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# Coventry Village News

January, 1988

The Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Volume 12 No. 1

## ***Two officers to be elected CNI meeting on January 12***

Due to the recent resignations, CNI will elect a new Vice President and a new Treasurer at the regular membership meeting of Tuesday, January 12, 7:30 PM, at the Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road.

Everyone is welcome at these meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

At last month's meeting, on December 8, Spencer Caress, Director of Community Services for the City of Cleveland Heights, listened to suggestions for the redesign of the small park in front of Coventry Yard. It was suggested that the new park be better lighted, and that it be made less vulnerable to abuse by its users. Others suggested that better shielding from traffic be provided, that seating be increased, and that the new design accommodate performances.

Caress said that he would carry CNI's suggestions to the architects who will do the actual design work. He said he would return with an early draft of plans as soon as one becomes available. Area residents will thus be afforded a genuine opportunity to participate in the planning of the project.

It was suggested that CNI might be willing to pay for some special sort of amenity in the park--something like a decorative water fountain. CNI has a reserve fund containing \$10,000, set aside for just such a project.

Mark Majewski, the City's Planning Director, shared plans for the re-building of the public parking lot across from Tommy's Restaurant. Interest focused on the strip of landscaping that buffers sidewalk from parking area. The plans called for a new bench there; one member suggested that the present bench be saved. Someone else suggested that

a fence be added, to prevent parkers from cutting across the landscaping.

Dianne Javier, the new proprietor of Irv's Delicatessen, and her partners participated in a long discussion of the application recently made for a liquor license there.

### **Summer Events**

Chris Martin will be working on promotion and public relations with the Events Committee. Ms. Martin has made similar contributions to events sponsored by the Heights Community Congress and other civic organizations.

Fliers soliciting the participation of artists in an Arts Festival set for Saturday, June 23.

### **Fund Raising**

Absolutely essential to the success of this summer's events is the effort to raise money to pay for them. That effort will begin this month.

Generous supporters can save us the trouble of sending a more personalized solicitation by giving now. Contributions should be sent to: Coventry Neighbors, Inc., 2776 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44106.

## ***Bistrot des Artistes, with new control, will become Hyde Park***

The Bistrot des Artistes (1825 Coventry Road) closed on New Year's Eve, exactly two years after it opened. The restaurant will undergo renovations during January. The facility will reopen in early February as Hyde Park Restaurant.

The new restaurant will be controlled by Rick Hauck, a Cincinnati, Ohio, restaurateur, who with other investors has purchased an interest in the business.

Hauck is Managing Partner in the

*continued on page 2*

## Bistrot . . . from page 1

Precinct Steakhouse, located in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Cincinnati. That establishment, which Hauck has operated since 1985, was recently voted "best restaurant" in *Cincinnati Magazine*. Hauck has moved to the Cleveland area and will devote full time to the Hyde Park.

Renovation plans call for the removal of the Bistrot's large murals. These will be replaced with some mirrors and antique sports photographs. A book case-like partition will be built between the bar area and the dining room. The front awnings, now green, will be recovered with a red fabric.

A piano will be installed near the rear of the bar. Hauck is seeking a pianist, ideally someone who can also sing, with repertoire of jazz, light contemporary, and classical. Hauck hopes to find one performer for whom this will be come a full-time job.

A television will be installed in the front of the bar. Hauck says that it will be used only for important sporting events.

Hauck describes the new menu as "American ... featuring steaks and fresh seafood." Typical offerings will be heavier than those of the Bistrot, with a stronger orientation toward meat and potatoes. Steaks will be of "select beef, dry-aged 28 days, cut from the sirloins and tenderloins on the premises," Hauck said. He said that Hyde Park will also offer three- to four-pound live lobsters, flown in daily from Boston. Other seafood dishes will include salmon,

swordfish, halibut, and sole.

Some of the appetizers and deserts will be prepared at tableside.

Prices for complete dinners will range from \$13.95 to \$18.95. That makes Hyde Park slightly more expensive than the Bistrot, which offered some dishes priced eight to ten dollars. It will be open for dinner only, seven days a week.

Hauck is confident that he can resolve the consistency problems which so troubled the Bistrot. He will bring with him his executive chef, Gregory Stepp, and maitre d', Mo Kavarian. A few key Bistrot staffers will be retained. —LB

## Approval likely for liquor at Irv's Deli

A hearing will be held during the first week of the year over the City's objection to the issuance of a license that would allow the sales of liquor for on-premises consumption at Irv's Delicatessen, 1798 Coventry Road.

The business was denied a liquor license after a similar hearing last year. Now, because ownership of the restaurant has changed, most observers believed it probable that the license would be issued.

The new proprietor, Dianne Javier, and her partners, Sheldon Strauss and Harlen Brick, met with the membership of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., (CNI) at the meeting of December 8. Javier described the things she's done so far to clean up the restaurant, and her plans for further improvements.

