

Pick-N-Pay Away, Continued

The Coventry neighborhood has a serious grocery store problem with two parts to it: (1) continuation of a supermarket in the neighborhood, and (2) quality of products and services.

Nearly two years ago, when he was Vice-President and Treasurer, Pick-N-Pay President Richard Bogomolny told Coventry Neighbors, Inc. that the Coventry store was not serving the area well, that it was an embarrassment to the chain and that the store would either be improved or Pick-N-Pay would abandon the store. He told neighbors that negotiations with the owners of the present building and adjacent property were underway and that Pick-N-Pay would require more space plus improvements in the building before agreeing to extend its lease.

There is absolutely no indication from Pick-N-Pay, the owners involved, the City, or anyone else that any agreement to improve the property or continue Pick-N-Pay's lease beyond this year has been reached. There is good reason to suppose at this point that agreement to continue the Pick-N-Pay store at Coventry is unlikely if not impossible. So the question becomes, if Pick-N-Pay leaves Coventry, what will the neighborhood do for groceries?

Informal inquiries have turned up people in the grocery business who believe that Coventry is a very attractive market. At least two different parties want to discuss the possibilities of operating a supermarket at the present store's location. It has also been learned that the owner of the Pick-N-Pay building has heard of a specific proposal to replace Pick-N-Pay with another enterprise selling grocery products.

Parenthetically, the effect of the proposal by Pick-N-Pay to build a new store at Severance upon the future of the Coventry store is generally considered to be negligible.

So Pick-n-Pay may very well be on the way out, but clearly others are interested in coming in. However, it is equally clear that the owner of the building in which Pick-N-Pay is presently located has no legal obligation to rent to any food store whatsoever. The Pick-N-Pay lease will run out in November.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. maintains that a good grocery store is vital to our community. Should Pick-N-Pay leave its current site, CNI has pledged to take whatever steps it can to insure that a reputable, full-scale supermarket will move into the area. This issue will be discussed more fully at an April meeting of CNI.

- Karen Lind

OUR NEXT MEETING OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. WILL BE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9th at 8:00 p.m. AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY ON LANCASHIRE ROAD. (Reminder: Dues are \$3 per year)

A temporary RITA office has been set up at City Hall, open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, in the Community Room, until April 30, 1976.

March 9, 1976: CNI AGEHDA

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| 1. Minutes - Janet St. Clair | 5. New Business |
| 2. Financial Report - Ester Brodsky | Pick-N-Pay/Gold Circle |
| 3. Reports: Council - David Burwasser | Bicentennial Plans |
| School - Mary Picken | 1976 Coventry Street Fair |
| 4. Old Business: | 6. Other Business |
| Pick-N-Pay Coventry | 7. Next Meeting |
| Weathers vs. Peters Realty | |
| Mayfield/Euclid Heights | |
| Pedestrian Crossing | |

COMMITTEES AND CREDIBILITIES

Fred Mathis is off the Board of Zoning Appeals, by a 5-2 decision of City Council. The Board that makes land-use decisions for everyone in Cleveland Heights is once again devoid of apartment dwellers and skewed away from the modest income brackets. An open letter from Mathis has recounted the gracelessness with which his offer to continue was never answered, and that no expression of appreciation for his services rendered was forthcoming from Council leadership. But beyond crudeness, two more foul odors emanate from this non-reappointment.

Whiff No. 1 arises from the reasons variously given for Mathis' unacceptability by Mayor Marjorie Wright and Vice Mayor Al Connors. At the time of his appointment, it was his non-status as any kind of zoning "specialist." As of his removal, Connors--chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee--has narrowed this down to the observation that Mathis' predecessor had been the sole attorney on the Board, and his successor restores that profession. (Neither is a legal requirement.)

But during the 1975 Council campaign, the stated reason was the fact that Mathis had been campaign manager for the Council candidates who eventually comprised the 1974-75 majority. The liberals, it was alleged, had done a payoff.

And hither arises the stink: Mathis' Board successor was an early financial contributor to the 1975 campaign of Connors and his slatemates, whose well-heeled drive tipped Council's balance back to the conservatives who had held power prior to 1974. Liberal Council member Dick Weigand pointed this out in Council session; Connors, whose Finance and Personnel committee had fielded the nomination, professed to have been unaware of the connection.

A flagrant lack of homework indeed: Having run on "clean-politics" issues in the sensitive post-Watergate era (Connors & Co. made similar noises about a contract the liberals awarded in 1974), Connors obligated himself to live up to the standard he espoused and check out just such matters in the future. His failure to do so suggests a greater concern for re-election than cleanliness.

Stench No. 2 issues from the fact that the full Finance & Personnel committee did not get a chance to pass on the appointment. Libby Resnick, the other surviving liberal, had to leave a committee meeting that ran overtime, after which the remaining two committee members recommended this appointment. (The public at Council was treated to a dirty-laundry exchange of versions of the precise train of events.)

