

# the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

February

The Newsletter of the Agassiz Community School

1983

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING, Weds., Feb. 9th, 8-10 p.m. in the Agassiz School library.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP MEETING, Weds., Feb. 16, 8-10 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center.

OPEN GYM FOR 6th-8th GRADERS, Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m. for girls, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for boys, ONGOING .25¢ admission

FEBRUARY RELEASE DAY, Thurs, Feb. 10th. Half-day of school; no 4th-8th grade courses after school.

FEBRUARY VACATION, Feb. 21-25. Special vacation events to be announced. After-School Child Care will be open Tues. (2/22)-Fri. (2/25), 8:30-6:00 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

## AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE AGASSIZ COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

On Feb. 4, 1983 I will be leaving my position as Agassiz Coordinator for a seven month maternity leave of absence. At present, my anticipated date of return is Sept. 2, 1983.

In my absence, I am pleased to announce that Smiley Winter will be filling in for me, handling a majority of the Agassiz Coordinator responsibilities, though on a part-time basis. In this capacity, he will be at work and available to the community during the following hours: Mon., Tues., Weds., and Fri., from

## OPEN LETTER, Cont.

10 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. During the rest of his week, Smiley will continue in his role as co-teacher in our After-School Activities Program, (K-4th). Please be considerate of this arrangement, and contact Smiley with program or community concerns only during his office hours. Ideas and inquiries concerning programming for 6th-12th graders should be referred to Paulette Johnson, the new Youth Specialist in our neighborhood. Paulette can be reached either through Smiley at 498-9056, or through the main office of the Dept. of Human Services, Division of Community and Youth, at 498-9072/9037.

While we have every intention of maintaining all on-going programs during this seven-month period (including our summer day camp and most probably, summer gymnastics workshops), this will not be a period of program expansion at Agassiz. Smiley's more limited hours necessitate a more restrained approach to programing, and it is our hope that new ideas and possibilities will not be discarded but simply put on hold until next September.

While I am certainly looking forward to the adventure that lies ahead for me, I will miss the many members of the Agassiz community and Public School with whom I am used to having weekly if not daily contact.

I wish to thank the members of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council for their wonderful gift of an enormous, technicolor stuffed parrot to entertain all the members of my family in the coming months. Best wishes to you all.

See you in September!  
Julie Osherson  
Agassiz Coordinator

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING THE WHISTLER

Due to an increase in the cost of mailing the Whistler to members of the Agassiz community, (by double), starting in March we will be experimenting with new methods of distribution. We will be:

1. passing the Whistler out through school.
2. mailing the Whistler only to our "community portion" of the mailing list.
3. In addition we will leave additional Whistlers in a number of areas so that you can pick yours up if you don't receive one:

- The Agassiz School Library
- The Community Center
- The North Congregational Church
- The store at the corner of Oxford and Crescent Streets.

Our only other option would be to institute a subscription charge of \$1.00 to \$2.00 per year. Please tear off the slip at the back of the Whistler and mail it to the Agassiz Community School, 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, if you think this would be preferable. Also, please take the time to answer the other questions on this slip as well. Thank you very much.

\* \* \* \* \*

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

NOTES FROM NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING (1-13-83): An update on the coordinator's position was given. The plan to job-share was not approved, and a meeting with Jill Herold of the Department of Human Services was arranged to discuss the situation. Smiley Winter will fill in for Julie Osherson while she is on maternity leave. More information about the coordinator position should be available by next month.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, Cont.

A city-wide hearing on liquor licenses was held. Cambridge has a policy of allowing the transfer of liquor licenses. It was suggested that neighborhoods should be alerted to new licenses issued or those transferred in their neighborhoods. Concerns may be directed to the License Commission at 498-9021.

Paulette Johnson, Youth Specialist from the Department of Human Services, has been active in setting up programs for students in the sixth to eighth grades. There will be open gym at Agassiz School on Tuesdays, beginning January 25th. Girls will meet from 6:00 to 7:30, and boys from 7:30 to 9:00. There is a 25¢ admission charge. There will also be a group meeting for girls on Thursday, January 20th at 3:30 at the Community Center. Call Paulette at 498-9072 or 9037 for more information.

