*** COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS ***

December 1978 Newsletter of Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

PICK-N-PAY: AN UPDATE

Few topics have caused as much fus in Coventry over the years as the status of Pick-N-Pay. This store has been at the center of several controversies, ranging from the plan to build Musicians' Tower to the yet-unfinished Battle of Rock Court. Soon it will be in the middle of a new controversy--over whether the present store (18,000 square feet) should be replaced with a new one (about 30,000 square feet).

This is not actually a "new" controversy. PNP had drawings on the subject as early as 1973. What is new, however, is the commitment of the City to make big visible progress in redeveloping the Coventry commercial strip. This, combined with City applications for federal funds, gives rise among many observers that there will soon exist both a desire and a capacity to undertake such a project.

Example: the City has made a preliminary application for an Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) for Coventry. Such money must be used to supplement private development efforts. Could this mean a million dollar federal carrot to spur PNP? Maybe, but until a more detailed application is on record, City motives shall remain unclear. Possible use of Community Development Block Grant money to ease the way of PNP is also a theoretical possibility.

The plans--and the future of PNP in Coventry--have been a matter of great concern. On the one hand, there are fears of losing a grocery store in Coventry if PNP does not get its way. This would greatly affect the elderly and those persons who prefer walking to driving. On the other hand, the addition of such a hugh store might well destroy the "village" atmosphere of Coventry forever, push the retail stores to a more regional orientation, and increase traffic problems.

More on this story as it develops.

- Alan Rapoport

The next meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will take place on Tuesday, December 12, 1978, 7:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Society on Lancashire Road, across from the Musicians' Tower.

What's Going on With.....

...Coventryard? It has all the permits it needs. Lewis Zipkin plans to put a roof over the building soon. If he doesn't hurry, there will be some big construction problems over the winter.

...The Coventry Library? Not much. The Library Board nixed the location near Coventry School and has not done much to find a new one. Cynics suggest that they will come up with new ideas--at least in time for the next library levy election.

Radioactive Waste Group Will Request Neighbors' Support on Legislation

A proposed ordinance to regulate the transportation of radioactive waste through Cleveland Heights has been presented to Council by a coalition of concerned citizens. The City has not been overwhelmingly receptive, and the proponents are seeking broad-based community support from neighborhood groups, including Coventry Neighbors, Inc. CNI heard an informational item at its November meeting on this issue, and will be asked for direct support at the December meeting.

The draft regulation submitted to Council is an ordinance actually passed by Shaker Heights Council, one of whose members is actively concerned over radioactive waste. In Cleveland Heights, both City Hall and individual citizens have raised questions about the measure, These are summarized, together with proponents' responses and some additional, factual material, as follows.

Radioactive material passing through Cleveland Heights is more likely to relate to nuclear medicine than nuclear power, and we should not add regulatory expenses to already escalating health costs. The Shaker Heights ordinance specifically exempts "medical and educational" material from regulation beyond existing federal law.

This is a job for the State or the County, not municipalities. In a letter to the Cleveland Heights city manager, Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert Sweeney states: "....The Board of County Commissioners and the Regional Planning agencies have no legislative authority to enact ordinances to deal with the problem. The Board of County Commissioners has no legislative authority whatsoever and cannot enact or enforce ordinances on a countywide basis. The only legally empowered body to enact such ordinances are the various and separate municipal councils." State response is uncertain and slow, while twelve Cuyahoga County cities have already acted positively.

The ordinance may conflict with Federal pre-emption of interstate commerce regulation. Shaker Heights Law Director Paul Donaldson doesn't think so: "... Such measure would not be in conflict with federal or state regulations, and may be legally enacted by City Council." (Opinion 78-39, 11 July 1978) The Shaker law incorporates rather than alters federal rules that apply, and adds requirements in a manner traditionally and constitutionally defensible for local government.

Is this action, together with the anti-radwaste-storage campaign, a covert attempt to outlaw nuclear power under the guise of regulating byproducts? Supporters of both efforts include people who favor nuclear power.

Why is regulation needed? By the testimony of their own safety authorities, the cities lack the means to cope with a major "spill" except by evacuation. Shaker Heights Councilmember Kathleen Barber, author of the ordinance, reports that no federal agency is responsible for local radioactive spills.

Isn't this a replay of the abortion debate, with people motivated principally by a single issue bringing into Cleveland Heights the product of another Ohio city council and stirring up a hornets' nest? The principal contrast is that the Akron abortion ordinance was passed over the objection of the Akron law director, while the lawyer for Shaker Council has endorsed the rad-waste regulation; it arrives with a superior legal pedigree. The total aggregate of speakers on the rad-waste issue before Council to date is much less than one day's turnout by either side in the abortion debate.

- Dave Burwasser

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CD GRANT PROPOSAL: PARK CLEAN-UP

Some of you may have noticed a picture and article in the Sunday, October 29th Plain Dealer about Devera Kastner and my efforts to clean up the mini park at Euclid Heights Boulevard and Coventry. Well, so it was a slow newsday, as they say. However, Devera and I and many others would like to see a more regular plan of maintenance instituted for the small green areas in our merchant strips. Not only Coventry, of course, but the little park in front of Baskin-Robbins at Cedar-Fairmount, the little park-parking lot across from the Franklin at Lee-Meadowbrook for instance are usually choked by weeds and trash. All could use a more regular plan and supervision of maintenance. The original plantings are lovely. No fault with Emerich Szabo, City Forester, but regrettably the maintenance seems to be mostly by lawn mower and the weeds grow merrily along.

