

Pick-N-Pay Will Stay

At the May 12th meeting of the Cleveland Heights Planning Commission, City officials announced they had learned Pick-N-Pay had signed a new lease for its Coventry location. The lease will reportedly run for five years.

The decision of Pick-N-Pay to stay in Coventry is good news indeed for such groups as the elderly of Musicians' Towers who either lack cars or places to park them. A store within walking distance has long been a mainstay of the Coventry Village area. Retention of this store means more than convenience; it means economic stability for a district whose stores depend on the walk-in trade.

At first blush, the lease renewal would seem to put to rest persistent rumors that Pick-N-Pay was leaving because this particular store was losing money. One question which remains is, what effect did the quashing of plans for a Pick-N-Pay/Gold Circle at Severance have on the decision to re-lease? Despite official denials of any relation between the two site decisions, there are still suspicions that a relation did exist.

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 OUR NEXT MEETING OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. WILL BE ON MONDAY,  
 JUNE 14, 1976 at 8:00 p.m. AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY ON LANCASHIRE  
 ROAD. SEE YOU THERE!  
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June 14, 1976: CNI Agenda

1. Minutes of the Meeting of May 11, 1976: Janet St. Clair
2. Financial Report - Ester Brodsky
3. 1976 Coventry Street Fair Status Report - Karen Lind
4. Council Report - David Burwasser
5. School Report
6. Old Business  
    - Pick-N-Pay
7. New Business  
    - Coventry Road variance requests
8. Next Meeting

ARCHITECTS COMMEND CNI

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. received an award on May 19th from the American Institute of Architects. Karen Lind, CNI President, accepted the award at a ceremony held at the Cleveland Restoration Center.

The AIA has, since 1960, sought to encourage the preservation, restoration or adaptive use of buildings of architectural merit or historic importance. In its commendation, the AIA recognized CNI and the Merchants' Association for their efforts "to further the public interest in preserving our heritage as a bridge from the past to the future" and for "encouraging preservation of the character of viable neighborhoods in spirit as well as in the physical state."

Support Your Local Community - Twice

In two separate resolutions, the membership of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. has voted support for the City of Cleveland Heights income tax increase (issue 16) and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District bond issue (issue 17), both on the upcoming ballot. Your "YES" vote on both is urged.

You need not be a registered Republican or Democrat to vote the issues at the June 8th election.

The City income tax issue is a question of vital services. Whatever else you may have heard, what is at stake in this vote is vital services--police protection, fire safety, rubbish and snow removal. The City has already cut back its operations to what is really a sub-optimal level in some sectors; there is no "fat" left to trim. The proposed tax is particularly equitable in that it is a wages and salaries tax rather than a flat income tax; it falls on people whose income rises with inflation, and does not affect fixed-income people on pensions and dividends.

The School District, likewise, has cut the "fluff"--and school authorities have been encouragingly frank in conceding that there were programs that could have been phased out earlier. Again, the inessentials have been cut back to a point that many of us might consider undesirably harsh. As with the City, the only place left to cut is vital services--educational in this instance, but none the less vital. The amount being asked is bigger this time than last November, in the levy that didn't pass. In part this is due to inflation; in part, to anticipated mass-bargaining salary negotiations; and in part because the November levy did fail, so the District does not have a cash reserve in the bank generating income.

If you are a home-owner, these issues will help maintain the value of that investment, probably the biggest investment you have.

Upon the apartment dweller--particularly the childless apartment dweller--falls an unusually heavy responsibility to recognize one's own long-range self-interest, as manifested in the interest of the community. Your income is taxed, too, and you know where your landlord's property tax monies come from. Why should you vote increases this year? The reasons are whatever reasons you have for living in Cleveland Heights in the first place. Even if you never need a cop, a fireman, a teacher, or a rubbish collection personally, these services make or break the community in which you live. Your interest in your civic environment is your reason to support both issues.

Taxes and the reasons for taxation have come recently under increasing challenge, and quite properly so in terms both of the size of the burden and the purposes for which it is expended. Please keep in mind, as you go to vote on June 8th, that these local jurisdictions are not conducting foreign wars, putting people on the Moon, or slipping bribes to multi-national corporate executives. They are providing a package of necessary, immediate services of a kind and quality that would be nigh-impossible to put back together once permitted to fall apart.

Vote "YES" for Issue 16 and Issue 17 on Tuesday, June 8th.

