2 Westside Urban centers closing

MAKING A POINT — Lloyd Mitchner, chief of administrative services for the Urban Services Agency, discusses the closings of two service centers in the Pennsylvania and North Avenue community while Mrs. Elva Edwards look on.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gall

Residents in West Baltimore are upset over the scheduled closings of two Urban Services Agency centers in their community.

At a neighborhood meeting this week, residents of the Pennsylvania-North, Sandtown-Winchester and Druid Heights communities voiced their concern over the possibility of losing much needed services provided by the USA centers. The centers scheduled for closing are at 1816 W.North Ave. and 1031 N. Calhoun St.

Lloyd Mitchner, chief of administrative services for the Urban Services Agency, explained that the two centers are closing in order to equalize the coverage given to the 25 target areas in the city.

"We are trying to give broad coverage to our areas. Not all these areas are equalized so we have to redistribute our centers. That's why we are closing the two centers in that area," explained Mitchner.

The North Avenue center is scheduled to close on Jan. 31 and the Calhoun Street facility will be closed by the middle of February.

During the meeting, attended by more than 50 people, Ms. Ella Johnson, vice president of the Sandtown-Winchester Association, stated that the two remaining centers at the Druid Encoh Pratt Library and School 132 would not be enough to service the entire community.

She urged that service and staff for the neighborhood be allocated based on the size and needs of the community.

Despite the center closings, Mitchner did state that USA would be "working with the community to determine what centers are needed and how they should be staffed."

He said, "We have formed a pact with the community to put in the area what they feel they need and not what the agency feels they need."

The USA facilities serve as information and referall referral centers, cultural arts programs and also provide assistance with energy including emergency funds for fuel.

However, the only cultural arts project was located at Gilmor and Baker Streets but when it closed, the area was left without a full-service cultural arts center.

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Teens commited nearly half of local crimes in 1979

Arrest statistics released by the Police Department on Jan. 23, show that during 1979 juveniles accounted for 46.2 of all crimes for which arrests were made by police.

The 18,409 juveniles taken into police custody in 1979 exhibit a combined criminal history of 47,509 prior arrests. According to the report 28 were arrested for murder; 97 were arrested for rape; 521 were arrested for aggravated assault; 1,039 for auto theft; 1,391 for robbery; 2,816 for burglary and 4,126 for larceny.

Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau stated violent crimes, murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, increased 5.9 percent last year. The rise in property crime, burglary, larceny and auto theft was 6.2.

The amount of increase in index crime last year actually indicates a moderation in the crime trends. In the first quarter of 1979, crime had increased 21.4 by the end of the first six months that increase had modified to 14.1 and the statistics after three-quarters indicated a lowering of the increase rate to 8.9

The number of individuals who committed additional crimes while on parole, probation or escape status is significant. In 1979, 5,649 persons who were on parole, probation, probation and parole or had escaped from correctional facilities were re-arrested and charged with additional crimes, represented 13.4 of all adults arrested.

While on parole in 1979, 947 persons were charged with committing crimes while they were on parole from a correctional institution within Maryland. There were 4,360 persons charged with committing a crime while on probation after conviction of a previous crime.

Of the 4,360 persons arrested while on probation 1,226 were subsequently charged with the commission of serious crimes, 356 of which were violent crimes.

Of the 947 persons arrested while on parole status from correctional facilities 382 were subsequently charged with serious crimes, 138 of which were violent crimes.

The types of crimes committed by parolees continue to cause alarm. Police report 382 parolees were arrested and charged last year. According to the report, 16 were arrested for murders and six of those charged with murder were on parole after having been convicted and sentenced for committing a previous murder.

Of those on parole, seven were arrested for rapes, 83 for robberies and 39 of the robbers were on parole from sentences received for being convicted of previous robberies.

Four of the 32 individuals who were on parole for aggravated assault, were charged in 1979 with an additional aggravated assault.

