COVENTRY VILLAGE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
FORMS

The new Coventry Village Business Association (CVBA), brought into existence at the behest of the City to contribute to local commercial area redevelopment planning, has already sent to City Hall two messages on that very subject. CVBA wants enforcement of Coventry area parking meters halted between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m. And it has presented a detailed redevelopment outline to the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) for expenditure of Cleveland Heights Fourth Year Community Development Block Grant funds.

CVBA consists of 45 business owners and landlords in the Coventry commercial strip; this is out of a total of 65 businesses on the street. Dues consist of a $50 Initiation fee (or in-kind equivalent) and an annual assessment of 10c per square foot for merchants and 3c per square foot for landlords. (Shopkeepers/landlords are assessed 13c/sq. ft.). At its November 10th meeting, CVBA elected a seven member Board of Trustees, who subsequently selected officers and committee chairs. Elected were: Frank Obernyer, chair of CVBA and co-chair for City and community liaison; Norm Kiljeski, vice-chair/secretary of CVBA and co-chair for liaison; Lou Kusner, treasurer of CVBA and membership chair; Tommy Fello, architectural review chair; Gene Rocco, maintenance chair; Chris Paton-Holder, promotion and advertising chair; and Irwin Sachs. Sachs is the only landlord on the Board; at the November 10th meeting a tie between Sachs and Dr. Phil Imperli was resolved by Imperli's unilateral withdrawal in recognition of the importance of having a landlord on the Board.

At the same meeting, CVBA voted unanimously to request elimination of parking meter enforcement between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m. (when the overnight on-street parking ban goes into effect) on Coventry and all adjacent streets and lots. This position was supported by a large majority vote at the following Coventry Neighbors meeting. The last time this issue was raised with the City, then City Manager William Lahman indicated that the meters were strictly enforced because the merchants wanted it that way. That information got a good laugh at the November 10th CVBA meeting.

The plan presented by the merchants to the CAC includes a call for improved parking; careful and citizen-responsive future planning; upgrading of conveniences, such as benches, public restrooms, and a neighborhood information center; consistency of shop front designs; and preservation of, and respect for, Coventry's uniqueness as a genuine asset to Cleveland Heights. CVBA has been notified of the existence of a Coventry Report that area residents drew up for the City in 1974 and CVBA will be looking into that document, as well.

The next meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will take place on Tuesday, December 13, 1977, at 8:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Society on Lancashire Road, across from Musicians' Towers.

NEW STORE HOURS — — — Coventry Merchants are extending their shopping hours for the convenience of their customers. They will have late evening hours on Thursdays and Fridays until 9:00 p.m. Support your local merchants!
STATE OF THE COMMUNITY REPORT

Well, why not. The President of the Country gets to say his piece on occasions, doesn't he? Now I'll take my turn to put forth some proposals about what CNI is, should be, can be, will be, and won't be in the year 1978.

First, what it is. CNI is an association of neighbors dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life in their neighborhood. It is a lobbying group, a social group, and continuing conspiracy. It is often altruistic, more often idealistic, occasionally realistic. It is not a fixed group either in membership or in structure. It is a vehicle whereby individuals can increase their individual power by pooling money, expertise, time, and energy. It has been effective in planning four Street Fairs, in distributing a newsletter, in lobbying for governmental action, and in keeping alive a "spirit of Coventry."

Next, what it should be. I feel that CNI should continue to be what it is. That will require dedication to the principle that neighborhood improvement is a non-partisan (but political) goal, requiring teamwork of neighbors, land owners, merchants, City Council, and City administrators. The old days of confrontation politics on Coventry are gone. CNI should be a constructive organization, with positive goals and solutions.

Next, what CNI can be. It can be the organization which helps organize plans to make the commercial strip more physically attractive. It can be the organization that pressures the City to improve its methods of housing code enforcement. It can be the organization which puts together a fifth Street Fair and other promotional and social activities. It can be all these things and more. With the help of the membership, it will be.

Which brings us to what CNI won't be. It won't be ineffectual, unmotivated, or insolvent. It won't be solely dependent upon other organizations for guidance or support. It won't be the tool of any small group of people. Not if those who represent CNI have anything to say about it.

These are my purely personal observations. If you share them, I hope you will demonstrate your support for CNI. Your dues will enable us to continue functioning. We also need your presence at meetings (at least occasionally) and your vocal support. CNI can only exist if you care.