- David Burwasser

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Food Stamps - Senior Citizens, you may qualify for food stamps. Call the Food Stamp Hotline 1-800-282-1190 (FREE) - Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Ed. Note: At the May 17th meeting of City Council, the following letter was read into the public record.

Dear Mayor Wright and Members of Council:

Within the current year, you will be filling a vacancy in your membership by appointment. Coventry Neighbors, Inc. urges your consideration of the following in making your selection:

Currently, no member of Council is Black.

Currently, no member of Council lives in an apartment dwelling unit.

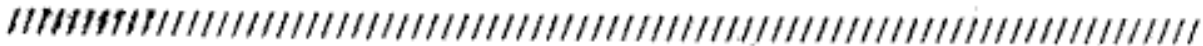
Currently, no member of Council is a proprietor of a business in Cleveland Heights.

These are significant categories of Cleveland Heights residents, and Council would benefit from the inclusion of a qualified member of at least one of these groups in its number.

In urging that Council take an especially thorough look in these directions, Coventry Neighbors, Inc. is not proposing ethnic or economic tokenism as an on-going policy, nor are we suggesting that Council compromise any standards of quality in this selection. We do see in this appointive process an unusual opportunity for Council to make itself an even more representative reflection of the community it governs.

Sincerely,

Karen Lind, President



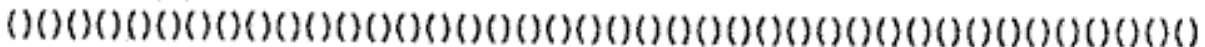
HCC IS HAVING A PARTY.....AND YOU ARE INVITED!

Come and celebrate the recognition given to Cleveland Heights as an All-American City. The Heights Community Congress is sponsoring a party on Saturday, June 5 at the Cleveland Heights Pavilion from 8:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. There will be dancing to the music of Lou Elgart, beer, snacks, and fun. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at the door.

Proceeds of this party will help the HCC raise some badly needed funds from the community to match foundation monies and ticket donations are tax-deductible. Moreover, if you have dinner at certain Cleveland Heights restaurants before the dance and turn your receipt over to the HCC, 10-15% of your bill will go to the HCC. Participating restaurants are:

- Au Province
- Brown Derby
- Out to Eat (Jayson's)
- Michaelangelo's
- Earth by April
- Light of Yoga

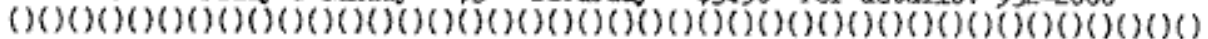
For ticket information and reservations, call 321-6775. We hope to see you there!



"Antigone"--Sophocles classic version will be presented in rolling repertoire with the modern "Antigone" by Jean Anouilh. Date: Beginning June 25th.

Location: Fairmount Center for Performing Arts, 1925 Coventry Road.

Admission: Friday & Sunday - \$3 Saturday - \$3.50 For details: 932-2000



### THE JAFFE DISCONNECTION

The impending departure of Councilmember Don Jaffe from Cleveland Heights--and hence from Council--stimulated a minor row at the May 3rd and May 17th meetings of Council.

On May 3, Councilmember Dick Weigand called for the immediate resignation of Jaffe, who expects to complete his move around October and does not plan an early resignation. Weigand said that voters who had elected Jaffe in 1975 had been "deceived," asserting that Jaffe had intended to move out-of-City at that time and specifying the suburb of destination. Weigand also criticized Mayor (then only Councilmember) Marjorie Wright as the orchestrator of Jaffe's 1975 campaign. Weigand called for minimization of Jaffe's lame-duck incumbency, and proposed former Mayor John J. Boyle as Jaffe's appointed replacement, under a precedent set in 1972 of selecting the runner-up with the most votes to fill a vacancy.

Earlier, this columnist had delivered a personal-citizen communication, noting that the slate that won in 1975 had made an issue of an opponent's one-time intent to leave Council before her term was up, an issue now rendered "phony" by Jaffe's action.

Jaffe, after a formal announcement of his plans, claimed a "personal attack by Mr. Burwasser" and emphasized that his departure was the result of a personal, not a political, decision. Rebutting Weigand, he stated that his decision to move was of recent origin and challenged Weigand to "put up or shut up" regarding any prior intent. Jaffe vigorously protested the public mention of the suburb in which he now plans to reside, a detail he had hoped to keep private for security reasons.

