

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

In order for the Coventry neighborhood to grow and prosper, there is one thing that cannot be ignored any longer. The Coventry commercial area and surrounding residential streets are looking untidy more so than not these days. Beer cans, soda cans, old newspapers, candy wrappers and cigarette butts seem to be the rule and not the exception.

To a certain extent most urban areas suffer from a litter problem, but Coventry's problem is getting out of hand. Some changes in attitude are in order. For example, merchants and landowners must take greater responsibility in keeping their storefronts and yards free from debris. Visitors to Coventry will treat our neighborhood in a fashion similar to the expectation we have for our neighborhood. Few people enjoy living and working and shopping in an area that is dirty and full of debris. Let's see what we can do to develop a little more pride in ourselves and Coventry in the coming year.

--Charles Owen
President, Coventry Neighbors, Inc.

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COVENTRY YARD HEARING SLATED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

BY
F. David Gill

February 5, 1980 marks the second anniversary of the Coventry Yard fire, and developer Lewis A. Zipkin stands at the verge of another reconstruction attempt. In the current business climate, Mr. Zipkin has reduced the scope of his plans for the mall from a three-story to a two-story structure, i.e., the Euclid Heights Boulevard level and the courtyard level. He is currently demolishing the upper third story, under an extension of his Councilmanic easement to use the minipark in front of the mall. That easement, extended by Council for demolition purposes only expires January 31.

Extension of the minipark easement does not necessarily reflect confidence in Mr. Zipkin's plans. Council's logic, according to a City Hall source, is that even if the mall is eventually demolished completely, removal of the top story is still necessary. If Mr. Zipkin is willing to do this now for his (Continued on page 5)

CNI GIVES COUNCIL \$1200 TREE FUND

At the Cleveland Heights City Council meeting of January 22, Coventry Neighbors President Charles Owen presented the City with a check for over \$1200. The gift, a disposition of the long-standing Coventry Tree Fund, will be used to beautify the Coventry commercial strip with trees. Council passed legislation authorizing the City Manager to accept such gifts, after which Mr. Owen gave the check to City Manager Rich Robinson.

ARCHITECTURAL STUDY UPDATE

by
Joan Jordan

Written proposals for the architectural study of the Coventry commercial area were due at the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation (LDC) on January 23. The three proposals will be reviewed by LDC and the Coventry Merchants Association, and a selection will be made and an agreement reached by the February 21 LDC meeting. The study should be underway by March 1.

AU REVOIR, THOUGHT FORM AND FANTASY

One notes with sorrow the going-out-of-business signs at THOUGHT, FORM & FANTASY, near Mayfield and Hillcrest. Shopkeeper and neighbor Kris Keller told us that her business had not been doing well, and that she reached her difficult decision to close after a particularly disappointing Christmas season. Kris said that she'd like to find a better location in the area, but is also contemplating a move to the Sun Belt. We'll miss this charming little shop with Kris' own elegant stained-glass work, and friendly kittycat--at least for now.

-- F. David Gill

BOO'S & BRAVO'S

BOO - Hennesy's Bar, 11729 Detroit Avenue of Lakewood. In a tasteless act, signs advertising a "Cretin's Hop" at Hennesy's were posted (illegally) on virtually every light pole in the Coventry Village commercial area.

BRAVO- *The George Gund Foundation and the AHS Foundation have each awarded the Fairmount Theater of the Deaf a grant of \$25,000 for artistic development and operations.*

BRAVO- *The brand new trash receptacles recently installed on Coventry are a tremendous improvement on what we had before.*

BOO - The Christmas decorations on the Coventry Road light poles are still up as of January 25.

BRAVO- *The new Design Lines interior renovation is a fine addition to the Coventry commercial area streetscape.*

-- Charles Owen

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COVENTRY MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

BY  
Joan Jordan

The Coventry Merchants Association will hold a semi-annual meeting on February 13 at 8:00PM in George Fitzpatrick's office at the Heights Art Theater. The Association will elect Board members and officers for the next six months (March through August 1980) and will plan promotional activities. Anyone interested in the well being of the Coventry Commercial district is welcome at CMA meetings.

COVENTRY COMMERCE

by

David R. Burvasser

Coventry commercial strip is experiencing an early spring, with new shops, new services new floorspace and new beginnings everywhere you look.

TAJ MAHAL has opened at the southeast corner of Coventry and Mayfield. Proprietor Raj Mathur offers complete luncheon and dinner menus. An inexpensive luncheon is featured, vegetarian curry - with meat, slightly higher. With an accent on East Indian cuisine, Taj Mahal sells a lot of chicken curry, and lamb is a specialty. The Indian style tea has a following all its own, and there is an American-style sandwich menu (if you must!) alongside the Sish Kebab offerings. Your correspondent has tried the Biryani, in both the chicken and lamb versions, and recommends both. Taj Mahal was formerly located on Mayfield Road in Lyndhurst.