- Alan Rapoport
President, CNI

New Officers:

At the October 11, 1977 meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., the following new officers were elected:

Alan Rapoport, President
F. David Gill, Vice-President
Joel Jordan, Secretary
Karen Lind, Treasurer
Bruce Millinger, Trustee-at-Large
Al Lustig, Trustee-at-Large

A special note of thanks and appreciation is extended to Judith Ayers and David Burwasser, each of whom has served CNI and the Coventry community well as CNI officers during the past year.

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COMPLAINT SERVICE

The City of Cleveland Heights has a Complaint Service where questionable practices of the real estate industry can be reported and investigated. It is a part of the Division of Real Estate Programs and is housed in the Annex Building where the Housing Service is located. The telephone number is 321-0100, Ext. 277. The Complaint Investigator is Linda Johnston.

The City is interested in all complaints that have to do with the housing delivery system: solicitation, steering, poor service (or treatment) to perspective buyers or sellers, negative neighborhood remarks, etc. These complaints must be signed before they can be investigated.

Complaints are reviewed by the Housing Board. The Housing Board endeavors to resolve complaints by conciliation in those situations where conciliation is a proper remedy or recommends other actions such as legal action to the City Manager when appropriate. During the past year, some complaints have been resolved through conciliation and others through legal action.

Two Policy Propositions

Coventry Neighbors, Inc.'s relationship with other organizations in the Coventry area is one of our most important activities. Since there is apparent disagreement in the organization as to how we should go about this. I should like to present my views of sound policy, and some reasons.

Coventry Village Business Association: I think we should assume that the proprietors and landlords in CVBA understand their own interests as well as anyone, and we should respect their conclusions. Of course, if we see some conclusion of CVBA as conflicting with an interest of ours as residents, that is another matter. If our advice is solicited, we should be as generous with it toward CVBA as we are toward anyone. If our assumption of CVBA's understanding proves unwarranted, it can be changed. I think this is the only basis upon which we can establish a relationship of mutual respect and support with CVBA as that organization develops.

Block, Street and Apartment Clubs: We should encourage the formation of these, send spokespersons to their meetings and urge them to send representatives to ours. We should NOT try to get such folks merely to join Coventry Neighbors rather than form their more local associations. This policy recognizes the fact that people differ in the scope of their community involvement interests, and would maximize the number of involved people doing their thing and communicating with one another in the Coventry area. It assumes the value of deep involvement in a very local community as complementary, rather than antithetical, to the areawide, citywide, or broader involvement of others.

- Dave Burwasser

The SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER for Heights Seniors will be held on Christmas Day, at 2:30 p.m., at the Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Fairmount and Scarborough. The dinner is sponsored by the Inter-Faith Council and several civic organizations. If you know of any seniors who will be alone on Christmas Day, be sure to bring this notice to their attention. Donation is $2.00 each and transportation will be provided. For reservations, call Mrs. Florence Hudson, 321-4337 or Mrs. Helen Bleche, 382-8317. Cut off day for reservations is December 17, 1977.
Ed. Note: CNI believes that the merchants on Coventry offer a wider assortment of goods and services than is generally known. This is the first of a series of articles on local stores you may want to check out on your own some time.

THE GLASS LLAMA

The Glass Llama, now in its third year on Coventry, is located in the basement level of Coventryard. It offers an array of fine wool and cotton clothing from Guatemala, Mexico, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. Buyers for the store place primary emphasis on quality handmade pieces designed for comfort and beauty.

In addition to clothing, the store features a large selection of gift items, ranging from onyx chess sets to baskets to jewelry to hats. All items were chosen, say the merchants, "with an eye to the unusual and the beautiful."

This store clearly feels that Latin American products are worth a consumer's close scrutiny. At the Glass Llama, the potters, weavers, silversmiths and woodcarvers of the Incas, Mayas and Aztecs live on. Through their work they speak of their love of life and their pride of accomplishment. Frank O'bernyer, Larry Lisak, and Mary Holcombe are betting that Clevelanders can appreciate a tradition of craftsmanship that is centuries old. They invite you to stop in at the Glass Llama and browse.

Hampshire Road Street Association is considering working on a tenant's handbook. Call Chuck Owen at 321-6775 if you would be interested in this project.

