

Pick-N-Pay Away: So What About It?

The future of Pick-N-Pay on Coventry is no more certain now than it was in January, when this Newsletter first broached the issue in print. Despite our efforts to discover the true story, we have been consistently frustrated by a wall of silence. People have other concerns besides Pick-N-Pay, of course, but the nagging doubts about the future of Store No. 1 of the Pick-N-Pay chain still find expression in street conversations.

The prevailing mood seems less like anger and more like frustration. And the frustration, in turn, relates to a feeling of impotence, of an inability to influence decisions of vital import to this community.

So what can we do about keeping a grocery store in Coventry?

This subject will be raised at the next Coventry Neighbors, Inc. meeting. It is an important subject. There is no reason why people in this neighborhood should be resigned to the Pick-N-Pay situation. Various responses can and will be discussed, e.g., petitioning, picketing, boycotts. If the consensus is to do nothing, at least that consensus would be reached through intelligent discussion of options.

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OUR NEXT MEETING OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. WILL BE ON MONDAY, APRIL 12th at 8:00 p.m. AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY ON LANCASTER ROAD. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

April 12, 1976: CNI Agenda

1. Special Report on Cleveland Heights Housing Legislation
- Councilwoman Libby Resnick
2. Minutes of the Meeting of March 9, 1976 - Janet St. Clair
3. Financial Report - Ester Brodsky
4. Report on Pick-N-Pay Situation
5. Bicentennial Activities - Bruce Millinger
6. 1976 Coventry Street Fair
7. Reports: School - Mary Picken; Council - David Burwasser
8. Other Business
9. Next Meeting

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You know that trick they pull in Cleveland Heights with your car? Towing it away, that is, because of back tickets, even if the car is parked legally when they spot it and tow it! Somebody has decided to fight this on civil liberties grounds, and the ACLU of Greater Cleveland is backing them, according to ACLU/GC Executive Director Gordon Beggs. Further details will be published when available.

-DB

VIGNETTES

At its meeting of March 15, Cleveland Heights City Council rejected a proposed ordinance (4-1976) that would have amended the zoning at Severance Center to allow construction of a Pick-N-Pay and a Gold Circle at that site; a vote that split the organizing majority of the new Council, handed a victory to the liberal minority and a defeat to Mayor Marjorie Wright, and established freshman Councilmember Lee Chilcote as a legislator to be reckoned with.

Under present zoning, any of three types of development are permitted at Severance--commercial, residential, and office--none of which may take up more than 40 percent of the land. Severance Mall has used up the commercial allotment. The defeated legislation would have increased the limit to 50 percent.

Lee Chilcote, chair of the Planning and Development Committee of Council, introduced the measure for consideration, and announced that he planned to vote against it. In an extensive analysis supporting that decision, his salient points included: (*) If this development were permitted, there would be no logical stopping-point short of total commercialization of the Taylor-Mayfield area. (*) Rejection of the amendment means not getting an early boost to the City tax base, but in the long run apartment development, permitted under present zoning, could be four to five times as high in tax revenues. (*) Severance Center is now the leading mall in Northeast Ohio despite the current economic downturn, and need not expand to meet the challenge of other malls in the County. (*) An expanded Severance would have an adverse impact on the commercial strip shopping areas around Cleveland Heights, and, to the contrary, "...We must support the neighborhood commercial operations." (Read that again, Coventry Villagers; it's the most important thing anyone said in the whole debate.)

Chilcote's November election was by a narrow margin and surprised even his people; the coat-tail factor was evident. He did not create a well-focused individual impression at first; he answered the first roll-call of 1976 with "Aye" rather than "Here." But with this assertion of independent judgment, he has unmistakably established his stature on Council.

