



Coventry Village News

September, 1986 Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., Vol 10 No 8

Disagreement over the Street Fair sharply divides CNI;
despite reports, decision to kill Fair isn't final
by Larry Beam, President of CNI

Dispute over the Coventry Street Fair has deeply and painfully divided Coventry Neighbors, Inc. (CNI). The question of holding another Fair, or some radically different event, will be prominent on the agenda of the September 9 meeting, to be held, as usual, in the Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road, at 7:30 PM.

The August Regular Meeting of CNI was devoted almost entirely to the Fair. Most in the residents who spoke at that meeting expressed strong feelings against the event. A meeting of the Fair Committee was set for Tuesday, August 26.

Fifty people attended that Committee meeting, held in a large conference room at the new Cleveland Heights City Hall. That meeting ended with a resolution to recommend to the general membership that the Street Fair, as we've known it in recent years, be pronounced dead.

The Committee recommendation also requires that careful study be given to the possibility of developing another, radically different, event. The new event would be much smaller, more focused on the values and character of Coventry Village, and more in line with the wishes of area residents and business people. It would probably be held in the fall, for just one day, a Sunday.

Plain Dealer and Sun Press coverage of the August 26 meeting reported prematurely that the Street Fair is dead. It may still be quite alive. All that has happened is that a Committee has voted to recommend an end to the Fair as it now is constituted. That recommendation will be voted on at the meeting of Tuesday, September 9. Everyone is welcome at that meeting, but only persons who have been dues-paid members for thirty days or more may vote.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICES TO BE ACCEPTED SEPTEMBER 9

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will accept nominations for Officers and Trustees at the Regular Meeting of September 9. Nominations will again be accepted at the Regular Meeting of October 14; elections will be held at that time.

Offices are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Trusteeships. Only persons who have been dues-paid members of CNI for thirty days prior to the October election may vote or seek office.

Participate in decisions affecting your neighborhood.
Join Coventry Neighbors, Inc., NOW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It was impossible to type-set the Coventry Village News this month because the equipment on which that's done was stolen by burglars in mid-August. We are seeking new ways to produce this newsletter. In the meantime, thanks to the generous supporters who allowed us to use their machines this month.

LIBRARY GOINGS-ON

Fall into the Library habit.

Join us for coffee the first Thursday of each month. Meet our staff, meet your neighbors, enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of the Coventry Village Library. Browse, borrow books, magazines, and records. The program begins on Thursday, September 4, at 7:15 PM.

Poetry Readings are held on the first Sunday of each month, at 2:30 PM. Everyone is welcome on September 7.

Children's Storytime starts in October. Register now, at the Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road. Phone 321-3400.

The Coventry Village Library has a collection of catalogs for Ohio colleges. There is also a career pamphlet file, and a collection of books and pamphlets on resumes and career opportunities.

The Library is proud of the numerous students who completed the Summer Reading Program.

COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS is published monthly, except in August, by Coventry Neighbors, Inc., in cooperation with the Heights Community Congress.

Editor: Larry Beam.

Editorial Board: Larry Beam, Kathryn J. Young, Jeff Solomen-Hess, Julie Washington, F. David Gill, and Marion Fisher.

Production Staff: Charles Owen, Bruce Hennes, Joe Bunda, and the Heights Community Congress staff.

All opinions and statements are strictly those of the respective writers, except when clearly identified as those of CNI, CVN, or HCC.

Anyone wishing to submit copy for the October issue may do so by sending it to the Editor, Coventry Village News, 2776 Hampshire Road, #1-B, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106. Copy must be received before September 17. No unsigned items will be published, but names may be withheld on request. Phone 371-6095.

GEORGE FITZPATRICK SHOW AT JOYCE PORCELLI GALLERY

A display of art by George Fitzpatrick will open on Friday, September 5, at Joyce Porcelli Gallery, 2021 Murray Hill Road. A reception will be held from 6:00 to 10:00 PM.

Fitzpatrick is Manager of the Coventry Cinema. The show is called "Word Drawings." The exhibition will continue through October 5.

Coventry Village . . .
where we all get along together
pretty well.

COVENTRY YOUTH CENTER FUND-RAISER ON SEPTEMBER 21

Coventry Youth Center invites everyone to a wine and cheese party featuring Dick Lurie and his guitar on Sunday, September 21, 4:00 to 6:00 PM in the home of Dr. Jane Kessler, 2720 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Heights.

Tickets are \$10.00; advance sale only.

Checks payable to Coventry Youth Center should be sent to Coventry Youth Center, 1825 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. Wine for the event has been donated by The Corkscrew, the gourmet wine and beer shop located at 1781 Coventry Road.

For further information, call 932-9785, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday.

HALLMARKS REVISITED

HEIGHTS HERITAGE TOUR 1986

Hallmarks Revisited, the tenth anniversary Heights Heritage Tour, a benefit for the Heights Community Congress, will be held on September 27 and 28. Sixteen sites, nearly twice as many as in previous years, will be available for touring. All the sites--landmarks, grand homes, and once humble chauffeurs' cottages--were among the favorite tour stops of previous years. Each is an exciting reminder of the uniqueness of Cleveland Heights.

For just \$7.00, you may join the Tour on Sunday, September 28, from noon to 6 PM. You will visit a home considered fit for a king, a home built around an interior swimming pool, a home built on the precipice of a ravine, the oldest home in Cleveland Heights, a home featured in a 1929 issue of Home and Garden, and the beautifully restored Garfield Monument.

Fantasize as you walk through a home once owned by a Count, and marvel at the fine details of houses built by wealthy Cleveland industrialists of another era. Enjoy tea in the Spanish courtyard of the Alcazar Hotel, and view a very special art exhibit in the Alcazar ballroom. More than fifty Cleveland Heights artists will be represented in this invitational show called "Home Is Where the Art Is." The show will remain open the week following the Tour.

