to the board of the Heights Area Project (HAP), an affiliate agency of the Jewish Community Federation. The HAP helps first-time home buyers with downpayments and rehabilitates homes in its target area.

FAREWELL . . . Tony Wagner, who for several years helped to distribute this newsletter, will move to South Florida in late October. After five years at the Turkey Ridge (1854 Coventry Road), Tony has accepted a job as food and beverage manager of the Lady Christina, a cruise ship based in Ft. Lauderdale. Tony says he'd like to stay in Coventry Village--but the offer of this job is too good to refuse. Tony sends special thanks and fond adieu to friends, business and personal, in Coventry Village.

FOR THE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF COVENTRY VILLAGE

by Bruce M. Hennes, Retireing President of CNI

Fourteen years ago I used to hang out with the hippies on Coventry Road. Wandering in and out of Generation Gap, Wards Folly, the Coventree, Tommy's and Cargo. I sensed a kinship with the other visitors to the Village. We were all there for refuge, but it wasn't home. The local merchants and residents all knew who we were--we weren't them. They were home. Graduated from college, got hitched, moved to Coventry. Realized it wasn't as much fun to live there as to visit. I also realized that just because Cargo was gone, the neighborhood wasn't going down the tubes. But who wants to live with absentee landlords, rotting garbage, a City Hall you can't understand, and the sinking feeling that the neighborhood is on the edge?

I ran into a scrawny kid named Rapoport who invited me to join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. It was a chance to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. The biggest problem came when we couldn't figure out the solution. But figure we did. We did Street Fairs, Halloween Parties, cable tv documentaries, fingerprinting of kids; we appeared before all the boards and commissions of the City; we made radio and tv appearances; we dried up Irv's, planted flowers and trees, and published the Coventry Village News. We even got one of us elected Mayor. We suffered through the recessions, the fires, and the lousy merchants (you know whom I'm talking about--the ones who park in front of their stores all day, won't join the merchants Association, and change their window displays about as often as Halley's Comet returns. We suffered through Ticketman Earnie, the media looking for street-corner drugs, the Seesaw Cafe, the empty storefronts.

Through it all our friends worked at Tommy's, the Heights Art, and Carroll Drug. We burrowed into City Hall, and found we could nudge along public policy (our moles still keep the City Manager on his toes). The incredulous looks on the faces of our suburban acquaintances began to change to ones of envy when they learned where we lived. We decided that the cops were great. Coventryard was born, died, was reborn, got real sick, and is about to be as good as new again. Out with the porn, in with the almost new. For every step back, we took two forward. (We've always had an empty storefront or two, and we always will.) Now the merchants even pay to have the trash the tourists leave in our home picked up. Our home. Front porch congeniality. Back fence friendliness. Commercial strip camaraderie. Where everybody knows your face, and, as noted local author Burt Stratton says, "when they know you, you get an extra slice of something on your sandwich."

We really do watch out for each other. I ought to know--the Prez of Coventry Neighbors gets all the calls. And while often the calls carry problems, the voices are optimistic. They know what we have done, what we are doing, and what we will do to help. And over 500 of them help us out each year. Together, we've pulled Coventry Village from the edge. This is my neighborhood. I am propertied and I am raising a family here. My goal ten years ago was to up-grade the neighborhood, but not gentrify it. We did it. We must continue. But it's time for new blood. Gotta go. Bye.

Restorations...

So You Want to Fix-Up an Old House; by Peter Hotton; illustrations by Marilynne K. Roach; published by Little, Brown and Company; copyright 1979; \$11.50.

This is the book every Coventry Village or Cleveland Heights homeowner ought to be given when he or she first takes up residence in this part of the world. From a quick look, you might conclude that Hotton had lived in Northeast Ohio while performing his basic research.

A closer look shows he leans towards New England/Colonial styles, as befits a writer who spent 12 years as the Boston Globe's "handman on call" and Home and Garden editor. But after trying out many such books over the years, I can vouch for the fact that the advice is sound, and as is often the case in fix-up efforts, timely. This is a good book to have around for Sunday morning emergencies, or just as insurance against Murphy's Law. It's also a good place to start before tackling almost any kind of around the house project.