Don Jaffe ran down an extensive list of various landmark buildings and developments in Cleveland Heights that had been greeted with initial opposition, as a demonstration that the fact of opposition by the public is not a serious criterion for judgement. He announced himself for the measure. Curiously absent from his list was the original opposition to Musicians' Tower, nor would one guess from his words that his 1975 campaign was aimed in part at people originally organized against the CHMA proposal for a Kenilworth site. Apparently, Mr. Jaffe doesn't think the public so dumb when it protests public housing.

Dick Weigand announced himself against, noting that he had gone on record thus before and was happy that everyone else would have to go on record by the evening's end, too. He delivered a high-points critique of the traffic study put out by Austin (the developer), Gold Circle and Pick-N-Pay, and asserted that the near-universal opposition by the neighboring residents was indeed a respectable criterion. He paraphrased his opponents

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with the words of "Engine Charlie" Wilson: "What's good for General Motors is good for the Country."

Libby Resnick announced herself against and limited her remarks to the phrase: "Res ipse loquitur." (The thing speaks for itself.)

Oliver Schroeder expressed appreciation for Chilcote's analysis and said he would make his position known as he voted it. He voted against.

Al Connors, after a three-way hassle with Wright and Schroeder over whether Connors could elicit a statement from the City Manager (he couldn't), announced himself for. Connors noted that City Manager Edwards was on record for the item, and presented an analysis that was essentially a point-for-point disagreement with Chilcote. Connors noted that Cleveland Heights has declined in resources from times past, and could not afford a "no growth" policy.

Marjorie Wright, in support of her intended vote for, dwelt on some of the objections that she had heard which she considered "emotional" or otherwise not a good basis for action: traffic, type of clientele anticipated, type of merchandizing expected. She noted that Council took flak in the early '60s for not stimulating growth and development. She objected to intrusion into the present debate of particulars of detail that are the business of the Board of Control. (In this she was disputing Chilcote, who considered such details because the proposed amendment would never have come up except for the particular development; and Weigand, who had noted that the proposal was being touted on the merits of the development's details and thus could fairly be criticized for the shortcomings of same.)

Wright noted, with respect to the immediate neighbors of Severance, that an apartment development would bulk on the order of nine stories, which would hardly be more attractive than a Gold Circle. She also warned, in this regard, that such neighbors should beware of "voting power switching to apartments." Apartment dwellers, please note.

At least four Councilmembers, the three voting for the amendment, and Mr. Chilcote, seem to regard some kind of development at Severance as desirable and/or inevitable; nobody mentioned as a possible land use the trees now standing there. The City's tax base and the electorate's recent negativism on levies underlies such thinking, and it's correct thinking to this extent: Something's gotta give. This time, it wasn't Severance.

- David Burwasser

St. Paul's Cooperative Nursery School, Fairmount at Coventry, Cleve. Hts.

Parents of pre-schoolers will be interested to note that St. Paul's Cooperative Nursery School is accepting applications for the 1976-77 School Year. St. Paul's Nursery School offers an excellent opportunity for parents to share in their child's first school experience. Teachers provide an atmosphere that helps the pre-school child develop self-reliance, self-esteem, self-awareness and social-awareness. St. Paul's offers four classes for three and four year olds. Each class is limited to assure individual attention for each child. Interested parents are invited to observe a class. For further information, please call Mrs. Jo Burgoon, 932-9451.

Talking Easy Thru My Hat

A-
Las, Mister
Giraffe,
A Mo-
Digliani
Neck on s-
Tilts, in
Trudes thru
The window,
Eats the flo-
Wers from my Ha
-waiian shirt...
At that she almost laughed.
It'll be easy, I told myself,
Easy does it, just take it easy,
Speak easy, keep the pace easy
Make the terms easy; it's an easy
Business to get into - being free
And easy; go easy into a kiss and
Then tell her how easy street feels
When the tin lizard, lounging on gr-
Een tires, licks the jam of traffic up
And over easy; keep the matter and the
Manner easy, for easy marks the man of
Easy living; yes, easy come and easy go
And may I say you are so easy on the eyes
And easy on the ego, you know, you make me
Wanna just take life easy in your easy chair...
Not there, she cried, You're too fat! Go sit on
Your hat...So I said, That's that and sat on my
Hat until it was flat...not much fun and easier said than done.

