

..... ON-STREET PARKING THREATENED BY REPAVING PROJECT

It appears to be likely, but not definite, that much-needed road construction work will begin on Euclid Heights Boulevard this summer. This will affect the lives of most residents of the Coventry area, whether or not they live on the strip itself. The following tentative pieces of information have been garnered from city officials in the past month.

The portion from the top of Cedar Hill to Lee Road will probably be done by the County. The way seems to be clear for 70 percent of the cost to be borne by federal funds. The remaining 30 percent could be picked up by either the city or county. The word is that the County is willing to pick up that tab.

The fate of the remaining portion, from Lee to Taylor (in the Boulevard Neighborhood), is less definite. Remember the Taylor Road controversy? Is it a "county road," or is it "residential"? Probably it will be an "all or nothing" situation--either the same federal/county formula will be negotiated or it will be a city responsibility entirely. City and County appear to be at a stand-off at this time.

Those of you who have been on the scene for a few years know what happens when the County does road work within a municipality: parking on that road is completely eliminated. Discussions with various city officials have so far elicited a stand-firm attitude on this point. The only concession that the Streets Department was willing to make was the possibility that an exception would be made between Coventry and Lancashire "until off-street parking is completed." Mr. Tomaro, Commissioner of Streets, assured the CVN that "it is no problem" to get police permission for guest parking on a street where parking is banned if it is requested in advance for special occasions.

If new curbing is necessary, the property owner is normally assessed. (Taylor Road residents tell us that two years ago the cost was \$10 to \$12 per foot.) If the County is involved, that cost might be included in the contract; in other words, a negotiable item. It is not likely that any widening of the street will be necessary.

A count several years ago indicated that nearly 150 cars can utilize the on-street parking between Coventry and Edgehill at any one time; and you know how hard it is to find a vacant space. Cedar-Fairmount merchants have complained loudly about loss of business since the Cedar Road rebuilding eliminated much of their on-street parking. Another item is the possibly unnecessary inconvenience to homeowners in the several long stretches without a cut-through sidestreet. At other than rush hours there is some question as to whether occasional cars would really be a significant hazard.

The parking problem in Coventry affects enough people to make this development project very controversial. CNI will invite City officials to its next meeting in order to discuss matters further.

TAJ MAHAL MEETS STORMY WEATHER AT ZONING BOARD

The proposal of Raj Mathur to move his "Taj Mahal" East Indian cuisine restaurant onto Coventry encountered resistance from the Cleveland Heights Board of Zoning Appeals at its February 21 session. Mathur has purchased the Heights Pet World building at the southeast corner of Coventry and Mayfield. The building has no parking, and the restaurant would require 22 spaces under code; but the building is already 18 spaces short for the commercial space in question, so Mathur actually requires only a net variance of 4 spaces. The proposal received the support of Coventry Neighbors at its February 13 meeting; CNI's position was delivered to the Board by the undersigned.

Public commentary was almost wholly favorable. The owner of Open Pantry opposed the variance; speaking for himself and Revco, he said that those shops are virtually "cursed" by having adequate parking, as it is massively occupied by non-customers of those two stores. Other commentary was from satisfied Cleveland Heights customers of the present Taj Mahal, eager to see it move into their community.

Literal parking "crunch" is not an overwhelming issue. The City is moving ahead on a new commercial lot in the immediate vicinity. (This is a deep secret known only to a few officials, the present owner and every merchant and streetwise resident on Coventry.) Mathur has, in addition, agreed to contribute to the City's "voluntary" commercial landlord parking assessment program for Coventry; his condition for this is clearance of his own variance.

The Zoning Board, however, is treating Mathur as the owner of a large, important commercial property on Coventry, housing several businesses. They note that there is a portion of the Pet World space that he will not be using for the restaurant; they want to know what his plans are and to deal with all the requisite variances at once. Chairman Fred Toguchi said that Mathur's sketches of his facade plans did not respect the architectural values of the building, and City Manager Rich Robinson (a Board member ex officio) wanted to see facade plans for the entire structure.

A source outside of City Hall also indicated that the City is pressuring Mathur to evict the "head shop" on the Mayfield frontage of the building. The Coventry Village News could not confirm or disprove this assertion.