Hotton avoids many of the pitfalls that characterize the vast majority of home fix-up books. When a particular project is likely to present unusual problems, he says so. When a shortcut is usually the right -- or probably the wrong -- thing to do, he points it out. The illustrations by Marilynne Roach are one of the nicest things about the book. Though wonderfully explicit, they retain a hand drawn feel that complements the tone and perspective of the author.

Hotton introduces his subject with a

review of the housing styles popular between 1700 and the postwar building boom of the late 1940's. Building from the ground up, he moves from foundations to beams and sills, to floors, to walls, to ceilings. There are chapters on woodwork, trim and finishes. For the energy conscious, on insulation and heating systems. For the ambitious, on electricity and plumbing.

Ever tried to refinish hardwood floors? Hotton's book provides sound advice, from the tools to rent, to the number of sandpaper sheets and disks you'll need.

Replace a sash cord? Here's all you need to know about taking apart a window's sidestop, sash and parting bead. Install a new garage roof? A clear discussion of the right way to lay new shingles over old, install drip edge on a flat roof, layer the felt beneath roll roofing.

It's more than just a fix-up book, however. If you'd like to approximate the wallpaper patterns that were originally used in your 60-year old home, Hotton has examples. If you wish your attic windows were a bit more decorative, he tells how to build insets that simulate the many-lighted windows of Victorian and Colonial homes.

The real genius of this book is that it covers the ground that needs covering, and doesn't get bogged down in the stuff of dreamers or Home Beautiful remodelers. This is hands-on advice about the type of work most people need done in an old home, and can do themselves. I am sure that if Stewart Brand were still compiling his *Whole Earth Catalog*, Hotton's book would be wholeheartedly cited at the appropriate place. It's available from the Coventry Village Library, and from Mac's Paperbacks, 1846 Coventry Road. -- JRI.

LIBRARY GOINGS-ON

A discussion of organizations in Coventry Village will be the first in a new series of programs at the Library. On Sunday, October 20, at 2:30 PM, representatives of the Coventry School PTA, Coventry Neighbors Association, and Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will discuss the questions, "How I view Coventry Village today," and "What impact does my organization have on Coventry Village?"

"Spooky Games," a Halloween happening for school-age children, will take place on Tuesday, October 29, at 2:30 PM.

Fall programs for children will begin on Wednesday, October 2. Toddler Storytime, for children two and one half through three, will be held on Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, through November 20.

Pre-school Storytime, for children three through five, will meet on Mondays at 2:00 PM (October 7 through December 17), on Tuesdays at 6:45 PM (October 8 through December 17), and on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM (October 9 through December 18).

Once Upon a Storytime, for school-age children, offers stories, crafts, and special programs. It meets on Tuesdays at 2:30 PM, (October 8 through December 17). One of the planned special programs will be presented by Robert Josa of the Cleveland Museum of Art; Mr. Josa's program, to be held on November 12 at 2:30 PM, will be called "Stories are a Fine and Fun Art."

A program on employment resume preparation will be offered by Mike LaQuarta, of Cuyahoga Community College, on Monday November 18, 7:30 PM.

Coventry Village Library is very proud of the eighty-seven children who were awarded certificates last month for their participation in the Summer Reading Club. Here are their names:

Iona Armstrong, Ben Beer, Charlie Beer, Alica Clayton, Michelle Conrad, Sarah Estill, Marina Gersberg, Laurel Glazer, Megan Goss, Shannon Goss, Kares Horton, Debbie Hyatt, Lisa Krec, Andy Leyda, Basheer Lotfi-Fard, Elizabeth Martin, John Martin, Sarah Martin, Ruth Martin, Rachel Martin, Cecilia Ortiga, Robin Penick, Sharonda Penick, Amy Potkalitsky, Nick Potkalitsky, Christina Price, Edwin Price, Angel Ruiz, Isadora Sicking, Daphne Sicking, Ursula Sicking, Srdjan Sobajic, Tony Wheeler, Joseph Bromley, Judy Bromley, Joscelyn Langholt, Daniel MacDonald, Elizabeth MacDonald, Victor Matos, Angel Matos, Amoreena Matchette, Lashon Kilburn, Terence Rollins, Delonta Rollins, Diana Trent, Julie Wicker, Emily Westlake, Carrie Westlake, Rebecca Hotz, Wendy Foulis, Robynne Foulis, David Karges, Caroline Karega, Betsy Griesop, Mandy Taft, Becky Crall, Janet McLaughlin, Lyn McLaughlin, Paul Hirsh, Nathan Johnson, Darcy Bellamy, Sarah Bellamy, Carl Miller, Emily Miller, Becky Silverman, Nat Dinga, Keturah Stephans, Erin Foster, Marc Sevastopoulus, Rabecca Alandt, Mathew Alandt, Jason Kozina, Jenney Anderson, Sarah Johnson, Samuel Greenspan, Dennis Donchak, Peter Gephardt, Miriam Gephardt, Ben Gephardt, Lizzy Gephardt, Tim Garon, Kitty Sillers, Doug Sillers, Hilary Garon, Meg Connell, and Beth Connell.