IRV'S DELI due to open Tuesday, February 5. Irv has augmented the old Jewish delicatessen line with a new Italian section: "Irv's Back Room & Pizza Parlor," which will feature small tables, a juke-box and perhaps an electronic game. Night manager Barry Meister proudly demonstrated the new pizza oven, a technological marvel that can handle up to twenty four pizzas simultaneously; Meister calculates that, at full operation, a pizza will require only nineteen minutes from receipt of order to completion. The front part of the restaurant has tables similar to the old Irv's, but in a completely different decor of stained glass and simple wood. Irv has added a wine room to this section. The old breakfast, sandwich and dinner menu shows little change.

COVENTRY SHOE AND LEATHER just opened at 2806 Mayfield, in the same building as Taj Mahal. This establishment offers shoe repair, zipper repair and replacement, remolding of shoes and repair of handbags and leather garments--all while-you-wait --and a line of accessories such as laces, shoe trees, shoe and boot polishes, etc. The street has been in sorely-felt need of a new shoe repair shop for some time and we welcome this new establishment and its proprietor, Gregory Stamler, with best wishes.

COVENTRY BOOKS IS BRINGING back the told tradition of the Lending Library. This once-common service of booksellers fell into disuse with the advent of the paperback, according to manager Ellen Strong, but the prices of new, quality hardcovers have gone out of sight. In keeping with its philosophy of good-quality, cheap books, Coventry Books instituted the Lending Library. All hardback books on the New York Times Bestseller list can be borrowed for \$1 for the first three days and 50¢ per day thereafter, plus a deposit of the price of the book fully-refunded upon return. (Mastercharge and VISA holders may make out a payment form which is torn up upon return.) Books may be borrowed for up to two weeks. The current list includes Kissinger's White House Years, Mary Stweart's The Last Enchantment (a part of her Arthurian chronicle), Wolf's The Right Stuff and Mailer's The Executioner's Song. Your correspondent is currently borrowing The Brethern, and loving it.

COVENTRY LAUNDROMAT projects a mid-February opening date for its expansion into the old Casbah location. The machines are in and the plumbing is done, and proprietor Gary Biller reports that only the "cosmetics" remain to be finished.

DESIGN LINE hair care studio has completed its move around the corner and down the street, and is in operation.

PICK-N-PAY/UDAG

by

CVN STAFF REPORTER

Plans for a large, new development in and around the present location of the Coventry Pick-N-Pay supermarket are still "formally active," Larry Beam, a member of the City's planning staff, told the COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS.

Plans unveiled by the City in Spring 1979 called for a new, 30,000 square-foot Pick-N-Pay store, an equal amount of additional new commercial space and a decked parking structure. The new supermarket--called a "food palace" by some--would have been set far back from Coventry Road, against Rock Court. The other 30,000 square feet of shop space would have filled the Coventry facade line from the center of the business district (just north of Coventry Beverage & Pizza) south to Heights Dry Cleaners. These plans were known as "Pick-N-Pay/UDAG" to many, because part of the project's cost would have been paid by a federal Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG)

As the year passed, the Pick-N-Pay/UDAG plans were modified from time to time, invariably in the direction of a more modest scale. The decked parking was the first to go, followed by the additional office space. Buildings slated for removal in the original plans appeared in their present, unchanged forms in revised plans. Presently there are no specific blueprints which anyone is prepared to designate as a serious proposal, but plans are, in Mr. Beam's words, still "formally active."

Part of the difficulties that dogged Pick-N-Pay/UDAG was the fact that the land in question is divided into many parcels, several of which are owned by different members of the Siegler family and none of which are owned by Pick-N-Pay, which is a commercial tenant. The plans were also beset by controversy, which focused both on the general issue of the impact of the project upon the Coventry environment, and on specific protests over demolition of three Rock Court residential structures whose former occupants were unpersuaded that health and safety considerations, rather than convenience of Pick-N-Pay/UDAG, motivated the demolitions.

The City is now seeking developer interest in a scaled-down project, of which no formal plans have yet been drafted. Earlier negotiations were halted by the death of A. Siegler, patriarch of the family that owns most of the land on which the project was proposed.

MEMBERSHIP IN COVENTRY NEIGHBORS gives you the right to participate in the liveliest neighborhood organization in many a mile. If you want to be part of the CNH action, fill out the following:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SPECIAL INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: \_\_\_ \$5 Individual \_\_\_ \$7 Family \_\_\_ \$3 Senior Citizen

Mail to: Charles Owen, 2745 Hampshire Road, Cleveland Heights, 44106



NEIGHBORS SUPPORT STREET LIGHTING PROPOSAL

by  
F. David Gill

At its January 1980 meeting, Coventry Neighbors, Inc., voted 10-2 to endorse a plan to upgrade the technology used to light the commercial district. Terry McGowan, a Cleveland Heights resident and an illuminating engineer at General Electric's Nela Park facility, provided the meeting with a vivid demonstration and lucid discussion of these technologies and their effects.