Although the Board is treating him as a peer of Zipkin's or Ritley, Mathur does not think of himself as a major developer. He wants to move his restaurant into Cleveland Heights and has tried twice before, foundering both times on the rock of parking. The last time, it was because his prospective Coventry Road commercial

Taj Mahal...continued

landlord, Kenneth Ross, never appeared at scheduled Zoning Board hearings; so Mathur bought a building and proposes to become his own landlord. From this perspective, the Zoning Board is conjuring additional, unsought responsibilities for him.

Mathur's case has been continued until next month; the public hearing aspect of it has been closed. This paper will follow developments.

- Dave Burwasser

ENOUGH HEAT...IT'S THE LAW, FOLKS

Every winter--and into the spring--we hear horror stories about landlords who turn thermostats down to cut costs. Many Coventry tenants suffer without questioning the rights they may have to habitable dwellings. Therefore, the following sections of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights are presented in support of the proposition that depriving tenants of heat ain't merely unkind--it's unlawful.

1351.15 HEATING CAPACITY.

Every dwelling unit shall be provided with approved heating facilities capable of maintaining an average temperature of seventy degrees Fahrenheit in all habitable rooms, kitchens, bathrooms and water closet compartments when the outdoor temperature is minus five degrees Fahrenheit, without forcing the facilities to operate in excess of their design capacity. (Ord. 11-1962. Passed 5-7-62.)

1351.16 SUPPLY OF HEAT.

The owner, operator, agent or agents in charge of a dwelling structure, who rents or leases any dwelling unit therein under an agreement express or implied, to supply or furnish heat to the occupants thereof, shall supply heat adequate to maintain an inside temperature of not less than seventy degrees Fahrenheit in all habitable rooms, bathrooms, water closet compartments and kitchens at all times. Such inside temperature shall be measured in the approximate center of each room, approximately three feet about the floor. The provisions of this section shall not apply where the failure to meet minimum or standards is caused by a general shortage of fuel, negligent or malicious act of the occupant or any cause beyond the control of the owner or occupant. (Ord. 58-1972. Passed 9-18-72.)

Street Walking in March

The snow has turned to rain and with the thaw comes the inevitable break-up of the city streets. One of my current fantasies is that I mistake the big pothole in the middle of the intersection of Coventry and Mayfield for a puddle and I, in my little bug, disappear into the nether world of Coventry Village.

Have you noticed what has happened in the spot where Adolph's shoe repair was? Joel Garson, who has been running the jewelry repair shop in the back, has taken over the whole shop and expanded his operation to include both retail and custom made jewelry pieces. In addition, Gary Freidlander has set up to do custom woodworking in the basement. The new name--"Coventry Artisans." Stop in and get acquainted. They have some lovely pieces on display.

Speaking of art, across the street at Coventry Art, Mirjana will hold her third opening reception in as many months. Unfortunately, it will be over before CVN goes to press--but her concept of Sunday afternoon receptions with refreshments and live music is a delightful addition to the street scene that should be applauded. Featured in this month's show is a photo essay entitled "Entry Into The Quiet Mind" by Elliott Fay.

"Absent Friends" at Dobama is being held over for another two weeks and will close on Saturday the 10th. If you haven't caught this one yet, hurry up. It's a funny/sad play about marriage. The acting is superb and the reviews have been excellent. Call 932-6838 for tickets as soon as possible because they might get scarce.

I noticed something I hadn't seen at the library the other day. They have dress patterns that circulate like books. A nifty idea. Did you know that they have regular poetry readings on the first Sunday afternoon of every month at 2:30 p.m.?

At Fairmount they will be registering for short (8 week) courses from March 12-16. Here's a chance to try out that pottery, dance or art class that you've been thinking about. Or, anyone for fencing? Mark your calendar now for the special benefit concert of the Fairmount Spanish Dancers to be held Saturday, April 7th at the Jewish Community Center. This is a fun group to watch.

Word's out--Ellie Strong from Coventry Books is going to China to "find out how to run a cooperative book store."

One way to forestall those snide remarks about living in the Cleveland area that might come from out of town friends is to beat 'em to it. Try sending Muny Light Plan postcards available at Coventry Books and Carroll Drugs.

- Bobbie Littell

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION AND MUSIC

There really hasn't been a good coffee house near Coventry in a while. Not until recently at least. Arabica, small though it may be, has quickly become a very significant Coventry hang-out. Coffee, conversation, and now even music fill the bodies which wander there from all over Cleveland.