The most serious concern expressed in the lengthy and sometimes-heated discussion was the fear that somehow, Irv Gulko, the deli's former proprietor and still owner of the building, might come again to operate the liquor license. That fear appears now to have been laid to rest, since Javier, her partners, and a City attorney have all agreed to an unusual stipulation which might be added to the license, saying that Gulko could under no circumstances operate the it. It remains to be seen if such a stipulation will be acceptable to the state liquor authorities. —LB

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Opinions expressed in these pages are strictly those of the respective writers, except where clearly identified as those of CNI, CVN, or the

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## ***Land of Cockaigne, a wold premier at Dobama Theater***

*by Harriet Tramer*

From childhood onward, we have been taught that everyone makes his or her own reality. Sayings like "four walls do not a prison make" and "beauty in in the eyes of the beholder," although timeworn, impart these lessons. Watching *The Land of Cockaigne*, which opens January 23 at Dobama Theatre, works to make us more aware of the truths these words hold.

By most standards, this drama has no plot line. Rather, it simply depicts how the same story—a family celebrating a son's thirty-fifth birthday—could be played out with different moods prevailing. The first act, at least as director Jean Cummins envisions it, somewhat resembles "The Waltons." Joviality reigns as family members show each other support measured with good humor. The father, a retired professor, discusses his latest project: a book about the mystical land of Cockaigne, where happiness is assured by an accommodating environment. Fruit falls out of the trees and animals make easy meals.

During the second act, the mood darkens as the family members constantly harp at each other and find fault with everything. Although previously depicted as a "fun person," the wife's twin sister assumes a somewhat different persona. The laughs are still there; yet they are accompanied by revelations of drunkenness and physical abuse. Meanwhile, the son walks away from the situation; he does not even wait for the birthday cake to be served. The parents trade snide remarks, as any pretense of wedded bliss is shattered.

The third act clearly depicts "life as we know it," a middle ground of sorts. By most accounts, the family might be described as typical: neither exemplary nor troubled. Their Midwestern home is marked by neither wealth nor poverty.

Rather than involving himself in a writing project in his retirement years, the father is fighting a debilitating illness. The son attempts to support and nurture. However, it is clear that no big break is in store for him. Like it or not, he is locked into mediocrity.

"He is caught in the middle with no great chance for happiness," Cummins notes. "Any happiness he has is what he makes."

*The Land of Cockaigne* is a world premier by David Ives, who is associated with the New Dramatists Group, and the Yale School of Drama. It will run through February 6. Tickets are \$5 on Fridays and Sundays, and \$6 on Saturdays. Seniors and students pay \$3 on Fridays and Sundays and \$5 on Saturdays.

Showtimes are 9 PM on Fridays and Sundays, and 8:30 on Saturdays. The cast includes: Ron Newell, Marilyn Caplane, Karl Van Sickle, Michelle Meers, Marcia Mandell, and Carrie Quill.

## ***Library Goings-on***

The winter reading program, called Snow Trek, will run for six weeks, from January 11 through February 20. Children who complete the program by reading six books will be invited to a special recognition program at the end of February.

Dare to Dream, a dramatic presentation by James Spriggs Jr., will honor Martin Luther King, on Tuesday, January 12, at 2:30 PM. The program is funded by Friends of the Library.

Black History Month programs include Dance in the Afro-American Tradition, Tuesday, February 23, 2:30 PM; and How I Got Over: Black Gospel in America, with the Shaw High School Concert Choir, Thursday, February 18, 7:00 PM. These are funded by Friends of the Library.

Poetry readings are held on the on the first Sunday of each month at 2:30 PM. John Lewis Jones and Geoffrey Singer will read on January 3, and on February 7 the poets will be Eugene Harris and Mary Hopkins.

## ***Honda dealer opens; Jaguar to expand***

Within weeks of the opening of the sparkling new Motorcars Honda building at the former City Hall site, Jaguar Cleveland has announced plans for an expansion.

Jaguar has acquired the Shell gas station on the southeast corner of Superior and Mayfield Roads, along with a total of eight houses on Pryor Road and Superior. All will be razed.

Jaguar's plans include the construction of a new building to house its Jaguar, BMW, and Rover lines. Volvo sales and service operations will be moved to the now-vacant former site of Honda, at 1970 Lee Road.

Plans call for Pryor Road to be truncated about three houses south of Mayfield Road. A cul-de-sac will be created, apparently on some land that is now part of Cumberland Park.

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



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CORRECTION  
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DATED MATERIAL--PLEAS

The next regular meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will be held on Tuesday, January 12 at the Coventry Village Library.

The next meeting of the trustees of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., will be held on Thursday, February 4, 8:00 PM, at 1641 Hillcrest Road. The meeting is open to all dues-paid members.

**Join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. today!** You must be a member for at least 30 days to vote at our meetings. Join now. All memberships and newsletter subscriptions expire at the end of each year.

Please indicate the class of membership you want:

Individual (\$7.00)       Family (\$10.00)       Senior (\$3.00)

Just a subscription to the *Coventry Village News* (\$5.00)

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