The bylaws of the Council were amended so that they read: "Council policy is to encourage wide participation of community members so that no officer will serve more than four consecutive terms in the same office."

Council elections were held and the following officers elected:

- Chairperson-Joel Bard
- Vice-Chairperson-Jitendra Wankaner
- Treasurer-Linda Brion-Weisels
- Secretary-Miriam Goldberg

The Helping Hand Program which was developed by the Agassiz Coordinator and the Director of the Lesley College Threshold Program was discussed. This program pairs students in Lesley's Threshold Program with senior citizens in the neighborhood to provide household help for the seniors and paid employment for the students. The possibility of setting up similar programs for Agassiz sixth, seventh, and eighth graders was also proposed.

COUNCIL, Cont.

The National Car Rental Company which is leasing a lot on the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell Street has agreed to make some improvements on the landscaping of the lot. It has also agreed to stop company cars from speeding on neighborhood streets, and residents should notify the company if cars are seen speeding.

The Agassiz Neighborhood Planning Group is working on ways to influence development on Mass. Ave.. A large meeting is planned for April to get input on what people would like to see-or not see-on Mass. Ave..

The outcome of The Citywide Coordinating Committee Budget hearings was a proposal that each neighborhood program budget would be cut sufficiently to ensure a level-funded budget proposal for the Community and Youth Division of the Department of Human Service Programs.

The next meeting will be at 8:00 on February 9th in the Agassiz School Library.

-Miram Goldberg, Secretary

ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE FEB. 9th COUNCIL MEETING WILL INCLUDE:

1. an update from the Agassiz Neighborhood Planning Group
2. program reviews
3. other neighborhood concerns

See you on the 9th at 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz Library!

\* \* \* \* \*

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP NEWS

The Committee met on 1/19/83 to discuss the ways in which the neighborhood can influence the development of Mass. Ave. Several proposals were agreed upon:

-determine what is desirable about the existing situation that

PLANNING GROUP Cont.

we want to maintain.

-assemble information about down-zoning, development possibilities.

-join efforts with Peabody neighborhood.

-develop specific recommendations for height of buildings and/or other restrictions.

In preparing for a large meeting in April that will include our Peabody neighbors, the Committee is gathering relevant planning information.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 16 at 8:00 in the Community Center. For more information call Joel Bard at 547-3210.

\* \* \* \* \*

TELEPHONE REASSURANCE: A new Volunteer Program For The Council On Aging.

The Council on Aging is now offering the Telephone Reassurance Program as one of its community outreach services to Cambridge elders. In this program, volunteers make daily phone calls to elderly people who live alone and are in frail health or who want the social contact. An emergency procedure is agreed upon ahead of time by the caller and the client, in the event that there is no answer to an expected call. For many people, these calls provide security and perhaps the only regular link to the outside world. Often the callers are elderly people, some homebound themselves, who enjoy being able to contribute this most valuable service. For more information call Phyllis Kornfeld at The Council On Aging, 498-9039.

\* \* \* \* \*

PARENTING COURSE - A Parenting Course focusing on practicing skills of communication, self-esteem and family rules will be held for 8 weeks beginning Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m., at the Cambridge Guidance Center, 5 Sacramento St. Call 354-2275, ask for Robyn Anderson or Randi Storm for more information or to sign up.

WHISTLER QUESTIONS

1.  Yes, I would be willing to pay a subscription fee of \$1.00 to \$2.00 per year to receive the Whistler.  
 No, I would not.
2. What are the topics covered in the Whistler which have the most relevance for you?
3. What areas of community life or programming do you think need more coverage in the Whistler?
4. Any other comments?

Please return this to: Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, Ma. 02138. Attn: Smiley Winter. Thank you very much.

---

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL 498-9056  
AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CENTER 547-1062

Smiley Winter's office hours: Mon., Tues., Weds., Fri. 10:00-1:00; Thurs.  
10:00-6:00

---

CAMBRIDGE Dept. of Human  
Service Programs  
Agassiz Community School  
20 Sacramento St.  
Cambridge, Ma. 02138

NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID CAMBRIDGE, MASS. BULK RATE NO. 58292
---