

Development Pressures....Again

To live near Coventry is to put up with constant talk about "development." Hardly a month goes by without some new scheme being presented. And, with the memory of the Coventry fires still so vivid, talk about old schemes is common, too. Plans take a long time to "develop," and many never amount to anything at all. Talk is cheaper than construction, after all. Here is a brief up-date.

Coventryard. The Library Board has offered a plan to buy the bottom level, condo-style. In its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposal, the City may well agree to help fund this project out of federal bucks. But some council members object to the proposed "community room" which this library would have. This despite pressures from groups as divergent as the Coventry Critics, the Coventry PTA, CNI, and the local Girl Scouts. Moreover, it is not at all clear that Mr. Zipkin can get his financing even if this project clears Council.

Irv's. No activity whatsoever. Cynics joke that Irv is wintering in Vegas and trying to raise more money there. The board-up job on Hampshire is unsafe and unsightly.

Pick-n-Pay. CNI has learned that the City will soon hire a consultant to plan an application for federal money to help develop a huge "food palace" type store on Coventry. Local opposition is slowly brewing. However, there are no known plans on paper at this time. Eventually, plans will have to be made public. This project may prove incredibly controversial!

Tree Project. CNI has sent a written offer to the City. It has asked that the City cooperate with CNI to plant 50 to 60 more trees on or near the commercial strip. CNI would provide \$1,200 now in a trust fund to secure a matching grant of \$2,000 from the City out of unspent CDBG monies from previous years. All the money is immediately available, but City officials have not yet responded to the offer. If all went well, the trees could be planted by spring. But don't be surprised if this plan sits around for a while.

Taj Mahal Restaurant. The building presently occupied by Heights Pet World was sold. This store will probably soon leave Coventry. In its place, the new owner wants to locate an Indian restaurant. His last attempt to move on Coventry was thwarted by (guess what?) parking variance problems. His request for a (guess again?) parking variance will be before the Board of Zoning Appeals on Wednesday, February 21 at City Hall at about 8:00 p.m. CNI will discuss its position at the February meeting.

- Alan Rapoport

The next meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will take place on Tuesday, February 13, 1979, 7:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Society on Lancashire Road, across from the Musicians' Tower.

STREET WALKING

The holidays are over -- Father Winter is hitting us with the worst yet this year and spring seems a long way off. Don't despair, there is a lot happening along Coventry's strip that can help make it easier to get through 'till the birds and flowers come back.

For instance, did you know that both Dobama and Fairmount Center light up again the first week in February? Alan Ayckbourn's "Absent Friends" is Dobama's offering starting February 1st. This funny play, by England's leading comedy playwright will star such Dobama favorites as Bob Gutin, Madine Buchanan and Peg Buerkel. Ron Newell, who received the Cleveland Drama Critic's Best Non-Professional Actor Award this past year will step off stage to direct. Curtain is at 3:30 Thursdays and Saturdays, 9:00 on Fridays and 7:30 on Sundays. In its 12th season on the street, Dobama continues to present the kind of off-beat theatre that fits quite nicely with the Coventry life style. The other two offerings this year have been fascinating and this promises to continue in the Dobama tradition.

At Fairmount Center, the Theatre of the Deaf is opening Tennessee Williams' "Glass Menagerie" on February 3rd at 8:00. The Theatre of the Deaf is a unique theatrical experience and this Williams play, directed by Ken Albers, sounds like something not to be missed. If you're interested in more active participation, Fairmount Center is still accepting registrations in the theatre programs until early February.

If movies are more to your taste, the Rocky Horror Picture Show is in its 67th week. Shown at the Heights Art Theatre at midnight on both Fridays and Saturdays, it is Cleveland's longest running audience participation movie. It's hard to decide which to watch, the screen or the audience.

For the sports minded, Coventry School's PTA is sponsoring its Second Annual Basketball game on Thursday, February 8 at 7:30 in the school gym. Teams of fathers and friends will vie with each other for the entertainment of all. Tickets are 50¢. Proceeds will be used to buy playground equipment.

It's good to see Brunati's open again. The entry has been moved but everything else is the same including the menu. There is one added attraction, however--live music every night from 8:00 until 1:00 with no cover charge.

Have you seen the new deli, "Import Delicious Food"? Oh, what a storehouse of good things to eat from all over the world! There are cookies from Germany, preserves from England, cheeses from many places, meat, fish, olives, pickles, bread, soup mixes and mineral water. Musia Blyumin from Israel and her partner Vladimir Guidyn from Russia are happy to show you their many delights and say they will be glad to make deliveries if you will call them at 321-9402.

Most of the stores are having sales and the windows are bright with Valentine decorations. Of particular interest to me are the calendars at Coventry Books. All that is left of their 1979

Street Walking (continued)

calendar collection are 25% off, including the Cleveland Heights calendars and a very different one called the Visionary Mountain calendar containing all kinds of information about alternative life styles. There is a gorgeous shower curtain at The Cedar Chest I just had to go in and inquire about. Would you believe it is a reproduction of a cover taken from Life Magazine in 1922? It is called "The F Flapper" and looks like something done by Maxfield Parish. It is on sale at 20% off.

Carol Lindemuth has some Bolivian alpaca wool yarn -- a bit of a departure for a dress shop and an unusual touch. The yarn is unbleached, undyed and hand spun using a drop spindle. It is sold by the pound, which will make a woman's sweater. Carol says you'll have to provide your own needles and pattern.

At Coventry Art, Mirjann Ugrinov is planning a new show in mid-February. Work by Ray Regan will be on sale starting around the 11th. There will be some surrealistic works and a new concept in landscapes. The show will open with a reception which will feature a chamber music concert. Look for the announcement. Coventry Art is another of the new shops on the strip which adds distinction to the Coventry image. Most of the works shown are by local artists and there is a good selection to suit a variety of tastes. An artist herself, Mirjann (originally from Yugoslavia) obtains most of her materials from the New Organization for the Visual Arts (NOVA) or from the Heights Guild of Artists and Artisans.

If the weather gets to you, get out and eat at Tommy's or Chester's, and then take a walk along the street. You'll be surprised at how much is going on. Coventry's a great place -- enjoy!

-- Bobbie Littell

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GOODBYE, ADOLPH

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. was saddened to learn of the death of Adolph Buchler on January 3 after a short illness. He was 73.

Adolph was more than just another merchant on Coventry Road. He had been fixing shoes in Cleveland Heights since 1939 and had been on the strip itself since 1964. He was a friend and a true neighbor. His store was a gathering place for the local elderly and a place of genuine warmth.

Sometimes you do not realize how lucky you are to live in a caring community until one of those people who cared leaves. Adolph is--and will be--missed.

In honor of Adolph's memory, and in recognition of what he meant to so many of us, CNI has purchased trees in Israel in Adolph's name through the Jewish National Fund.

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