The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI), which operates and maintains street lights under contract with the City, is willing to replace some 73 1000-Watt mercury vapor (MV) lamps now used in the major commercial areas, including Coventry, with 400-Watt high-pressure sodium(HPS) lamps. The City is still considering the proposal. Given the critical national energy predicament and the need to trim costs of government, CNI urged the City to procede with this project.

HPS lamps yield an average of 13% more light while consuming 56% less energy than MVs. In familiar terms, this conversion is similar to switching from a car that delivers 20 miles per gallon to one that achieves 51.6 mpg. In other terms, given that most of CEI's power derives from the burning of coal, each new lamp would conserve nearly a ton of coal per year of operation.

Cleveland Heights taxpayers would also receive a modest fiscal bonus: CEI would pass along to the City the reduced operating costs of the HPS system, an estimated \$68.32 per lamp per year, for a City-wide annual savings of nearly \$5000. There will be no initial capital investment required of the City.

It must be noted, though, that the color of the street light would change. The present, familiar bluish-white light would yield to what has been described as a golden-white or peach-colored light. Though color preference is a highly subjective matter, and there are persons who find either the new color or the old one nauseating, most feel that the HPS lamp is warmer and more cheery than the somewhat sterile MV, and that the shades of brown which dominate the buildings along Coventry would have a richer nighttime appearance.

CNI will monitor the progress of this proposal and report its status as necessary. Members of the organization individually expressed their gratitude to Mr. McGowan after the Meeting for a superb presentation.

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PET CLINIC DEFERRED, DESPITE CITY O.K.

By  
CVN Staff Reporter

Veterinarian Dr. Aaron Leash, whose controversial plan to establish a veterinary outpatient clinic next to Coventry Beverage & Pizza was approved by the Cleveland Heights Planning Commission at its January meeting, has broken off lease negotiations with landowner Herman Weiss. A strong partisan of Cleveland Heights and the Coventry neighborhood, Dr. Leash expressed firm continuing interest in establishing a clinic here. He feels, however, that the parking shortage makes the only other available vacancies, at the northeast corner of Coventry and Mayfield, unsuitable to his business. Coventry Neighbors, Inc., and the Coventry Merchants Association lent formal support to Dr. Leash at his Planning Commission hearing.

COVENTRY COUNCILMEN SERVE ON 5 COMMITTEES

by  
CVH Staff Reporter

Two Coventry area residents who sit on City Council--Alan Rapoport (Hampshire) and Richard Weigand (Euclid Heights)--serve on five of Council's six committees. Most legislation is developed through the committee structure before presentation to Council for debate and vote.

Rapoport is chair of the Public Safety & Health committee, whose province includes police and fire protection, inspectional services and traffic signs and signals: Joanne O'Brien and Marjorie Wright also serve on that committee. Weigand chairs the Municipal Services committee, whose responsibilities include streets, curbing, sidewalks, forestry and waste and leaf collection: Rapoport and O'Brien are also on that committee.

Rapoport also serves on the Finance committee, together with Jack Boyle (chair) and Wright. Weigand serves on the Personnel Committee, together with Vice Mayor Patricia Blakely (chair) and Boyle; and on the Community Relations & Recreation committee with O'Brien (chair) and Blakely.

The only committee on which neither Coventry councilman serves is Planning & Development, consisting of Wright (chair), Boyle and Blakely. Committee assignments were made by Mayor Robert Arnold, President of Council.

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SELF HELP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., is in the process of developing an application for a "Neighborhood Self-Help Grant" from the US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development, (HUD). This grant application is a cooperative venture with the Coventry Merchants Association, and will be used for commercial area revitalization and urban beautification on surrounding residential streets. Anyone who would like to assist in this venture is encouraged to contact Charles Owen at 321-1268.

HELP WANTED: Crossing Guards and Lunch Room Aids are needed in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools. For more information, call the CH-UH School Board Personnel office at 371-7402.

PLEASE NOTE: At the last CNI meeting Coventry PTA Pres. Helen Bernhard directed the attention of Councilman Rapoport to the fact that the crossing light at the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard & Coventry has been out for some time -- IT IS NOW FIXED.

REGISTRATION: Church of the Savior Co-Op Nursery School announces the opening of registration for Fall 1980. Children who will be 3 years old by September 30, 1980 and 4 and 5 year olds are eligible for enrollment. Classes meet Tuesday through Thursday with choice of morning or afternoon classes. For more information call Barb Cicerchi (932-5286 or Cheryn Wall (932-8394.

A PUBLIC MEETING to consider the two fire station concept will be held at City Hall on Monday, February 11 at 7:30 PM. Interested persons are requested to submit their questions, in advance to City Manager, Rich Robinson so that they may be adequately(sic) researched.

-- Bobbie Littell