Connors' excuse for the overtime--that the committee had a lot of work to do--is a genuine howler. Resnick & Weigand have continuously protested the 1976 committee structure, a main point being the excess burden on this new Finance

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MOPERY WAVE HITS COVENTRY

It was reliably reported by several sources at Irv's Deli this past week that Coventry is going through yet another one of those crime waves which have plagued the community over the years. Seventeen separate incidents of mopery have been documented so far, and the rate of mopery is already up 156% over last year. No FBI statistics were available for purposes of comparison, but it is widely believed that Coventry may have the greatest incidence of mopery in the City of Cleveland Heights, and perhaps one of the highest rates in the entire county.

Especially noticeable has been the increase in mopery without a permit, which is a most severe criminal offense. Several apartment residents have been found committing this crime, including two unrelated elderly ladies living together in sin on Mayfield Road without a license to commit mopery. Vehicular mopery is another problem, though the City has acted promptly to remedy this by requisitioning more forms for Ticketman Ernie.

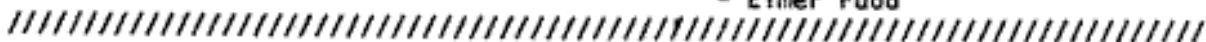
Many of the residents queried about this problem have declined to express their anger, lest they be accused of aggravated mopery.

The crime of mopery (pronounced "mōp-er-ē"): has caused many problems for law-abiding citizens of Coventry because it is ill-defined. One cynic has suggested that "you can violate a hundred separate laws against mopery around here just by breathing." Informed sources say this is an exaggeration, and that anyone who says different is committing malicious mopery.

Mopery has been a special problem in Coventry for some time now. During the 1960's there was a severe outbreak of walking-down-the-street-with-intent-to-commit-mopery. This has subsided somewhat during the 1970's and has largely been replaced by public mopery and the flu, which are now acknowledged to be the two greatest remaining threats to the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the City. Various solutions have been suggested, including a plan to raze Coventry and replace it with a scale model of the Emerald City of Oz. No federal funding has been available for this, and private funds are currently being solicited by interested developers.

There has been no public comment by responsible officials about the recent waves of mopery. No accurate statistics of the incidence of mopery are available. Some sources report rumors of a plan by the City Council to fine all residents of Coventry for mopery against the public interest. However, it can be definitively stated that such rumors are products of a paranoid mentality and are absolutely without foundation at this time, even though they are out to get us.

- Elmer Fudd



THANKS

Although speed traps are held in abhorrence by most automobile drivers, I would like to step out of my role for a few seconds to commend the newest speed trap location in the Coventry area. The radar equipped squad car, positioned on the 2600 block of Hampshire, serves a useful and appreciated function. On Hampshire, a combination of parked cars, a narrow street, and foolhardy drivers creates a serious pedestrian hazard. As a Coventry resident and some-time pedestrian, I appreciate the efforts of the Cleveland Heights Police on Hampshire Road.

- Christine M. Mitchell

Christian Community of Cleveland Moves to Rock Court

The Christian Community of Cleveland is presently seeking to locate in the Coventry area at 1841 Rock Court. Since our classes and services are open to the public, we need to obtain a conditional use permit from the City of Cleveland Heights. The first review before the Planning Commission is scheduled for March 10. A public hearing will follow a month later.

The Christian Community is a self-sufficient, non-denominational group of persons under a charter from the Holy Order of MAES, established to exemplify the Christian way of life as taught by Jesus Christ and the ancient wisdom teachings, and to provide community help services for the city in which we are located. We are neither a church nor a commune, but rather a group of people who come together to learn to express the Light, Life and Love of the Christ on the earth. We do not actively seek members or proselytize, but rather seek to unite all mankind in brotherly love. Our members are free to maintain membership in a church or other religious organization if they wish.

How does this work in practice? 1841 Rock Court would be used mainly as a residence for our community minister, presently St. Jonas Worsham, and for Sunday morning services and public classes Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The nature of the teaching and discussion is to emphasize the simple and the useful. We seek to use spiritual truth to live life more abundantly, each to the fullest extent of his own realization. We look for practical results in our daily lives, and learn to apply this in service to our fellow men and women.

More than adequate parking is available in the nearby municipal parking lot. Since our meetings are not during the business hours, we will not be adding to the general congestion of the area at these times. (Our present membership is small, and our present parking needs are only for about 3 or 4 cars anyway.) Because the nature of our endeavor is to be of service to the community, we respect the rights and feelings and welfare in general of our neighbors. Should we grow to a point that our need for room and parking could not be readily supplied in this area, we would of our own accord seek another location.

I would be happy to answer any questions about the Christian Community. God bless you.

- Peter Williams, President
Christian Community of Cleveland

"Crime-Proof Community"

Recently elected Councilmember Donald Jaffe, head of Council's Public Safety Committee, declared at the January 19 meeting: "My goal is Cleveland Heights as a crime-proof community." This was his first meeting as Public Safety chair.

He commended the City police forces on their record of the past year: a decline in all but one of the major crime categories in which the FBI keeps national statistics. In these most serious crime categories, Cleveland Heights saw an 11% decrease, while suburbs nationwide suffered a 14% increase, Jaffe said.

Jaffe went on to say that, while a decrease in crime is of course welcome, the ultimate goal is zero in any such category. He then announced his "crime-proof" ideal.

While agreeing with the end, some questions have to be raised about the means. Are we going to continue intelligent concentration on serious crimes against

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