Mayor Wright, visibly angered by the exchange, criticized the injection of "political garbage" into the selection of a Council replacement. She noted that Weigand, in requesting adherence to the 1972 appointment pattern, was now urging what he and his cohorts had then criticized.

Procedures for appointing Jaffe's replacement were scheduled to be taken up on May 24th by the Committee of the Whole of Council in executive session, closed to the public.

Two weeks later, at the May 17th meeting of Council, the letter from Coventry Neighbors, Inc. printed elsewhere in this issue was delivered by CNI President Karen Lind. John Sweeney delivered another letter, for Citizens for Effective Heights Government, calling for Jaffe's prompt resignation in the interests of effective campaigning for Issue 16; for open Council hearings with public input regarding appointment of a successor; and for suspension of appointive procedures until after the Issue 16 election.

Weigand, speaking later, agreed with the notion of such a moratorium and expressed disappointment that Council itself would fail to observe same by holding its Committee of the Whole meeting on May 24th; and suggested that Jaffe's participation at the meeting would be inappropriate.

Mayor Wright angrily asserted that the May 24 meeting will concern process and not actual selection, and that Jaffe's participation is hence his own affair; that the May 24 date was chosen to assure attendance of all Council members; that she was out of patience at being "misinterpreted"; and that her remarks, unlike others, were not being made in a "political connection."

COMMENT: Jaffe's reasons for departing the community are, of course, personal, and pointless public emphasis upon them is improper. But his departure from the community entails his departure from Council, and that is a public and political matter. He cannot unilaterally remove that matter from the public category by invoking the private nature of his decision, and for him to disparage political critique as personal attack is semantically corrupt. To note that his

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action violates the standards raised by him and his slatemates in 1975 is certainly proper, else there is no accountability once a politician is on Council for the things he said to get himself elected. Acknowledgement of such points by Jaffe would lend credence to some of his better-founded complaints.

Weigand presumably understands that the faint chances of Boyle's appointment approach zero with the mention of his name at this stage--a move apparently made to set up a demonstration that Council majority will use no standard but convenience in this appointment. However, in recent weeks a consensus of at least perception of the City's problems seems to have developed among Weigand, Resnick, Schroeder and Chilcote; it would be unfortunate if an embryonic cohesion of these four was aborted by reinforcing the historic but potentially totemic liberal-conservative line-up dividing Weigand and Resnick from the rest of Council.

Mayor Wright may wish to keep the appointive replacement of an elective vacancy from becoming "political," but she can hardly hope to succeed. Her anger might be tempered by recognition of her own role in perpetuating such politics: the effective nullification of Wiegand's and Resnick's voting power on Council committees by isolating them from one another. The Mayor makes these assignments, and her choices did not say: Let's end partisanship on Council; they said: We're back in control, spike 'em!

Jaffe's Council career peculiarly inverts the impressive rise of his colleague, Lee Chilcote. Jaffe campaigned very aggressively and topped the 1975 poll, running ahead of all the incumbents including slatemate Al Connors. I have never had any particular liking for Jaffe, nor certainly for his style, but I have been waiting since January for him to do something. His legislation has been routine, his alignments predictable, and his one strong law and order pronouncement devoid of follow-up. That his greatest impact has been through imminent departure is a mark of the dissipation of his potential.

- Dave Burwasser

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COVENTRY VILLAGE LIBRARY - 1925 Coventry Road - 932-3600 Ext. 47

Sunday, June 6: Poetry Reading co-sponsored with Cleveland Area Arts Council: Sally Pirtle and Christopher Franke 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 10: Yankee Doodle Dandy OPENING DAY AND REGISTRATION 1-2 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 22: Flicks: Movies for all ages 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 23: Preschool Storytime begins; ages 3-5; registration required 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 24: Super Sleuths: Mysteries and detective stores for 8-12 year olds 7:30 p.m.

REMINDER: We fought for his Library to stay in the Coventry area; let's use it!  
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COMMUNITY NOTES:

Two matters of local interest will come up before the Cleveland Heights Board of Zoning Appeals at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16th at City Hall.

The first matter is the request of Stick, Inc. DBA The Saloon, 1765 Coventry Road, for a parking variance of 7 to 8 spaces. This variance is made necessary by plans to expand the business into the storefront formerly occupied by the Clothes Rack.

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