Day-Care Referral Service - HCC

The Day-Care Referral Service tries to facilitate a parent's search for quality day care for his child. When a parent calls the referral service, she is asked to describe her day-care needs, the number and ages of the children involved, and the elementary school district in which she lives. Based on this information, the caller is referred to several providers in her area. She then contacts the individual providers and places her child with whomever seems best suited to the child's needs.

Pat Wren is the coordinator for this program. Any person who is either seeking day care or is willing to provide day care is encouraged to call the Day-Care Referral Service at 321-2920.

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Dues and Don'ts

Dues for CNI are $3.00 per year. By unanimous resolution at the last general meeting, dues will be payable on a calendar basis—that is, beginning in January.

Please send your checks to our Treasurer, Karen Lind, at 2630 Hampshire Road, 44106. Donations are tax-deductible, so don't feel prevented from sending more than $3.00.

The money pays for this newsletter and provides seed money for projects such as the 1977 Street Fair.
HIGH COURT RULING MAY ALTER PARKING PATTERNS

The U.S. Supreme Court, on October 11, 1977, handed down an approval of a parking regulation plan in Arlington County, Virginia, that banned daytime, weekday parking by commuters on certain residential streets. The purpose was to protect residents adjacent to a large commercial and office complex from the daily influx of office workers' vehicles that made it difficult for residents to park in front of their own homes, as well as introducing air pollution, litter, and a casual attitude toward residents' curbs and lawns. An earlier decision by the Virginia State Supreme Court had stricken the ban, citing equal protection of the law; the high court found that the goals of protecting the air, the personal safety of children and pedestrians, and the property values in the neighborhoods in question justified the regulation, as long as the distinctions drawn between commuters and residents were rationally related to these goals.

A potential application in Coventry obviously suggests itself. Residents of those streets where the overnight parking ban is already abated because of the lack of offstreet parking, would find clear advantage in a regulation that prohibited non-residents from parking on those streets after a certain hour in the evening. This would protect the on-street parking spaces the residents count on for their cars overnight.

This would also have the potential of setting one neighborhood against another in Cleveland Heights, if its application is not handled adroitly and with obvious fairness. Perhaps, on reflection, Coventry residents would prefer to forego the advantages of such a scheme, if such alienation were clearly unavoidable otherwise. A similar idea proposed about five years ago turned out to be unacceptable. In any event, Coventry residents, business people, and landowners would profit by some reflection on what use—if any—they want Cleveland Heights to make of this newly granted power.

- Dave Burwasser

ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

The Coventry School Gym will be open to adults to play volleyball on Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

ADULT CO-ED BASKETBALL

The Coventry School Gym will be open to adults to play basketball on Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

WINTER OLYMPICS. The Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Cleveland Heights will sponsor a winter Olympics that will feature events such as snowman building, sledding, snowball throwing and many more. A special Winter Olympics for special children will also be held. Call Jody Eigner at 321-0100, Ext. 283 for information.

Summer Employment. Applications for summer employment in Cleveland Heights pools, parks and playgrounds will be accepted beginning December 24, 1977. Contact the City of Cleveland Heights, 2953 Mayfield Road, CH 44118.
The University Recycling Center (TURC)

The University Recycling Center (TURC) is a non-profit student organization at Case Western Reserve University that collects: newspaper, office paper (separate color and white), magazines, computer paper and cards, glass (separate clear, green and brown and remove all plastic and metal), aluminum, and crank-case oil, to be recycled. Our collection site is located on Circle Drive, between Adelbert and Cornell Roads, behind the Medical School, on the CHRU campus. The site is manned on Fridays from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m.

The residents of several apartment buildings in the area collect their newspapers in one place (storage room, laundry room) for TUC to pick up weekly. If you want your building to be on our pickup schedule, give us a call and we will set it up.

Feel free to call 368-2649 Monday - Friday (1 - 5 p.m.) if you have any questions.

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Short Notes......

......forgot to mention two more new stores which came to Coventry this summer: Cedar Chest and Grum's Sub Shoppe.

......by the way, Grum's rated a Community Improvement Award for the innovative remodeling job. Well deserved, we think.

......Mard's Folly was a real victim of the recent fire on Coventry. It will not re-open.

......Pick-N-Pay has a sign warning some parkers that after two hours, they will tow cars.

......which reminds me, did you know that Johnny's charges more for the tow when the police call than when you call? - Alan Rapoport

COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS

A Publication of the Heights Community Congress and Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

Executive Editor: Alan Rapoport  Contributing Editors: Karen Lind  F. David Gill  Dave Burwasser

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO YOU!