FOR A GIFT, MUCH THANKS

Many thanks for the recent donation of a filing cabinet to Coventry Neighbors, Inc., from Sky Arsinchuck. The donation is appreciated, and will be put to good and productive use.

HCC SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR BERNICE E. LOTT MEMORIAL AWARD

The Heights Community Congress (HCC) is accepting nominations for its annual Bernice E. Lott Memorial Award. The winner of the award will be announced at the HCC's annual meeting on November 17. Nominations should be sent to the HCC, 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights OH 44118, by November 8.

The Lott award goes to outstanding citizens whose commitment, dedication, and work in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights area has best exemplified the mission and goals of the HCC.

These goals include an open and equal housing market in Cleveland Heights-University Heights, and in all the eastern suburbs of Cleveland; an organized, informed citizenry, able to act effectively through neighborhood groups and other organizations; and a quality physical environment which is safe, structurally sound, and attractive.

For further information, call the HCC at 321-6775.

DILIGENT HOMEWORK GETS RESULTS FOR ECOLOGICALLY-CONCERNED MAN

Richard Miller likes to hike in Forest Hill Park. He enjoys the natural vegetation and terrain preserved there. The park provides place where Miller can be walk and enjoy the solitude of being with nature, and it's just a few blocks from his Coventry Village home.

Three years ago, Miller became offended by the fetid and apparently polluted condition of Dugway Brook, which runs through the park.

Recently, he has persuaded the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland to promise work on the problem of that polluted stream. He has obtained more than seven hundred signatures on petitions, and has persuaded the League of Women Voters to back him.

Last year, Miller took samples of water from the Dugway Brook to a qualified laboratory for analysis. That laboratory found fecal coliform bacteria "too numerous to count" in the samples; these bacteria are a sure sign of contamination with human bodily waste.

Last month, he had samples from the brook analyzed for floride content. The presence of florine, used to treat drinking water, is another certain indication that sanitary sewer flows are finding their way into Dugway Brook.

The pollution, Miller learned, is the result of problems with sixty-year-old storm and sanitary sewers not built by the standards required today.

The immense cost of replacing the problem sewers means that only partial solutions are possible for the time being. But Miller's diligent work has focused attention on the problem, and is likely to result in at least regular monitoring of the problem by involved local governments. --Larry Beam

COMPLETION OF PARKING LOTS EXPECTED IN OCTOBER

New Municipal Parking Lot 31, and re-built Lot 14, should be ready for use by the end of this month, according to Cal Caminati, Acting Planning Director. The lots are between Lancashire and Hampshire Roads, just east of Musicians Towers.

Coventry Village News
Heights Community Congress
2163 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights OH 44118

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DATED MATERIAL--PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General meeting Tuesday, October 9,
7:30 PM in the community room of the Coventry Village Library.
Everyone is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees meeting, Thursday, November 7,
7:30 PM at 1811 1/2 Coventry Road. This meeting is open to all
dues-paid members of CNI.

NOW is the time to join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Membership
includes a subscription to the Coventry Village News. Memberships
expire on December 31 of each year.

Please check one of the following for class of membership:

----- Individual (\$2.50) ----- Family (\$3.50) ----- Senior (\$1.50)

----- Just a subscription to the Coventry Village News (\$2.50)

I wish to make an additional tax-deductible contribution of -----

NAME ----- PHONE -----

ADDRESS ----- ZIP -----

I am now receiving the Coventry Village News YES .. NO ..

Please return this form with your check to:

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.