Suggested solution: Devera and I would like to put together a proposal for Community Development Block Grant money to be used for this purpose. One idea might be for a retired person or people with some knowledge of basic garden maintenance to be hired to supervise the present City crews or do the maintenance themselves. This would be employment from April 1 to November 1 and would afford an opportunity for "expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income", in CD talk. Perhaps the merchants could be approached to share some of the costs and each area could reflect the individuality of that particular area.

If anyone would like to help write this proposal (and we do need help), please come to my home (2816 Berkshire) on Thursday, December 14th, at 7:30 P.M. We would like to have it ready to present at the January C.D.B.G. Public Hearing at the Unitarian Society.

- Barbara Orban

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SUMMER JOBS

THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM THE CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER POSITIONS IN THE POOLS, PLAYGROUNDS, AND PARKS. POSITIONS INCLUDE LIFE GUARDS, BATHHOUSE ATTENDANT, CASHIER, PLAYGROUND LEADER, THEATRE CREW, AND PARK CREW. INTERESTED PERSONS MAY APPLY AT THE PERSONNEL OFFICE, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS CITY HALL BEGINNING DECEMBER [illegible], 1978.

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Brunati's Restaurant has re-opened at a new location, 1876 Coventry Road. Lunch is served from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., supper from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M., and a sandwich menu from 10:00 P.M. to 12:00 P.M. LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EACH NIGHT. (JAZZ AND FOLK) Closed Mondays. The food is outstanding and the decor is fantastic!!!

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CNI MEETING NOTES

At its last meeting on November 14, CNI had a full agenda of items to discuss. The following is a brief review of some actions taken.

1) Election of Officers. CNI elected the members designated to represent the organization for the next year. They are:

President - Alan Rapoport
Vice-President - F. David Gill
Secretary - Dave Burwasser
Treasurer - Charles Owen
Trustee-at-Large - Al Lustig
Trustee-at-Large - Bruce Hennes

2) Tenants' Rights. CNI resolved to form a committee on the subject of tenants' rights. The chairman of this committee will be Nathan Sooy, and interested persons may reach him at 321-4283.

3) Radioactive Waste. CNI heard a presentation by a member of a committee which is lobbying Cleveland Heights to pass a law regulating transportation of radioactive waste through the City.

4) Sohio Self-Service Gas Station. CNI voted to express its concern over the proposed re-development of the Sohio gas station at Coventry and Mayfield. Concern centered on the aesthetic design and the loss of mechanic services.

5) Architectural Board of Review. CNI voted to support a request that the ABR hold its meetings at a time when people who work can attend. ABR meetings are presently held at 4:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

6) Library Board. CNI voted to lobby the School Board to fill a vacancy on the Library Board with a qualified applicant living in the Coventry area.

7) HCC Trustee. CNI elected Alan Rapoport to serve as its representative on the Board of Trustees of the Heights Community Congress.

Snow Removal and Trash to the Curb

The Youth Employment Service (YES) is available for a variety of jobs. Two of the services available are Snow Removal and Trash to Curb Routes.

Snow removal: $7 for average driveway, $3 for two entrances and one walk. Commercial fees: $3 per average storefront.

Trash to curb: 50¢ per single household; $2 for apartment buildings under 16 units. Call 321-0100, Ext. 283, to be added to routes.

LIE OF THE MONTH:

Irv's Deli will re-open with a disco in its basement!

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON COVENTRY

The Fairmount Center for the Creative and Performing Arts invites you to join its Community Sing on Saturday, December 16th at 5:00 p.m. at the Center's Coventry Campus, 1925 Coventry Road.

Refreshments to follow. Bring the family! For information, call 932-2000.

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- Snow Joke -

Snow removal is always a nuisance, but trudging through mountains of the stuff is no joke. Cleveland Heights Ordinance 521.04 (f) reads: "No owner or occupant of abutting lands shall fail to keep the sidewalk free from snow, ice or any nuisance." This means you must keep your sidewalk and driveway (the abutting lands) clear of snow and other debris.

To aid Cleveland Heights residents in this process, the Office on Aging and Recreation Departments are recruiting area youths to offer their services for a reasonable fee, to senior citizens and other residents who need assistance in shoveling snow. Call City Hall at 321-0100.

Snow removal, like other projects, often is easier when shared with others. Call a meeting of your street club and develop a snow contingency plan. You might even consider assessing yourselves for a snow blower.

Remember to exercise caution at all times when shoveling snow. If you have any doubts about your health, see your doctor.

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Coventry Library Happenings....

Story Hour: Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 - 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

After School Specials: Tuesdays, December 5, 12, 19 - 2:30 p.m.

Holiday Open House:* Sunday, December 17 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 28 - 1:00 p.m.

*Critter Show: small live animals from the zoo

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COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS: A publication of the Heights Community Congress and Coventry Neighbors, Inc. Executive Editor: Alan Rapoport; Contributing Editors: F. David Gill, Charles J. Owen, Bruce Hennes, Dave Burwasser. Circulation: 1,000.

All opinions contained in the newsletter are solely those of the author unless otherwise specified. Articles for publication should be sent to the Editor, 2667 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.