

POST-FIRES REVIVAL BEGINS

It has been a hard winter for the merchants of the Coventry commercial strip. Three major fires have affected every store, directly or indirectly. Merchants report that fewer shoppers come to Coventry these days--convinced, perhaps, that Coventry has all burned down. But encouraging sights were very evident this week. A re-building process has definitely begun. Slowly and painfully, the commercial strip is recovering from its recent wounds.

New stores have opened in recent weeks. Passport to Peru, a specialty shop, is operating out of a storefront abandoned by Ward's Folly after the first fire destroyed Water Works in October, 1977. Arabica has returned in better form than it had when the Coventryard fire closed its small operation in the rear of the mall. Now it will sell its fine selection of coffees and teas from a storefront location between Rainblue and Bill Jones Leather Shop. Even more importantly, Arabica will have a seating area, giving the neighborhood some replacement for the "coffee house" facility it lost in the Irv's Deli fire.

The big story, of course, is the opening of Tommy's. Its former location in Coventryard was vacated last March. New construction and renovation of the present location began in July of 1977. Fortunately, Tommy's escaped damage from the Water Works fire--due to the fact that a fire wall had been newly placed into the basement by the Fello Family.

Meanwhile, work continues in other locations. The Collector, an antique store next to Grum's Sub Shoppe, has left, but carpenters are busily at work renovating for some yet unknown store-to-be. At the old burned-out Water Works store, a sound new floor has been constructed. The Water Works store moved to a building next to Coventryard after that fire. It is now leaving, but plans are being prepared for some yet-unnamed restaurant to go somewhere into that building.

Thus, the Post-Fires revival of Coventry has begun and is well underway. By the time of the Coventry Street Fair, people should see many positive changes.

- Alan Rapoport

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*The next meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will take place on Tuesday, May 9, 1978, at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society on Lancashire Road, across from Musicians' Tower.*

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THE APPLICATION FOR A 1978 COVENTRY STREET FAIR IS IN! PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED. IF ALL GOES WELL, THE FAIR WILL BE:

SATURDAY, JULY 29, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
and  
SUNDAY, JULY 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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*Editor's Note: As promised in our last issue, here are a rebuttal and a rejoinder on the Library Levy issue.*

Opinions: The Library Levy

It is a pleasure to get Mr. Cook's response to my remarks on the Library Levy. However, I don't know why he should expect to make up for the mistakes and negative public relations of some fellow board members. His courtesy and interest are appreciated, but he comes very late to the fray.

I am grateful for his beginning discussion of library expenditures, which are as I stated them. Draw your own conclusions which figures lead or mislead. My data --which you can read for yourself on pp. 49-61 of the Library Planning Committee Report--has not come in for criticism. It has gotten some low level opprobrium, but criticism implies study and careful discussion of facts and inferences, which I still await.

When both Mr. Apple and Mr. Cook publicly stated they would not resubmit the levy if it were defeated, they added a clearly punitive "We'll take our marbles and go home" slant to the previous "gun-to-the-head" approach. Now we are supposed to shut up about library errors and inequities so the boat doesn't rock? Sorry! If the levy is defeated--which I don't advocate--it will be because of the record Board and administration compiled, not because that record was publicized by the likes of us. (By the way, are library funds and services their marbles?)

As for promises, we've had them before. Now we want delivery before payment, if you please.

That would be 'responsible', much more responsible than depriving a neighborhood of its library by administrative maneuvers, and then laying the blame on the neighborhood.

I urge Mr. Cook and his colleagues to rectify that BAD MISTAKE well before June 6.

- R. A. Wortman

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There are few resources in this community more important than the Library. I share Mr. Wortman's concern about the Coventry branch. But after dozens of meetings with Library Board members and Library administrators, I am absolutely convinced that a strong, continuing commitment to this branch does exist.

If the levy fails, the entire library system may lose 20% of its funding. Cuts in Coventry would probably result. If it passes, service will be improved in Coventry. That was explicitly promised by the Library Board. I believe they will keep that promise.

There is no "gun-to-the-head" approach. The issue is money. Without it, cuts will come. If I did not believe in the Library's commitment to Coventry, I would not now be urging that all Cleveland Heights residents vote YES on the levy.

- Alan Rapoport

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Wanna Try My Bounce?

In the May 1978 issue of Cleveland Magazine, the Coventry Laundro-Mat and Chester's were rated as two of the leading singles spots in the Cleveland Area. Chester's was said to be "a good spot to meet a wide spectrum of interesting characters, but not for claustrophobics. Lots of spilled drinks and an occasional dropped glass." Coventry Laundro-Mat, 1803 Coventry, was rated as a singles spot that you probably never thought of. The action was said to be week-nights from 7 - 11.

Other All-America City hunting grounds include Nighttown, Peabody's, and Russo's Stop-N-Shop, where you might try the Cleveland Magazine suggested come-on, "Do you know if it's OK to buy Gallo now?"

- Charles Owen

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REFUSE COLLECTION:

Effective May 1 the City will no longer collect refuse left on the curb in garbage cans or other containers that the homeowner wishes to keep. Residents are reminded that the City will begin to ticket residents who place refuse at curb before 7 p.m. on the day prior to pick-up.

Rules concerning refuse collection are as follows:

- 1) Discontinue the use of garbage cans whether metal, rubber, or plastic at once.
- 2) Bag properly.
- 3) Cut branches and shrubbery to a 4 foot maximum.
- 4) Limit containers to 60 pounds.
- 5) Use plastic bags.
- 6) Have your refuse at curb before 7 a.m.
- 7) Do not place your refuse at curb before 7 p.m. on the day prior to pick-up.
- 8) Tie all branches and shrubbery in small bundles.
- 9) Broken glass: use single service box.
- 10) Rocks, small amounts of dirt, or sod should be placed in boxes or single service containers.
- 11) Twigs should not be put in plastic bags.
- 12) Please cut up rugs, and bundle and tie.

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COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS

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AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS ...

This newsletter is put together once a month to serve two basic purposes. First, it serves as a meeting notice. Second, it serves as a vehicle through which our diverse members can keep in touch with one another and share information, concerns, fears, hopes, and dreams. Obviously, the first purpose is simply satisfied--in fact, a simple flyer would do the job quickly, easily ... and cheaply.

Which brings me to the point. The newsletter costs about \$10 per month. CNI has a very informal dues structure and an even more informal mailing list. It has never asked anyone to pay as a pre-condition to receiving the newsletter. It does not propose to do so now. But without the financial support of the entire membership (including those who wish to keep in contact with the rest of us via the newsletter), the Coventry Village News cannot go on.

This is as it should be. A voluntary organization rises or falls depending on the dedication of its supporters. Without periodic influxes of time, energy, and money, they fold. CNI is no exception.

The purpose of this brief note is to sound an early warning that our basically low-budget operation is in very real danger of being in the red (financially speaking), and that your help is now needed. CNI will need your help with the 1978 Coventry Street Fair and with other projects. Right now, it needs your money.

Our dues have been the same for five years. For a \$3 investment, you can help keep this newsletter alive and CNI vital. Checks made payable to Coventry Neighbors, Inc. may be sent to Apt. 301, 2753 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44106. I urge you not to wait.

Alan Rapoport  
President, CNI