Daniel

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS MINUTES
March 9, 1976

The March 9, 1976 meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. began with a reading of the minutes and a treasurer's report. David Burwasser reported on the activities at the City Council meeting, noting that the Roomer Permit issue, of vital importance to many apartment dwellers, seems to be on the "back burner" at this time. Mary Picken gave the school report, inviting all members to the opening of the new Coventry School, to be held Sunday, March 21. She explained the Harold A. Goldsmith Pupil Assistance Fund, and at this time Fran Hornik made a motion to donate \$25.00 to the fund from Coventry Neighbors. The motion was seconded by David Burwasser and unanimously adopted.

The issue of the Pick-N-Pay Supermarket was again brought up by Alan Lustig, but it was decided to close the discussion until the April meeting, at which time hopefully the members would be more enlightened as to where and how the situation is developing. The Weathers vs. Peters Realty case was discussed next. Alan Rapoport explained the history and legal aspects of the case for those not familiar with them, and Karen Lind stated that although the case was lost, the first appellate court decision is being used
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to validate the checking procedure and has established that a class action suit can be filed in a case of this type.

Bruce Millinger, Vice-President, reported on his progress with the Mayfield-Hampshire Lane and Euclid Heights Bld.-Lancashire pedestrian crossing problems. Robert Edwards, City Manager, explained to Bruce that Commander Anderson, Director of Traffic Services, could put a concrete crosswalk across the island at Lancashire and Euclid Heights, although it was felt that a crosswalk might give a false sense of security to pedestrians. He is presently checking City ordinances to determine whether signs stating that Senior Citizens may be crossing at that point would be permissible. A pedestrian-operated light at Mayfield Road and Hampshire Lane is being considered.

David Burwasser explained what he had heard at the City Council meeting concerning the Pick-N-Pay/Gold Circle stores at the Severance Mall. Since these stores require more commercial property at Severance, a change in the zoning law is required. Coventry Neighbors has been asked by several umbrella and street organizations to send a letter to City Hall in support of their stand against a change in zoning law. Alan Rapoport moved that a letter be sent to Council from Coventry Neighbors in the form of an opposition to a ten percent increase in commercial property at Severance. Bruce Millinger seconded the motion which was unanimously adopted.

Bicentennial plans and the Coventry Street Fair were discussed briefly, but no decisions were made at this time. A motion was made by David Burwasser, and seconded by Chris Mitchell, to donate \$25.00 to the Unitarian Church Performing Arts performances, in view of its kind offer of facilities for meetings. The motion was unanimously adopted. Inquiries were made as to the possibility of a second safety workshop and Lana Cowell stated that the responses from the first workshop were being sorted to determine the best parts of the workshop. She is presently in touch with a group from Philadelphia also involved with new neighborhood safety techniques. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

- Janet St. Clair

HOUSING LEGISLATION

Two items of business at the March 15th Council meeting were probably of greater importance than the Severance Circle vote that drew out the crowd; these were a resolution (26-1976) passed to create a 9-point housing policy of the City; and an anti-steering/blockbusting/unwanted-solicitation ordinance (27-1976) introduced on first reading. Both were presented by Oliver Schroeder, chair of the Municipal Services Committee of Council.

The ordinance covered one point of the policy. Other important points were continuation of the Heights Housing Service and cooperation with the Cuyahoga Plan to "seek true fair housing...for the entire Metropolitan Cleveland area." - i.e., bust the lily-white barrier in the outer suburbs and get the pressure off Cleveland and the Inner Ring.