In the mornings, there are the merchants and shoppers and loiterers and late-to-workers. They flock to the home of the best pastry in Coventry. (Also, the only pastry!) Newspapers abound. No juke boxes.

In the afternoons and evenings, the chess players often appear. Some people prefer to play Go. Others just watch and kibbitz.

Of course, there is also the coffee. Super, stuff of high quality, sold at retail and by the cup. Ambiance at no extra cost. (Tea, expresso, and hot cocoa if you'd rather.)

And now, music! The shop is experimenting with late hours on Thursdays only. Cindy MacKay will play her guitar from 9 p.m. until 11 p.m. and sing with a voice which is pure sultry velvet on the ears. On Thursdays, March 8 and 15, at least. No question but that she is one of Cleveland's better-than-merely-good musicians. See for yourself.

It is almost too much to be believed. An informal, friendly, personable, neighborly place in the old time Coventry tradition. Here's wishing Arabica well.

- Alan Rapoport

MEETING NOTICE

THE NEXT MEETING . . .

. . . OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. . . .

. . . WILL BE ON TUESDAY. . .

. . . MARCH 13, 1979

. . . AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY . . .

. . . ON LANCASHIRE ROAD

SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME ! ! !

Thanks.....and More Thanks

Many thanks to the following persons for supporting Coventry Neighbors through their 1979 membership dues:

Larry Beam
A. Jan Berlin
Diane Bersnak
Tim Burdick
David Burwasser
Patience Cameron
Joe Calvert
Edith S. Cary

Celia Friedberg
F. David Gill
Grum's
Karen Lind
Bobbie Littell
Allan S. Lustig
Francine Lustig
Jeanne Martin
Bruce C. Hillinger
Walter Oswald

Leonard R. Oppenheimer
Charles J. Owen
Alan J. Rapoport
Helen Schneider
Marvin Silver
H. Baird Tenney
Noel E. Wines
Rich Wortman

Members who have not paid their dues may do so by mailing \$3.00 (or more if you can) to Coventry Neighbors, Inc.
c/o Charles J. Owen
2745 Hampshire Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

All contributions are tax-deductible, of course!

PAYROLL TAX BOOSTERS SPONSOR MEETING

A committee campaigning for the Cleveland Heights Payroll Tax issue on the March 29th ballot is holding several meetings in the Coventry area. Residents are invited to attend any of these meetings to hear committee members explain their position on the tax increase.

The following is a list of locations, dates, and times:

- Sunday, March 18 1760 Radnor
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 20 2472 Overlook, #3
8:00 - 9:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 21 1653 Glenmont
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 25 2816 Berkshire
3:00 - 4:00 p. m.

Ed. Note: Coventry Neighbors, Inc. has taken no position on the tax issue to date. A motion to endorse a "yes" vote was made, seconded, and tabled by a near unanimous vote at the February general meeting.

COVENTRY PTA CALLS FOR MORE CROSSING GUARDS

ED. NOTE: At the Cleveland Heights City Council meeting of March 5, a spokesperson for the Coventry PTA read the following statement. Some 20 other PTA members stood in silence as the statement was delivered.

As anxious parents, the Coventry School PTA is emphatic in its concern about our children's safety being bantered about as a political issue. On February 20, 1979, a youngster suffered a concussion after having been hit by a vehicle at the intersection of Mayfield and Coventry on her way to school. Dangerous incidents have occured elsewhere in the community since school guards have been eliminated in certain areas.

The Coventry School PTA strongly supports the restoration of crossing guards at all critical places, especially in those areas requested by members of the Taylor School PTA.

Surely there are services that are not a threat to kids' lives and safety that can be cut in an attempt to trim expenditures. It is our conviction that crossing guards must be one of the last services cut, rather than among the first things to go when City Hall reviews its budget.

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Oh, AND ONE MORE THING. . .

. . . In case you wondered, the 1979 Coventry Street Fair will be Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29. Details later.

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CONTEST OF THE MONTH: CNI is taking nominations for the award of "COVENTRY SLUMLORD OF THE MONTH." Ample accusations must be provided in lurid detail. Send you indictments to the CVN, 2667 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights 44106

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