Patrons of the Tour will enjoy the traditional Tour Preview Party the evening of Saturday, September 27. Patron tickets, which begin at \$50.00, include cocktails, the tour, prime rib dinner and dancing at recently-remodeled Judson Manor (formerly Wade Park Manor) in University Circle.

Tickets to the cocktail party at Bucknell Mansion (now part of Judson Park) include the escorted bus tour and cost \$25.00.

Hallmark Contributors are being sought this year for \$500.00. In addition to the dinner, tour, and party events, Hallmark Contributors will be invited to the art exhibit opening and to visit any of the tour sites on Sunday, September 28.

Advance purchase of tickets is suggested.

Groups and individuals are still needed to staff the tour

sites. A three-hour shift is rewarded with a two dollar reduction in the price of tour tickets.

There is no better way to see Cleveland Heights than to participate in the Heights Heritage Tour. Contributions support the Heights Community Congress, whose efforts focus on maintaining Cleveland Heights as an open, integrated community of the highest quality. This newsletter is among the many community efforts that would be impossible without the Congress.

For information and reservations, call the Heights Community Congress at 321-6775.

SERVICES FOR K.

There lived an old man in our neighborhood who with a broom, dustpan and grocery bag would every morning sweep the sidewalk and street gutters clean. He would spend hours performing his ritual and when he was finished the street was quite immaculate. Before machines, in a crowded medieval berg, in times of plague, perhaps, this occupation would have been termed "useful," but we, of course, have no use for such fastidious service here. Not really. He was, thus, an eccentric. In fact, we used to joke about getting him a shovel to clean up after the snow: that would have been something entirely useful.

The police found him early on the morning of July 8, lying in the street. His heart had stopped. He carried no identification, but the police knew that he lived in our building. They did not know who he was, however. To most everyone, he was just the crazy old guy who swept the street. So the police came ringing door bells here. There had been several burglaries in the building recently, so no one answered. It was, after all, 5:00 AM, and the residents were afraid, or thought it was a prank. The police, mindful of their duty, kept ringing.

Finally a sleepy citizen put on his bathrobe, came out on his balcony, and yelled, "What is it, for God's sake?"

"Is there an old man who's custodian of this building?" questioned the cop, looking up and scratching under his cap.

"There's a young man," replied the citizen.

"Is there an old man who sweeps the street in his pajamas who lives here?"

"That must be K."

"We just found him down the street. Heart attack."

The citizen scratched his head and looked away for a moment. The cop continued: "Does he live with anyone?"

"No."

"Any kin?"

"Not that I know of. What hospital did you take him to?"

"Well, uh, let me tell you, we found no pulse."

"Oh."

"Will you come to the Coroner's to identify the body?"

"Of course."

[Continued on next page.]

And so the policeman, having discharged his duty, went away. The citizen came in from his balcony, and sat down, perplexed. He considered carefully his obligation in this grave matter.

Later in the macabre hyper-reality of the Coroner's Office, he learned that K. had not yet arrived, he had to go to the hospital. At the hospital the receptionist asked him whom he was there to see. He told her that it was she who didn't know whom it was that he was there to see, and that that was why he was there--to tell her, that is.

The receptionist, becoming momentarily confused herself, offered a solemn apology.

In the tiny, cool room where they had put K., the intern pulled back the sheet; the fearful citizen nodded, and on the body tag "Joe Doe" was changed to read "K." The intern thanked the citizen for coming down, and assured him that he had been of service.

In this manner was the death of K., eccentric factotum, resolved. For those who have use for such intelligence, mark these words. ---William Weiss

A PARABLE

Once upon a time, a strange and unique animal began to visit a small village. It came once each year, for just two days. The animal was young and small, and most residents of the village came out to watch and celebrate its appearance. They were kind to it, fed it, and watched it grow far larger than any other animal in that part of the forest.

During much of the rest of the year, the villagers would fill spare time telling tales of the animal's last appearance, and planning for its next visit. Many of them prepared special treats for it. The animal began to expect more treats each year.

As the years passed, the animal grew larger and even larger. Word of its annual and wonderful appearance spread far and wide, and people from distant villages journeyed to witness its appearance.

As years passed, many villagers, especially older ones, began to tire of the animal's visits. It had grown so large that many villagers had come to fear it. It had once been playful, like a puppy, and everyone loved it. But as it became mature, it began to demand resources the village couldn't easily provide. So, one year, the men and women of the village had had enough of the animal's annual visits. They decided, this year, to drive the animal away. The children of the village did not understand why the elders did this.

When the animal came that year, the elders threw stones at the animal. Some of the stones hit their children, and other villagers who still welcomed the animal. But the wounds healed.

The animal disappeared and never returned.

And everyone lived happily everafter.

---Anon

Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
c/o The Heights Community Congress
2163 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights OH 44118

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ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Time Value--please deliver before Friday September 5

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. General Meeting, Tuesday September 9,
7:30 PM, in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Library.
Everyone is welcome.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Trustees meeting, Thursday, October 9,
8:00 PM at 2929 Washington Boulevard. The meeting is open to all
dues-paid members of CNI.

JOIN Coventry Neighbors, Inc., NQH. You must be a member to vote
on the issues decided at our meetings. All memberships expire at
the end of each year; we are now offering memberships at half the
usual price.

Please indicate the class of membership you want:

_____ Individual (\$2.50) _____ Family (\$3.50) _____ Senior (\$1.50)
_____ Just a Subscription to the Coventry Village News (\$2.50)
I would like to make an additional tax-free donation of \$ _____

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