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Advance Federal assets top $24 million

URBAN RENEWAL AREA representatives gathered at Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association recently to hear of new monies now available for mortgage loans to make needed improvements in their areas under the Community Development Act. At (L), Advance president, Dr. W. O. Bryson, explains program. At right, urban renewal representatives pictured are, from (L), Walter Thomas, Penn North; Melvin Jackson, Park Heights; Curtis Chapman, Coldstream - Homestead - Montebello; Gloria Matthews, Wiley Etheridge and Davis Webb, Coldstream; and Carl Smith, Penn - North. Attending the meeting were members of the Advance Advisory Board who promised to work with residents in their areas to implement programs and identify needs.

Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association's assets climbed to over $24½ million in the year ending December 31, 1979, to set an all - time record. record.

Dr. W.O. Bryson Jr., Advance president, reported to the annual meeting of members on January 16, that as a result of growth in both savings and mortgages, the association's total assets amounted to $24,500,767. He called 1979 'another strong year for Advance, noting that the increases enabled ongoing support of the local housing market.

Savings gains at Advance Federal totaled $1,059,013 during 1979, bringing the total savings to $19,381,745 at year's end, highest in the association's 22-year history.

Dividends paid savers last year also reached a record high: $1,156,433, which was 16(one-half) percent above the prior record established in 1968.

Mortgage loans made by Advance in 1979 totaled $2,420,535, for 75 residential, church and business properties in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Advance now has $21,101,368 in mortgages, another all-time high.

Bryson said he is 'proud' to note that in the last decade Advance Federal granted 1,204 mortgage loans in the aggregate amount of $25,713,074, to individuals, churches and businesses, enabling them to build or buy homes or buildings in the Baltimore metropolitan area. He predicted increased mortgage loans in the Eighties.

Dr. Bryson also advised that Advance's liquid assets, now at $1,641,413, represent 8(one-half) percent of net savings and short-term borrowed money. Reserves and undivided profits accounts increased to $1,674,634 by the end of 1979.

The $373,741 increase in the reserves and undivided profits permits Advance to increase the maximum amount which may be made to individual borrowers and no mortgage loans. Liquidity and reserves are above supervisory requirements.

The Advance Federal annual meeting was held in newly-leased quarters at 1407 E. Cold Spring Lane, adjoining facilities at 1405. The additional space will double that of the 1405 office and permit all officers to be located in the same building.

The board of directors has approved designation of the Cold Spring Lane site as the home office, and designation of the office at 1611 W. North Ave., as a full-service branch. Renovation of the new facilities is due to be completed this month.

In other business, the annual meeting noted the October 1979 election of Zelma A. Brown, vice president-Administrative Officers, to the Board of Directors.

Also announced was the promotion of Gladys L. Haines to head teller at the Cold Spring office. Hired during the year were two persons who were trained under Baltimore City Mayor Schaefer's W.I.N. program, designed to provide opportunities for inner city residents.

Approved by members at a special meeting on Dec. 12, were two charter amendments.

One increases from 50 to 400 the maximum number of votes which may be cast by a savings members. The other changes Advance Federal to a deposit institution, which means that by April 1, Advance will be paying interest, instead of dividends, said interest begining from the day of deposit.

Also announced during the meeting was a new program in which Advance Federal, in cooperation with the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development and several urban renewal neighborhood groups, is working to revitalize the city.

Currently, Advance is processing 17 F.H.A. insured loans on properties the city is rehabilitating. In addition, Advance is processing loans for inner city renters seeking to become homeowners. With the cooperation of urban renewal area leaders, Advance is also granting financial aid to those who seek help under the new Community Reinvestment Act.

In order to offer savers the same high interest rates available at other institutions, Advance, is now offering accounts with these new annual rates:

1. Money Market certificates, $10,000 mimimum, issued for 26 weeks, annual rate 11.88

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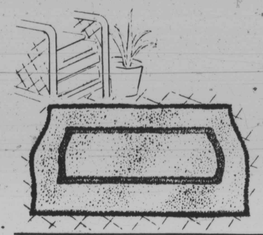

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