The anti-redlining component of the policy is a softly-worded policy for a "Financial Institution Advisory Committee." The City has had just such an advisory body with respect to real estate practices; its earnest failure to influence the situation eventuated creation of the Heights Housing Service. One may hope for similar evolution toward efficacy here. We have a Council majority for whom the idea of "anti-business" legislation makes the teeth ache, and they must learn clearly the ineffectiveness of half measures in

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Most of your readers are no doubt acutely aware of the failure of the Cleveland Heights/University Heights school levy last November and of the recently announced cuts in staff and programming. These cuts will eliminate many fine special programs, increase class sizes and reduce services, from counseling of students to custodial work. Many of these cuts have already been made.

On June 8th, another school levy will appear on the ballot. The voters, now well aware of the impact of the previous levy's failure, will have a chance to support a new levy which will restore most of the programs and services we've lost. Whether we have children in the school system or not, we who are actively supporting and working to secure a sound future for our community have got to be conscious of the tremendous importance of the school system. Many families have come to the Cleveland Heights/University Heights area because of its fine schools. It should be a primary responsibility of Coventry Neighbors to support and to work for the passage of the new school levy on the primary ballot in June.

Sincerely, Ann Hunter

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May 1st Spring Cleaning Set for Hampshire Road!

The Hampshire Road Association has announced that on Saturday, May 1st, it will hold a clean-up day and block party. Rain date: Saturday, May 8th.

Residents and owners will work together to pick up trash from lawn and pavements, clean off porches, clean windows, plant plants, and do all those things that everybody promises themselves they will get to someday.

"This will be that 'someday'"; said Larry Rubin, clean-up day coordinator.

Keith Howlett, Karen Lind and Renee Fleckenstein are getting together groups of children and adults to help residents haul and clean. A truck will be supplied to take away heavy objects and trash.

At the end of the day, a hot dog party will be held in the vacant lot on Hampshire. Sandy Levine is in charge of planning the festivities.

Also coordinating the day's activities are: Mary Manning, Kermit Lind, Burton Hirsch, and Janet St. Clair

The Cleveland Heights Community & Public Relations Department reports an increased number of complaints about real estate solicitations. If you receive an unprompted real estate solicitation, you should report it promptly to the Community & Public Relations Department, City Hall, 321-0100. This is virtually the only way anyone can monitor how badly the pressure-profiteers of the industry are putting the screws to Cleveland Heights.

THE ZEN OF RUNNING FOR WOMEN!

WOMEN: Looking for ways to release all those feelings of frustration and/or boredom that have been building up during the long winter months? Mr. Maury Feren says there are two women in the community who have met this problem--and also achieved an inner satisfaction and sense of well-being--through running or jogging. Ms. Maura Dabin, attorney with Squires, Saunders & Dempsey, and Ms. Sheila Spiegel, physical fitness leader with JCC and the first woman in the area to lead a physical fitness program, will speak to interested women at Heights Main Library on Tuesday, April 20th at 7:30 p.m.

For further information, contact the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Public Library, Assistant Director, Rachel Wayne Nelson at 932-3600.

DOGGERAL

*O goddess who requires of those who wish,
To worship at thy shrine of holy bliss,
A sacrifice of blood upon thy dish,
To seal the price of each departing kiss.*

*O ISHTAR, Regent of divine desire,
A prayer to you is nothing but lament,
And He, who to your favor doth aspire
Has chosen thus to have his heartstrings rent.*

*Astarte's fires consume the price of love,
As drinking wastes the price of daily bread.
And they who seek to find their hearts above,
Find only blessed ashes there intead.*

*But n'er will Cybele's altar stand alone,
For fools will always want to kiss a stone.*

With apologies to the Bard, A. Goodwin

COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS
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All opinions contained in the Coventry Village News are solely those of the author, unless otherwise noted. All official pronouncements of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will be specifically noted.

Articles for publication may be sent to the newsletter c/o Apt. 301, 2753 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

Single-minded and carnivorous investigations into the souls of one's friends are called conversation: