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Appendic C

for

Report to Russell Township:

The 1994 Land Use Survey

February, 1995

This appendix consists of verbatim comments volunteered by survey respondents. It is a supplement to the full report, to be found under separate cover.

RUSSELL TOWNSHIP COMMENTS

It's great like it is. Do NOT change

Please- The Oakwood Country Club proposal would be an environmental and demographic disaster for Russell. I can't emphasize my opposition strongly enough!

1. outside (transmittal envelope) strongly resembles what many would consider "junk Mail". Quite possibly be thrown away without looking at content. Should have used Russell Township for return address, not OSU Polimetrics lab.
2. mailing stamp (for transmittal) same thought as for #1. Should have been mailed from novelty post office.
3. Lack of transmittal note from Russell Trustees or, at least, from Russell Zoning Commission.
4. Question #5. The #5 response is totally insensitive, why discount these people?
5. Question #21. Safety factor is missing and should have been part of the list.
6. Question #25. "... for some land use purposes." Who decides? What purposes?
7. Your business reply envelope is too small for the questionnaire. I had to cut off a strip off the top.

Please don't permit Russell Twp to become a duplicate of Chester twp!

Please use a larger return envelope -or a smaller survey form. I had to cut this one down to squeeze into your envelope.

I love Russell - I don't like changes.

I feel extremely lucky to live in such a beautiful area. I hope that twp. residents will carry on the tradition of preserving the natural beauty of Russell twp. by curving development and growth.

Newbury and Chesterland commercial areas are disasters! I hope Russell never turns into a crowded, noisy, dirty township.

I feel it is important to keep Russell rural. I'd hate to see it turn into another Solon, Ohio. We should develop the parks and recreation areas already purchased. I also feel there is a need - county-wide to develop services for the elderly: home repairs, yard work (affordable), and transportation. We all grow old! The growth and development of Russell should continue to be monitored and regulated. Not all people in Russell are wealthy.

I would remain in Russell Township if there was condominium housing.

Moved out here because of increases in East Ohio gas and water bills that kept rising in cost. I have my own oil, water, and septic now I can control my income.

Very glad William Grim purchased ASM 524 acres instead of a developer.

#57 Divorced female working 55 hour weeks to maintain lifestyle.

We've lived in Russell Township for 20 years and have been basically satisfied with area and services. The sad part is that traffic and speed on Rt. 306 has gotten out of hand. When 87 was closed due to the road veins washed away this past summer, Fairmount Rd turned into a speed track.

Russell needs a community recreation center with a pool. Russell does not have the water/septic conditions or the roads to have high density development. Keep the 5 acre lot size as a minimum for residence industry- we do not need or want commercial development- lots of stores et al outside Russell are within 15 minutes or less- Don't wreck a beautiful place.

Need better power (electric) services.

The uproar over a private country club relocating to Russell was terrible. I would much rather have a 250 acre golf course than 50 - 100 homes!

It is frightening to hear about developers wanting to come in and turn the quiet oasis into another over developed community. The charm of loving in Russell is due to the peaceful surroundings that only nature can provide. If new developments are allowed I would prefer only a 3 acre minimum. An increase in traffic and flooding into the school system would deter the quality of life now enjoyed here. Although no one is in favor of a property tax increase I would be open to discussion on a personal income tax to evenly distribute the tax burden. I would prefer no commercial development at all.

Zoning should include limited areas for town houses and retirement communities.

Didn't your mother ever teach you to mind your own business? By now you should have a foot long nose.

We do need to enforce those residents whom are inconsiderate and keep malfunctioning septic systems. EPA is not the answer. Utilization of a local official would work. Especially if people see what happens when the EPA and their septic solutions get involved in rural communities.

Next time you send out questionnaire supply an envelope that can accommodate the questionnaire.

I believe that the open, rural, and restricted commercial use of land in Russell Township will become more and more desirable as the years go by.

I use the woods behind my house for bow hunting and wildlife photography. My wife and I hike and picnic in these woods. My oldest daughter graduated from the fine West Geauga schools, as did her younger sister. My oldest daughter then graduated from Hiram college and received her Masters in Botany from Ohio State. Her interest in nature and the sciences was born in the beautiful woods behind our house. My youngest daughter is working on her Masters in nursing. This area has been good to us in many ways.

Russell is the life style most people are looking for in a community, but Russell life style isn't cheap. My family will sacrifice other things to live here. If Russell changes too much for us we will move farther East in Geauga county.

We live on a private road- we have no trash pick up, no road maintenance, no sewers, no city water... We prefer it that way, and have lived happily in Russell Township for over 26 years.

Forget zoning

Russell must remain rural and keep the large lot zoning. I am adamantly opposed to golf course or any additional commercial growth. Limited residential growth is acceptable.

I prefer to not install sewers and city water because I believe it will lead to small lot development. I think the communication/sales challenge is to get residents to recognize the necessity to either do sewers and water and ensure large lot zoning, or accept inspection and maintenance of septic systems.

Question the integrity of those preparing this survey if they can't use common sense to insure that this fits in envelope provided!

I think there should be a traffic light at Rt. 306 and Music St.

I had to trim this questionnaire in order to be able to fit it into the envelope - poor planning on your part - hope you do better on your analysis of the poll.

Having lived here for almost 25 years, I have noticed a slow but steady increase in the things I had wished to avoid by moving here, mainly traffic volume. My grandmother grew up in Russell and my great grandparents are buried at Riverview Cemetery, so I have some family ties to Russell. I know that change is inevitable but I strongly feel that the residents of Russell Township should have the biggest voice and the most authority when it comes to making the decisions that determine our future here. We must protect our community from outside land speculators and government bureaucrats.

Russell needs to consider planned unit developments for both young families and retirement families. I.E. Auburn Lakes.

The reason people are willing to invest the large sums necessary to buy or build in Russell is for the rural atmosphere and good school system. "Affordable" housing in the forms of apartments, condos, or small lots would destroy the atmosphere of the community.

I hope this survey is not requested by an elite minority of Russell residents, slanted by the wording of the questions in order to impose their views, and consequently paid for with my tax dollars. For example: Page 3, question 7- there is a big difference between "open areas" and "recreational areas" we already have people trespassing on our property to get to "open areas" (I approve of "open areas") and parks would make it much worse by bringing increased traffic.

Local taxes need to be brought in line. Current trustees are not of business mind to run this growing community responsibly.

Our zoning inspector wants a permit for interior work and it appears he has the trustees backing. It's wrong and probably illegal.

I feel this survey is biased by the examples cited I.E. question 17. It appears a deliberate attempt by our trustees against any development in the township.

What we do in the next 5 years will determine if Russell can remain a quiet semi-rural place to live - That's the reason most of us moved here. The financial interests of the few should not control the lifestyle of the many.

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to preserve Russell Township, to keep it green and open and clean.

We have loved living in Russell - we would prefer to be classified in West Geauga schools rather than Chagrin Falls, as our taxes would be lower. We have found police and fire protection to be good. Would prefer xxxxx not allowing discharge if firearms though. Some of our neighbors use slide-guns and practices target or trap shooting.

This survey is a good idea, let's keep Russell quiet and unregulated and non-commercial and uncrowded and "country". Tell our township trustees and zoning people about these ideas. They should keep Russell SIMPLE!

Russell provides a rural community and high quality of life. We are close enough to shopping etc. and yet maintain a "country" environment.

Get heads out of the sand! (Ostriches not wishing to be cognizant of others problems) Those in large lots do not wish to help those not as fortunate. i.e. If all lot owners have to mandatorily pump systems and have all of them inspected, that is called FAIR treatment of all.

No Country Club, no commercial development, prefer to drive 5 minutes to shop than to have people coming to my area to shop.

I will favor sewers only when it is a means to protect existing wells. Pursue sewers before city water.

Why aren't you college people smart enough to use envelope big enough to hold survey?

Schools were good and still are. Lots getting too large for us to handle without help. House gotten too large for us. Gotten older hard to manage. Love the area but probably will have to move soon. Too bad we don't have bus service, limits the age of people possible to stay here. Need more areas for service and assistance.

I think this is important to Russell Township residents to keep Russell as it is and to keep additional development out, along with any additional government regulations.

If development in Russell continues, there will come a time when all lots are occupied in one way or another - no further development can occur. Let's consider Russell fully developed now. Let's find funding - grants, The Nature Conservatory, Audubon - whatever to purchase remaining spaces to save the woods, wetlands, fields as is.

Nothing is included in the taxes you pay- ie, garbage pick up, sewers, - taxes are far too high- roads are not that good for the taxes assessed. Long time residents ate being taxed out of their homes especially the elderly. This used to be a caring community with caring trustees. Now all the trustees can think of is raising property taxes- spending the tax payers money, passing tax increases seem to be their most important decision. That's what is killing this area greedy township trustees.

Russell township is a very nice place to live, with a good variety of housing for all.

I love living in Russell township but when it comes time to move and my house becomes too big to manage there will not be affordable housing to buy within the township.

Try to keep the community as it was and is. We like how and where we live and are very proud of the community and our life style. Don't change a thing.

Russell is beautiful country. It does not need to be abused by over-population. Please halt further development. WE HAVE ENOUGH.

Please keep Russell rural. Giving in just an inch to the self-serving interests of "developers" and people who bought large tracts of land to make a "killing" in real estate sales will lead to same problems Bainbridge residents are encountering- increased crime, water, and sewer problems and residents loss of control of their once wonderful community.

I am concerned about and totally opposed to a country club/golf course on Caves Rd. Also increased commercial development along Rt 306 seems inevitable. The land use guide should ensure that development of commercial space is appropriate to the rural character and as visually appealing as possible.

"Do not try to fix what is not broken". There is danger in the apparent approach of analyzing and developing a zoning plan from "scratch", rather than in context of existing plan.

The return envelope should be larger!

If Russell develops like surrounding areas, we will leave.

We enjoy living in Russell Twp.

It would be helpful for the township to let it's residents know about and have a copy of the LAND USE GUIDE PLAN to read. This would help understand this questionnaire better.

Russell Township is a very special place to live and raise a family. The old fashion, down to earth attitude is cherished. Many people of wealth live here, although live by traditional and modest means. That is the uniqueness of this township. The 5 acre limit is a must! We love the privacy and serenity. Further development (other than residential- single family) may be reason for us to seek seclusion elsewhere. Thank you!!

Russell is a unique community. Please keep it "small town and friendly".

Russell does not need a "new" land use guide. I would actively campaign against any trustee who is not committed to maintaining Russell's present characteristics!

Please take into consideration that the majority of the population in Russell is "senior" and there views are likely not to be representative of the population that will reside here in the next ten years, having "younger" wants and needs. Questions answered with pleasure any time- 216-338-1383- Dan Schindler.

- 1- The key to retaining the character of Russell is large lots with septic systems. Once a sewage plant is permitted it is not whether but when the character will change.
- 2- If properly planned and rigidly controlled limited commercial development on the main roads (422 and 306) is acceptable.

I would like to see little but some commercial development especially something in the area of fast food restaurants on 306.

I take issue with new comers who move here for our quieter lifestyle. But then insist on bringing their former "amenities" here for their convenience, but not in their backyard! On the subject of taxes, I note that Chester Township, to our North, has an extensive commercial/business area, along with much higher taxes than Russell, in order to support that commercial activity. They also have a higher crime rate, congestion, and a government in disarray.

up keep of private well system is very poor.

The biggest problem facing Russell is the upgrading of septic systems, this will put a real financial burden on the property owners.

I'm wondering if there aren't other retirees who would like to remain in Russell in affordable condominiums.

All we need is to clean up some bad areas (corner and Junkyard- 306 by Music) and continue with current land use plan. Need to preserve uniqueness of Russell and not become like rest of adjacent twps.

We love Russell Twp. and plan on living here until death do us part. We love the Russell way of life as it is, we need not change only thing missing is a inter connecting multi purpose trail. Our school system, police and fire, and rescue, and road department including snow plowing are the finest anywhere. We have good medical and shopping facilities close by and don't need any more any closer than they are now. Thank You.

Recreation is getting better but a community pool is greatly needed as is a public fishing spot.

It would be convenient to have a shopping mall in Russell but not at the expense of traffic congestion. Over all my family likes Russell Township. Public transportation would be a plus ie. bus to Cleveland/rapid transit station/Eastgate.

See #1 on page 1 not really a part of Russell; (Schools; phone, water) [lot size (1/2 acre) Easy access to everything I need. My portion of Russell is in Chagrin School system, Chagrin water and phone]

Could have supplied a bigger envelope.

I feel our township can best be maintained as such without any commercial places ie condos, clubs built. Lots should be kept at least 2 or more acres. We did enjoy this survey.

5 acre minimum lot size is to large; 2-21/2 acre minimum would be adequate. A bigger envelope is needed.

Please keep Russell large lot zoning so it's wildlife and semi rural nature continue. They don't make new land anymore, once destroyed it is forever. Thank You.

We need better planning then what currently is going on at Rt 87 and Rt 306. I have sat in on meeting where the trustees turned down new buildings in favor of old homes nobody else would accept in their community and made into office complexes. They are unsightly. We already have enough green area to cover all the countries in ohio. i.e. our dev. has 35 homes avg. s.f. 4000 each on 5 acres. There are 43,560 s.f. per acre, you figure the rest.

Try a slightly bigger envelope next time.

Part of me would like to keep Russell rural, however, we can not help be effected by what is happening all around us. We may as well allow a few properly placed business in. Many opportunities have been taken from our children in the schools. Private residents can't pay for it all. I would still like to see at least 3/4 acre lots.

Yes, we all know we have poor access to shops etc, but most of us accept that trade off for the peace and quiet.

This township talks about parks, green space and yet they have problems- old gas station, junkyard, vacant buildings that are not being addressed. I personally am not against sewer and city water. Being retired it's difficult living here! Thank You.

Your envelope is too small for questionnaire. I had to cut top off. Poor planning.

Great place to live- keep it the way it is.

County and state should take care of parks etc. RE: Parks: The more open area, the better but county should purchase and care for them. RE: condominiums: These should be in one area small enough for retired or young couples to buy.

We are strongly opposed to the proposed golf course because of the effect on our excellent water supply; and the increased traffic.

Please leave Russell as is!

1. In regard to question #38(2) I hope you don't think Russell township = Geauga county!
Some of us moved here from other places in Geauga county.
2. Your envelope is too small for the questionnaire.

I would hate to see Russell become like Bainbridge or Chesterland. I would not want to have to move even farther out in order to remain in the country.

It is important that all residents with septic systems- especially new residents, be advised of care requirements and cleaning law compliance. All septic systems should be tested by the township with a minimum standard required.

To much local government. The more they get the more they want.

We may be interested in city water and a septic system depending on cost per householder.

This was filled out by Lynda and Ben Fiser. We feel very strongly about how Russell should develop. Please call on us, we want to help. We will participate if at all possible. (216)338-1441.

Keep sources and city water out of all of Geauga county !!!

I commend the township for conducting this survey. I'm pleased that OSU is able to provide the services to Russell. I need a map or listing of all Russell areas listed in #35 is there a map available to residents - if so it should be mailed out or delivered to all new owners. We built in 1992 and no welcome here except by the tax man!

I am very glad you are doing this survey- Protecting our beautiful fragile community is very important.

The trustees are not in real touch with the proximity. Nothing ever remains the same some change is good and some bad. City water and sewers would help.

Concerned about corner of Music at 306. It looks bad- some limited controlled development should be there.

I am in favor of a country club to be located on caves road.

1. need 911 service
2. Improve better public schools
3. Need traffic light and street light at music/306.
4. Remove dilapidated abandoned gas station at same location.
5. Regulate lawn pesticides to protect well water.

Please maintain R.T. rural integrity. Thus it should be obvious that if "you" wish this marvelous country living come here to live if not - move to Solon.

- #6 There are some older homes in Russell which are smaller and more affordable.
- #3 To keep these homes looking good we need a property maintenance ordinance. (This is not about land usage, but very important to keep homes in good repair)

Russell township is a beautiful, safe community. If growth takes place it must be controlled to allow for the right population density. commercial development brings in people, cars, crime. The citizens of Russell township to be willing to drive a distance to shopping centers, etc. to avoid the problems which commercial development brings to a community. Also avoid apartments because renters are transient and are generally not concerned about the community.

The reason we moved to (invested in) Russell Township was the semi-rural atmosphere. This is also the feeling of many of our neighbors with which we have spoken. To change our community because of the development in neighboring communities makes no sense. Development of high density residential or commercial spaces, only benefits the developer, not the community. Let us keep Russell the unique choice, not just another high growth Geauga community.

Much as I love living in Russell, I'm afraid my family can never afford to buy our very own house in this area.

My husband and I moves here specifically due to Russell's unspoiled character as well as the density of horse population. We bought a lot large enough to sustain 2 horses and a small barn of our own eventually, located so I could ride trails surrounding our property. Anything that would change this would matter greatly. We bought on a major road with noisy neighbors just to get into Russell for the horses.

I think the city should pay for main gas lines on side streets, and residents pay for street to the house.

Our problem is run off water from new developments.

Because of the changes in surrounding communities, I have already seen changes in our community which are displeasing to me ie. increased noise and traffic. Developments where huge mansions are being erected or houses that look the same (white w/ black shutters) with no trees on the property. We prefer seeing farms and animals. Let the city people stay in the city don't bring it out here!

Some sort of cluster development makes sense if iron clad in terms of open area maintenance, and if it doesn't threaten our zoning.

I moved to Russell to live in the country-- if commercial development or "clubs" etc. increases I will be forced to move further east to maintain my sanity.

I believe this instrument is poorly constructed and started to meet the needs of the Russell Township Trustees and large lot owners. In addition, it is often difficult to answer one question with 2 parts. A non-applicable or comment section at the end of each section might have been useful. The survey is slanted toward the elitist constituency- preserving large lots of land.

Taxes keep going up people on fixed incomes have to pack up and move due to loss of jobs. Old age.

When we located in Ohio- I was shocked at the "plants"- schools that our children would attend and have been continually upset about the "It's good enough" attitude. Many Russell residents love the look of Russell but send their children to private schools. The future of this country depends on the quality of our public school education. Taxes are low but resale/property values cannot compete with controlled development areas. People buy a way of life but more importantly a school system which offers the best for their children.-- That takes taxes-- from young families in homes that can be less than \$4000,000 +.

The city is moving closer to Russell as towns around us grow. Russell needs to have a clean controlled growth plan to ensure it maintains its marketability of country living near the city. This helps to maintain the appreciation of the homes.

We heard very few spring peepers this year. Does this mean people are draining wetland areas? or are there diminishing numbers due to water pollution?

Griswald Creek is of concern. It destroyed Rt 87. It increasingly floods violently, because of the loss of the Kirkham and Appelbamm dams. The water quality is suffering from Chester and other upstream development. There should perhaps be a water conservancy. The proposed golf course might create a late for water impoundment and golf course needs that would alleviate the increasingly severe flooding.

We may divorce and I'll move to where my most friends are- Chicago area. Otherwise I could never bear to move from here. I love it and hope the Trustees will continue to protect and nurture the natural beauty and peace here.

It is important to our family that Russell Township does not become another Solon! If anything, we would like to see 10 acre minimum zoning with less local government interference (EPA, State, etc.)

In 10 years of being a Russell resident, too many negative changes have taken place-- all for bigger houses, smaller lots, great for the resident who only values his property value (\$) go up; but in so doing we see major environmental impacts, more people, more crime, etc.. I'd rather my property value not go up as much, so I can have clean water for my family, wildlife to see, etc... Also, it will be an ugly day when the home owner who was "forced" to spend \$10,000 on a new septic (aeration) system will then be "forced" to tie in (Buy in) to a city water system!!

With regard to ground water contamination is there any testing of storm water run off originating from the Route 306 auto parts yard. Engines and transmissions are known to leak coolants, lubricants, etc.

I was born and grew up in Russell, but I can not afford to own or buy a house here. We need more commercial development and smaller lot sizes in Russell. We don't need Russell to spend money buying land to keep it from being developed!

It is difficult to turn down appeals for such things as non affordable housing, however it is more important to me to preserve the character of Russell as a rural, country-like atmosphere.

We have thoroughly enjoyed living in Russell Twp. all these years. As we see xxx people currently moving out here want the pleasure of country living with all city conveniences and want to have their cake and eat it too. Lots of luck, god Bless!

We need to combine development for tax and environmental purposes and progress with careful planning and controls...progress is vital, but planning is essential. The status quo is not necessarily smart...we must be "smart"; but having a "vision" is vital in the 21st century. Go forward Russell!!!I feel sewage system and water systems are vital, plus other housing.

Through traffic may become a problem.

I grew up in Shaker Hts. in beautiful homes which were cramped onto small lots. I always wanted to live in this area because of the semi-rural atmosphere. I hope the rate of change in Russell is slow. I have seen the horrible changes that the uncontrolled commercial and residential development has caused in the Solon/Twinsburg area. KEEP Russell the way it is!!!

We like Russell Township how it is. There is no need to change a thing. If one wants change. Please relocate to a different location.

Chesterland to the North of Russell and Bainbridge to South are a traffic mess several times a day. Let's keep Russell free of commercial areas and busy intersections.

Comment on survey wording-- I found questions 6 and 13 (and to some extent 15) to show writer's bias- and therefore difficult to answer. For example, Q6. (paraphrased...) We need lower priced housing in russell twp.- my answer, "no" conditions: many young families may never be able to afford housing here, "True." Conflicting conclusions. How to answer? I feel the question leads the survey-taker into an answer of 3, 4, or 5. Same w/13. Q.15 leads responder to 1, 2, or 3. I wouldn't be surprised if you found most responses to follow this pattern, then to give inconsistent results in Q20 and elsewhere in the survey.

It would be nice to see this published for our personal info.

I love Russell Township. I hope it stays the way it is. The quality of life is better here, for everyone and children keep our big industry.

We love Russell Township, the only problem being Route 87, we need to control the amount of trucks, because it's getting very bad.

Water and waste disposal are most important in relation to any development!

We should keep Russell Township rural and natural. Keep the natural beauty- the reason that attracted us here.

An issue is the large horse population and how to deal with manure removal. This has caused problems (which have made it to the Plain Dealer) when irresponsible horse people but up against developers or residents not quite countrified.

Russell Township is a sweet, tucked-away, relatively unspoiled rural community. It should be maintained as is, unchanged. Its ideal proximity to everything our emerging metropolis, Cleveland, has to offer makes it a unique place to live. "It ain't broke, don't fix it!"

I believe the majority live in Russell because they like it. And without being unfair to anyone we really don't want to change.

The people who are not happy with the way Russell is today can go back to the place they came from.

I appreciate being asked for my opinion! Good luck on the survey!!

We are strongly opposed to commercial development-- there is enough in Bainbridge and Chesterland to provide any services we might need!

If residential development continues according to present large lot zoning, I have no problem.

Get government the hell out of our lives!!

The school system needs much improvement, if I were to move it would be within the next year to get my son a better education, that is sad in my respect. Thanks, at least someone cares about the residents' opinions!

Next time, use a "BIGGER" envelope.

Please leave the present zoning laws any past citizen desires as is.

Soon I am going to have to sell the house I have lived in for 43 years because of property taxes I can't afford to pay. When all my neighbors live in million dollar houses I cannot afford to be compared in tax assessments and I can not afford taxes to a school I have no children, or interest in. Thank you--

Geauga County has repaved and widened Sperry Road to accommodate trucks which use is as short cut to avoid Routes 44 and 306. They often exceed the speed limit and make it extremely dangerous.

Make the form fit in the envelope

In addition to residential and commercial development. Two other important land use issues include ecological balance and room for wildlife.

Absolutely disgusted with west side intersection of 306 and Music St. Have complained to trustee, still nothing done. Eyesore- POSITIVELY A DISGRACE.

1. We own land in Chester Twp. and decided to build on it because our would-be neighbors leased their gas and oil rights and had a gas well installed. We are opposed to commercial gas and oil development in residential areas.
2. We are concerned about water quality in Hemlock Hills Dr.

Please emphasize reason and flexibility. Local politicians can maintain the general nature of our area without becoming petty. Re: The Land Use Guide Plan- keep it short, codify only what the residents overwhelmingly agree on, allow for a reasonable hearing of appeals and ignore the EPA as much as you can. Thank you very much for asking our opinions!

Township trustees send mixed signals on what they think Russell Township should be. Zoning commissioner is an . Anti-township, pro suburbs.

Please leave the zoning at least at 3 to 5 acres. There will be enough people with enough money to buy this land once one will sell his. When you need more money raise the taxes so you can keep our land clean. Somebody who wants to live in an apartment does not belong here, they can move in town.

Open spaces can be preserved if homes are on 5 acre or larger lots. The center of Russell 306 and 87 and the commercial area at 306 and Music would be enhanced if there was an architectural theme. There is a very small commercial area in Russell, but it looks bad because every building is a different style.

Housing needs to be more affordable in the \$100,000 -\$250,000 range which is still expensive. Some areas should be allowed water/sewer services to preserve stream quality.

Make envelope bigger

Please no commercial development, as mentioned in NO. 2 answer.

Geauga is a great place to live and raise a family!

We want to be able to maintain our farm without interference from govt. Some years we will have more farming activity than others and we don't want to be denied the right to bringing cattle back if we wish to do so. We try to be aware of those around us- but increasing development around us- we feel threatened by all these "city" people who do not respect our fences or our life style. We expect support from the township trustees to help us maintain our rural life style and not be crowded out by people who don't understand.

Good questionnaire

Currently I think zoning is strongly against any commercial development at all. However, I think some development would be better than looking at run down building (ie at 306 x Music St.) I also think it is more important to maintain good looking homes than to worry about septic! There are several places where residents leave junk cars, old tires, and whatever else rotting in their yards. Why doesn't zoning prevent this.

306 at Music continues to be an ugly area with buildings falling apart. Ashamed to have friends see this when visiting.

Because of the attractiveness of Russell Twp, and large tracts of empty land, property owners are oppurtuned by "quick buck" developers to sell property for un-needed retail strips, low cost tract housing, trailer parks, etc.--rational zoning against these uses will be legally challenged. There are entirely adequate commercial areas for Russell residents use close by which do not need to be duplicated in Russell. Mayfield Rd./Chillicothe Rd. in Chesterland is excessively "over-stored" as evidence by the vacant retail space available.

We need to learn from Chesterland. They have many empty commercial spaces (new and old.) What a shame! "Development" does not equal improvement

Since it is nearly impossible to stop all development, what matter is controlling it, keeping green and open spaces! And we certainly don't want to look like Chesterland 4222/306 area.

Land use and housing trends are causing more and more valuable projects to be built. We are losing an opportunity to have more diversity if we do not address the situation.

Thank you, We love Russell Township and want it left alone!! Too much traffic now on Route 306 and 87.

The tax base must change from property valuation to income, or the time may come when I will no longer be able to keep my home of 34 years.

I consider the developing of land by real residents a right. But the developing by professionals or corporations should be prohibited.

We enjoy the country atmosphere where we live in Russell, and hope it remains this way for years to come.

Why do West Geauga students rank so poorly on their test scores when the majority of taxes go to the school system? Nice planning on the envelope size!

There is plenty of commercial development 2 minutes away in Bainbridge and Chesterland plus Chagrin Falls.

We moved here for the quiet, green lifestyle. More development- especially commercial- would ruin that lifestyle and turn us into a junky suburban eyesore like Bainbridge or Solon.

I was pleased to take part in this, and it made me feel good that the town will value our opinions.

Don't want any expansion of parks and recreation facilities: 1. there are plenty with Ch/Rus joint rec xxxxxx. 2. private clubs. No commercial development as a Township- we can only control it as a city like Independence and Beachwood. Neither Chesterland nor Bainbridge have the power as a township to property control this pressure.

Geauga county seat doesn't like Russell because they want to develop- Russell. I fear that my income will force me to move someday because I won't be able to keep up the taxes with these high income neighbors. Your ability to pay should be considered.

No industry- no research facilities (they can do anything) less commercial, Have a Professional Planner Review Final Draft of Land Use Plan. Maintain a strong BZA Board and Zoning Commission like the ones you have now.(Long time Residents and knowledgeable.)

Count us among those who favor leaving Russell as it is, and creating a zoning and land use plan to protect it that will withstand legal challengers.

We moved here for lot size and the quiet atmosphere. Any development that would effect our water supply or contaminate our land would be wrong. We work hard to maintain our home and land and do not want it ruined by people seeking professional gain.

We moved here because of the beauty of the area, its access to the Chagrin Valley, the wooded 5+ acre lot, the peace and quiet, the wildlife, and because we cannot see any of our neighbors' houses from our house. Living here is a real retreat from the insanity of the work "jungle." We would support anything that would preserve the tranquility and beauty of Russell. We do not want Russell to become like Bainbridge, Chesterland, or Mayfield Hts.

I think some attention might be paid to overall community appearance also. For example, I hate driving over the new bridge on Rt 87 near Hemlock Pt. Rd. Could the community have had input to have a "homier," less industrial- looking structure perhaps with plant boxes. Also I am surprised when Twp. gives certain businesses (ie, BP or Pattie group) trouble when they maintain nice-looking facilities and do nothing about the property at 306 and Music on West!

The area of Rt 306 and Music St. is an eyesore. There is an abandoned gas station (vacant over 2 years) and on the SW corner another abandoned building. Traveling north on 306 is the junk yard that borders a stream. Has the stream been tested for possible contamination from the junk yard. Next to the junk yard the land owner has an eye sore but also what does this "land fill" contain. Monitoring and laws to prevent owners from abandoning their properties are needed.

I do believe that specific small zoned commercial areas fit into Russell's pattern of life- eg. the one proposed for #306 and Music Street. I would like to see at least one condominium development for those who no longer want to maintain a large lot but still want to live in Russell.

I am not part of any Township zoning board or other township function. This comment material will be sent to Township Trustee Ms. C Livers over my signature. See enclosure, 4pp.

It would be nice to have some kind of housing for those of us who will no longer be able to live alone in our present housing because of size etc. Some limited amount of condos maybe, for those who would like to remain in Russell.

Roads need wider berms for people walking Fairmont-Caves-Dines especially.

Sorry for the delayed response

good survey!

Road Dept. does not keep road berms lower than road, the results is flooded roads (large puddles at road dips, gravel drivers washed out at driveway approaches and frozen patches in winter.) Lack of enforcement of ditch specifications i.e. ditches level or higher than road berm and undersized culvert pipes in ditches.

Thanks for the chance to be involved in land use decisions. We hope that Russell will continue to protect the character of its land.

The envelope is too small for the survey form

I support the construction of a country club on Caves Rd.

Russell is fine as is. Please no major commercial development.

Strong leadership will be necessary to keep Russell from becoming another over-crowded suburban area. Providing tax incentives to large land owners will help to prevent excessive development. In Russell Township- less is more.

I think Russell has been fortunate to have trustees through out the years that have had long range plans to keep Russell rural. I love it here! My concerns are that it will be over-developed. Because Russell is a desirable place to live the need for more housing is always there but then the reasons it is so desirable might be cast to the wind to accommodate the need/desire for more housing.

Our street is not regulated as far as safety for kids and seniors is concerned. The only safe speed is 25 MPH but many drivers go 45-60 MPH. How about a 3/4 ton pick-up completely airborne- all 4 wheels off the ground! Sorry this is late, I was out of town.

I lived most of my life in Chesterland (1960-) and saw the ugly commercial sprawl encroach on what could have been a much better planned town center. Russell will change whether we're ready or not and need to have a cogent plan. We really ought to consider the village concept with small lots keeping big tracts of open spaces to promote a sense of community and safety- especially for the elderly.

Supply an envelope that the reply will fit in.

Russell should stay a rural area, like Gates Mills, etc-not like Bainbridge. That is why we live here- otherwise we would move out of the area.

The land use plan must look to what conditions we desire in 20 to 30 years (not as existing); Recognizing what aspects we want most- and develop plan to reach those conditions in a "planned" way!

If Oakwood Country Club is allowed to build, they should be required to build a recreational facility for Russell residents, pool, etc. (similar to ACME/South Euclid Community Center) and /or make the Oakwood Club available at a reasonable/low cost to Russell residents for their use. Groundwater pesticide use should be strictly regulated.

Maintain rurality

We send our daughter to private school. We ride horses on undeveloped land. Russell has an image problem in that the people running it have "imagined" a Russell that isn't the real Russell.

I am alarmed by residents' use of pesticides and herbicides to kill growth under power lines and the ODOT's use of herbicides by bridges to kill grass and weeds so they won't have to mow. Clean air and clean water are our MOST VALUABLE assets and damage xxxxxxxxxx when they're lost. GOTTA PROTECT THEM HOWEVER WE NEED TO.

Every commercial establishment brings in more traffic. Since there are these all around us in Chesterland, Bainbridge, Mayfield- who needs more. We survived out here when we were a dirt road. Now you're lucky if you don't get knocked off walking on the road.

We moved here because of the open, clean environment. Commercial "development" is just plain - it is \$\$\$ for a select few and I oppose more of it strongly.

Thank you for this opportunity-- I plan on living in Russell Twp. in this house for the rest of my life and look forward to continue participating in the planning for Russell Twp. in an environmentally sound way for the generations to come. What we do now in the community will effect those after us- so procedure is important.

The traffic along Route 306 is at times heavy to say the least. Any more building whether residential or commercial is only going to increase the problem. We are subject to heavy snow in the winter, which just increases the problem, making it more difficult for the road crews.

"Rural Russell" ia a myth. Russell is a suburban bedroom community a long the western border-- most of residents commute out of Russell for work. Our community leaders fight change and should be more realistic- nothing stays the same. They fought 911 for God sake! Many people move to Russell to "get away from _____" not to "find _____." It makes for a very provincial population. Large lots make the "community" feeling difficult. Residents tuck into their 3 to 5 acre lots and seldom interact as neighbors.

I would like to see Russell become more rural and less developed.

I believe some of the questions in this survey were designed to solicit a particular response (i.e. large lots, no sewers.) We still have a copy of the 1975 survey, would like residents to receive copies of results of this new survey.

I applaud you for undertaking this study. Our trustees are acting in a responsible manner. I do not feel the EPA or the ODOT really acts in our best interests. It is also unfortunate that the community cannot fight big business because we do not have the time, the personnel, or the financial resources to keep hammering away until we get our way. The state of Ohio needs to "empower" the community and their zoning boards and trustees.

Commercial development could be managed so as to blend in to the rural open country side.

I wonder how many residents didn't reply because this form wouldn't fit easily into return envelope? i.e. didn't figure out it only fits when folded one way? It took me a while to do so I am embarrassed to admit.

There are areas in Geauga County where attractive single house developments could be built. There are areas now zoned commercial establishments but in both cases control is vital. We suffer to some extent because of uncontrolled development east of us and the resultant traffic both truck and auto go by our property and that of many others. Control is the name of the game!

We looked for several months to find a peaceful community, near enough to work, with a good school system- we love Russell, we are not native Ohioans, but hope to live here forever---DON'T CHANGE THIS GREAT COMMUNITY--the environment here is wonderful.

The question is- just because a community brings in city water and sewers, does that automatically equate to losing the rural quality of the community? I know this would make it easier for developers to argue for smaller lots, but it's up to people to be sure the local govt doesn't allow it if in fact that is not what the people of the township want. Furthermore, it would be short sided to think that as surrounding communities develop they would not have an impact on Russell's water supply (groundwater.) Russell may be forced to alterative sources of water due to lack of supply, contamination, etc...

Russell is a totally unspoiled community--there are not many left. I feel that there are many commercially developed areas around us that are easily accessible. If people want a more developed living area they should choose to live there instead of wanting to change what I consider perfection.

If people want more access to shopping- they should move away from here. I grew up on a farm, and life isn't what it used to be. If we don't keep more green space, our kids will never know the joy of rural life.

Next time provide a bigger return envelope, never mind, I folded it the wrong way.

Russell Township is a finite space capable of supporting a limited number of humans. Further development, either commercial or residential, should be careful and selective to protect clean air and water. A large dollar amount building permit should be in place to allow police, fire, and other municipal services to grow with development (more demand) should not be allowed to sit on any zoning or land use boards or commissions. is destructive and bad for the township.

We need shopping on 306-- commercial should be expanded there--groceries, drugs, cleaners, etc. We need a nice condo development -around open space, maybe a golf course--otherwise we have to leave Russell-- our inheritance taxes will go elsewhere -Russell needs to capture the inheritance taxes

We must have form of septic inspection, i.e. yearly/every other year, to prevent the ultimate intrusion of city water and sewer.

I find it interesting that you didn't ask what we like least about living in Russell. What do I like least? The people (especially those with horses) that think that any land that is open (or even fence!) is there for them to ride on. This is why I don't think public trails are a good idea--they don't respect private property and trails now--public trails would give them more access to privately owned property, and the property owners would have even more liability problems from these trespassers.

We consider our Township an extension of our neighbors-- Gates Mills and Hunting Valley. It was in that spirit of development we believe Russell was founded. That is to say: Large lots, well maintained- open spaces for recreational- horseback riding, hiking, biking, nature observation etc. We do not want to emulate Mayfield Hts., or Chesterland- which have become suburban crowded with water and traffic and septic problems.

good survey. I prefer Russell Township to remain as it is -rural- I feel we do not need any more housing developments or commercial areas in our area- we need to be more concerned with environmental concerns than moving more people and housing into the area.

If a person answered all your questions, it would sacrifice anonymity.

Rename Russell Township Novelty Township- I'm sick of telling people I live in Russell but mail things to Novelty.

Our status changed over the years. Started with 4 kids and totalled 7 kids. Both wife and I worked within 15 miles of home and are now retired, our kids are grown, married, and are now buying homes in Geauga County.

COMMENTS ON THE
RUSSELL TOWNSHIP LAND USAGE SURVEY

I have read this survey several times trying to understand it so as to provide information which leaves no room for variable interpretations. My first impulse was to throw it away.

It is not an easy questionnaire to complete thoughtfully. This is particularly due to using some terms which encompass too much. It is a survey which could later be interpreted variously. Hopefully, these attached comments will provide some insight to the persons who compile and interpret the results and to those who wrote it. Having more familiarity with Russell would have aided those who constructed this survey.

Personally, I am quite skeptical as to the possible effects and claims which may evolve from this survey. May it never enable those who only pursue personal financial gain. At best, it will allow the citizens of Russell to enjoy their township's attributes free of unwanted alterations of our township

Some items are stated in a way that points to certain answer/s. A survey which prompts certain responses is not neutral and is flawed if its purpose is to truly survey the opinions of a population.

The survey takes no notice of existing legal considerations such as Zoning Resolutions and Deed Restrictions and in some questions offers responses which are not legally allowable.

Do many respondents realize that "within twenty years" can begin now/soon instead of in the rather distant future?

Items left blank "if you prefer" may be so because the respondent could not find any suitable agreement within the premise and its choices or it may be that, according to instructions, the respondent chose not to answer. Also, the choice offered "depends/don't know" mixes two opinions. Which one is the respondent's intention? These can introduce accumulated error in tabulation of respondents' intent.

I am sure that most of the population here has almost no experience with surveys nor their possible uses as evidence to support a certain cause or position as being population agreement. Note; Have a survey text handy to match comments.

ITEM BY ITEM COMMENTS

Item 3.

Parks, open or green spaces, woods etc.

With our lot sizes, who needs a Township Park for a picnic, outdoor family gathering? We each own a place for this activity.

A walk in the woods to commune with nature is something different. Especially, the wildlife with which we share our open and green spaces are part of our agreeable

*Next 4 pages are
from 1 respondent.*

surroundings and must be provided living spaces.

Recreational facilities- How does this differ from parks?

Is this outdoor or indoor? It makes a difference.

Proximity of shopping etc. and professional services.

Personal autos are inherent in our lifestyle. Essentially all of these services are within 3-5 miles or 15-20 minutes of easy travelling. The failure of the Apples supermarket is evidence of over-concentration of supermarkets relative to demand. Some food markets provide selection & delivery.

Street and road surfaces- We have State, County and Township roads plus some undedicated roads. Our township provides good maintenance as do State and County. Undedicated roads are the responsibility of those property owners on them.

Item 4. Without having lived in "other places in Geauga Co.", how would one be able to rank the quality of life in Russell compared to other places? Is this item logical?

Item 5. The quality of life is dependent upon many factors aside from those germane to the influence of Russell township. How can one answer this item sensibly?

How are the choices understood by the evaluators? Would an "about the same" choice infer stability or stagnation? The last choice rules out a lifetime resident of Russell. Why?

Item 6. "We need affordable housing in Russell Township." This statement is presumptive. It seems that most available housing changes hands soon, therefore it must be affordable and desirable. Do those who devised this questionnaire have some other definition of "affordable"? Is the mention of "our children's families" an emotional appeal toward cheaper housing? Does it assume that ones children tend to locate within Russell?

Item 7. We may have enough public open spaces and recreational spaces now. How Russell grows will indicate future needs. The item misses the reality, or prompts the respondent.

Item 8. The growth of Russell is important. Conservative and orderly management to preserve the character of Russell is the most important. How do the authors define "good management"?

Item 9. If this item said "...looks essentially as it does today." rather than "just like..." the item would be stated in a more realistic, possible and less confusing way.

Item 10. How is one supposed to know what new residents think? New residents I meet do not mention such a subject.

Item 11. This item lumps all residential development in one term. Respondents have no option to select among types of development. Is this item valid?

Item 12. This premise is not appropriate. Russell school, road, police, and fire department levies are quite consistently passed compared with other locations. The tax base must be quite well balanced by the payments of old and new resident population.

Item 13. Some elderly residents in all localities may find that physically they cannot manage their residence, some cannot afford it. Some must move to assisted living. There are several such facilities nearby in Geauga Co. and adjoining rural counties.

Item 14. This item ignores standing zoning and, where applicable, deed restrictions. These help a locale to retain characteristics which the residents enjoy and value. Unregulated development does not lend to stable property values or desirability.

Item 15. This idea has been discussed above in Item 6.

Item 16. This premise has already been discussed in Item 3.

Item 17. Choice 1. If OEPA issues recommendations, are they optional? Choice 3. State and County (Zoning Resolutions and Deed Restrictions) are not optional. Ranking does not apply.

Choice 7. Are recommendations of ODOT optional? ranking may not apply.

Item 18. Choice 3. "Depends" and "don't know" are not the same. "Depends" is the only appropriate answer because the term "development" does not differentiate between commercial and residential development. Undifferentiated "Don't know and Depends" will cloud the intent of some respondents.

Also the requirement of "maintained by township for use by township residents" is not clear. Will township money support all these facilities or do the township residents of a development support such facilities as may be in their development on a Community-Association owned property?

Item 19. See above.

Item 20. This is another premise which ignores zoning resolutions, except for choice 5.

Item 21. This item is not specific because a "minimum lot size" can be assigned any area with equal (frontage x depth) total.

If the "minimum lot size" is selected to provide for water supply and septic systems according to the capability of the locale to support the population of that area and also include frontage & depth reflecting the built-upon property value, this is logical. Deed restrictions run with the land and cannot be arbitrarily ignored by planners.

Item 22. There are several kinds of commercial development some of which would be quite disruptive to the character of Russell as a very desirable residential area and other types of commercial development which could be absorbed without damage to the character of Russell. This is why we have zoning. This question does not offer any option in this choice, only quantity. Russell should remain a very desirable residential community.

Item 23. & 24. no comment

Item 25. Carte blanche support of any tax increase idea is not sensible. Therefore the "Don't know" answer is the only logical one offered. We attend to contemporary tax "issues" when we vote.

Item 26. Here, the only choice would be "depends", if it were offered.

Items 27 through 30 no comment

Item 31. There is an erred presumption in the text of this item: "...unnecessary or too costly to install due to the large lot sizes in Russell Township." The large lots enable the use of on site water supplies and septic systems. The installation of city water and sewers is unnecessary for large lots. If unnecessary any cost is without merit.

Actually, opposing or favoring installation of water and sewer utilities is not the question. On the whole it seems the population of Russell really does not consider these utilities to be necessary. It really depends upon what actual population density requires in the future. Projections are too often self fulfilling for personal gain by developers.

The preface to the question begins with the words "Some citizens." Could the words "Many or most citizens" have been justified here? "Some" can be a very small part of all.

Item 33 no comment

Item 42

I cannot understand how to select personal reason/s for moving away from Russell when one chooses to stay. However, other residents may well find suitable choices. Also, the question asks for prophesy five years in the future. This is only conjecture.

Items 43 through 57, no comment

The amount of personal data requested in this questionnaire leaves little credibility as to the respondent's anonymity if anyone pursues identities in existing data bases.

I BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO DESIGN
PLANNED COMMUNITIES CAN WORK IF
PEOPLE CO-OPERATE TO CREATE WIN-WIN
IN INDIVIDUAL SITUATIONS. FINE ACRES
OWNING COULD LOOK & FEEL UGLY IF
ALL HOUSES WERE IDENTICALLY BUILT
ON SQUARE FIVE ACRE PLOTS. LOOK AT
AROUND LAKES OR SOME OF THE
PLANNED COMMUNITIES IN WESTLAKE
OR STONING VILLE. PUT 200 HOUSES
IN A BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED AREA
ON 1,000 ACRES. ADD A POOL FOR
ITS RESIDENTS, A COMMUNITY MEETING
AREA, A PARK OR TWO & LOTS OF
GREEN SPACE TO BE SIXTED BY
ASSESSING A FEE AND PAYING
THAT FEE TO THE TOWNSHIP (LIKE
A PERCENTAGE OF TAXES ON THE
SIXTED LAND) TO MINIMALLY
MAINTAIN THE GREEN AREA. —
LIKE CUT THE WEEDS AT ROADSIDE
& PLOW SNOW. LET THE RESIDENTS
BE RESPONSIBLE — ACCOUNTABLE —
AND COMMITTED TO BETTER LIFE.
I'M TIRED OF WORKING LIKE A
DOG AND PAYING FOR THE "MASSES".
I AM THE MASSES AND I'M
PERFECTLY WILLING TO WORK, TO
PAY FOR MY PRIVILEGE TO LIVE IN
RUSSELL — BEAUTIFULLY &
CAREFULLY & AS AN ASSET TO MY
NEIGHBORS IN THE COMMUNITY. →

BUT DREAMERS DON'T GET RICH;
THEY GET BY! AND THEY KNOW
HOW TO TAKE TIME TO HELP
NEIGHBORS AND LOOK AT THE
STARS AND PLANT GARDENS AND
DO "NOTHING". THEY DON'T SPEND
HOURS AT MALLS AND WATCHING
TV TO BE TOLD WHAT TO LOOK LIKE
AND WHAT TO THINK. I WOULD
HOPE THE 20 YEAR PLAN IS
PROPOSED BY DREAMERS —
FIRST THE DEATH AND TAX, LITTLE
BY LITTLE, THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF
EVERY PERSON IN THE COMMUNITY
TO DO SOMETHING (HIS OWN PART)
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

CLAMP UP THE 306 JUNK
YARD AND FINE PEOPLE WHO
DUMP TRASH ILLEGALLY. CLAMP
DOWN ON TOWNSHIP WORKERS WHO
USE VEHICLES, SUPPLIES FOR PERSONAL
USE — OR LET EVERYONE USE IT.
SAME RULES FOR EVERYBODY —

NOT SAME THINGS. EARN THE
PRIVILEGE OF YOUR LIFE!
AND PAY YOUR OWN WAY —
NO INSTANT GRATIFICATION OR
WELFARE STATES OR FREE RIDES,
I'M WITH FAREGUTER!

PD

11 NOV. 94



Dick Feagler

People who pay the bills grounded those noisy kids

Well, so much for the '60s kids running the country as if it were a love-in. So much for a government that is big and clumsy and full of happy fairy tales like Barney. So much for Washington as Woodstock.

So long to a government that wants to cover us with big, sloppy, wet kisses, even if we are welfare mothers having a third kid on the taxpayer. Or homosexuals who want to very publicly become Green Berets. Or Mexicans who want to sneak across the border illegally and put their kids in public schools and demand that the teacher says "buenos dias" instead of or right after "good morning."

Whatever the merits of these desires, they have worn out the patience of the people who pay the bills. As have long-winded debates on whether midnight basketball is the answer to carjacking. As have private agendas, including feminist agendas, anti-gun agendas, and the agendas of left-handed people who think they are being discriminated against by flush handles. Those who care to may continue to discuss these things. But on their own time and without the national meter running.

This week proved that there is still an American mainstream.

This week proved that there is still an American mainstream. We tend to forget about it because it never raises hell on the 11 o'clock news.

But it has been out there all along, and Tuesday night its exasperation finally overtook it and it had had enough. So it came clumping down the hall and threw open the door to the rumpus room where the '60s kids were playing around with the knobs and switches of democracy and bellowed with the voice of doom:

"NOW... YOU'RE... GONNA... GET IT!!!"

What happened to the Democrats was a frightening sight for those carefully schooled to believe that yelling and spanking are forms of child abuse. It has been described elsewhere as a bloodbath and a massacre. But it was really only mainstream America demanding some respect because it pays the bills around here.

The night's events made me rummage for a certain moment — a nice one — in my junk drawer of tarnished and discarded memories.

One day, back in the late '60s, I was trapped covering a long and rather boring story in the baseball commissioner's office in New York. Among the reporters present was the late Jimmy Cannon, who, for my money, was one of the very best writers who ever wrote in newspapers.

Because we had time to kill, we began talking about events in the day's news. About war protesters and students who fought for the right to scream dirty words in public places. Of trippers and sniffers and college kids with long hair and granny glasses who came from nice suburban homes and announced their intentions to throw America out with the trash and open a new country, the rules of which they would make up as they went along. It was Bill and Hillary's era. I was a little older than they. Cannon was far older than I.

"What do you think of it all?" he asked me.

"Well," I said, "I don't like the war. But I don't think they're right about wanting a revolution."

"I wouldn't worry about that," Cannon said, scornfully. "It's a revolution on dad's check."

And that, of course, was exactly what it was, though it didn't seem like it at the time. The people who really run America are not the agenda people. They are not the noisy people. The agenda people make a lot of noise and sometimes make changes. And sometimes the changes are even for the better.

But all the time that's going on, the people who really run America are going to work and coming home tired. Raising their kids and paying their taxes. Sending their sons and now their daughters off to the nation's wars. Putting their savings in the bank, pledging their contributions to United Way, packing their old clothes in Goodwill boxes, putting their faith in God. They are the final arbiters of what is national nonsense. And Tuesday, they decided the country needed a course correction. To bring it back in line with some of their core beliefs.

They seem to think that people on welfare should work just like they do. That welfare should be cut off if people act irresponsibly and keep having children. When it comes to guns, they are for some limited gun control. But they really do think that if you make owning guns criminal, only criminals will own guns.

They know this is a nation of immigrants, but they also think it's a nation of law. So they don't have much sympathy for illegal immigrants and they sure as hell get sore at the sight of Mexicans demonstrating in Mexico against U.S. immigration laws.

Their own grandparents had to come in legally and learn the language. Nobody changed the street signs to Hungarian or the tax forms to Slovak. What was good enough then is good enough now.

They don't want big government because they think government is clumsy and wasteful. They don't think government is supposed to be a pal. Or a parent. Or a counselor. There are clergymen and teachers and relatives for that. Government is a thing. It can't have feelings, and when it says it does, it lies.

As far as alternative sexual lifestyles go, they think yours is up to you but they wish you would shut the door. And they wish the media would shut up about sex in general and a lot of other things as well.

That's some of what the people who pay the check seemed to be saying about America this week. To which, now that the coast is clear, a lot of people will add, "Amen."

Messages for Feagler may be left at 999-5757.