

the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

MARCH

Spring is Coming

1983

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING, Wed., March 9, 8-10 p.m. in the Agassiz School Library.

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

MARCH RELEASE DAY, TUESDAY, MARCH 15, Half-day of school, no 4th - 8th grade courses after school.

OPEN GYM for 6th - 8th graders, TUESDAYS, 6-7:30 p.m. for girls, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for boys. ON-GOING.....25¢ admission.

Liz SIMONS is offering a new, "WORK YOUR BODY", class, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:15-8:15 p.m., call 498-9056 for details.

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BLOCK WATCH: A NEIGHBORHOOD RESPONSE TO CRIME

BLOCK WATCH is a program that offers a way for neighborhoods to help protect themselves from crime. A film and written literature are available and give suggestions on how to improve security and prevent break-ins. If there is community interest, Lt. Donovan of the Cambridge Police Department can talk with neighborhood residents. For further information, please call Smiley Winter at 498-9056.

AGASSIZ TENANTS

As part of its effort to prevent the displacement of low and moderate income people from Cambridge, the Cambridge Rent Control Coalition (CRCC) has opened an office to serve the needs and protect the rights of tenants throughout the city. The office began operations on January 10, 1983, and is located in the Old Cambridge Baptist Church. Ward Seven Tenants and Harvard Tenants Union, both groups in which Agassiz residents are active, are among the founding member organizations of the CRCC. The office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The telephone number is 576-1006; messages can be left when the office is not open.

A dance party, THE SQUATTERS' BALL, will be held to benefit the CRCC on Friday, March 11th from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church (1145 Mass. Ave.). Tickets (\$3.00 in advance/\$3.50 at the door) can be purchased ahead of time from neighbor members of Harvard Tenants Union or Ward Seven Tenants, or from CRCC volunteer staff during office hours.

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NOTES FROM AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING -- 9 February 1983

As spring approaches, concerns about the Tot Lot arise once more.

(cont'd. page three)

2/1983 -- DRAFT PROPOSAL by the AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE

CONCERNS:

- That the MBTA expansion and the housing shortage in Cambridge will erode the unique character of Mass. Ave. from the Cambridge Common to Porter Square because of accelerated and unplanned development.
- That more buildings, similar in size and design to the luxury apartment housing newly constructed on Mass. Ave. near the Cambridge Common, are allowable under the existing zoning on Mass. Ave.
- That such development would not be in keeping with the character and scale of the adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- That such development will create a shaded, windy canyon of hard-paved surfaces with on-grade parking lots under buildings resulting in an environment un hospitable to pedestrians and shoppers.
- That such development will increase traffic congestion on Mass. Ave. as well as making the streetscape unpleasant and more hazardous for pedestrians.

GOALS FOR MASS. AVENUE:

SOCIAL

- To promote long-range planning for Mass. Ave. which will continue to provide an equally good or better quality of life than those who live and work in the neighborhood now enjoy.
- To promote a mix of income levels, ages and ethnic diversity.
- To promote a mix of residential, educational, professional, and commercial uses which will best serve the needs of the neighborhood and the entire city.
- To promote a safe and harmonious pedestrian landscape recognizing its importance in social interactions within the community.

AESTHETIC

- To promote development in scale with adjacent neighborhoods and facilitate pedestrian connections to adjacent neighborhoods and

other parts of the city.

- To provide safe and attractive streetscape for pedestrians with well-designed and adequate off-street parking for proposed uses.
- To promote planting and care of street trees to provide summer shade, visual relief from hard pavements, and filtering of dust and pollutants.

ECONOMIC

- To support businesses and services on Mass. Ave. which serve the needs of the neighborhood and the City of Cambridge.
- To provide housing opportunities to people of all income levels in buildings consistent with the existing scale of residential development.

COUNCIL MEETING (cont'd.)

There is no light there yet, and Smiley Winter offered to call the Community Development Department to see if the light can be installed. Lesley College Security has agreed to parol the Tot Lot and call the Cambridge Police, if necessary. The Council will send a letter to the Cambridge Police in April expressing community concerns about the Tot Lot.

An update from the Planning Committee was presented. The basic purpose of the group continues to be to find ways of controlling the future development of Mass. Ave. and of utilizing the MBTA site on Garfield Street. The need to work with residents on the other side of Mass. Ave. was emphasized. A large neighborhood wide meeting is planned for April. In the meanwhile, a letter will be sent to Cathy Spiegelman, Director of the Community Development Department, about neighborhood interest and involvement in the planning for the Garfield site in particular, and Mass. Ave. in general.

Smiley reviewed current programs being offered by the Community School. Response to the Teen Program has been good, and meetings will continue on Tuesday nights. Ski trips for teens are planned. If anyone has ideas for teen programming, contact Paulette Johnson at 498-9056.

Smiley asked that parents contact him with suggestions about the activity, after-school, and day-care programs. He felt that some children are not being accommodated by the current programs and would like suggestions for next year. The relation of the Lesley Big Sister Program to the Community Schools Program was discussed.

Suggestions for new programs were a pilot program involving group excursions for 5th and 6th graders, and a parents' group for parents of young children.

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NOTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING -- 16 February 1983

During the meeting it was decided to take the following steps:

- contact the MBTA Real Estate Department to convey the interest of the Agassiz community in the development of the site on Garfield Street;
- write letters to the members of the Cambridge City Council about community concerns about development along Mass. Ave. and the options for the MBTA Garfield St. site;
- meet with members of the neighborhood association in the Peabody area;
- meet with representatives of the Cambridge Housing Authority;
- present the options developed by the Planning Committee at the next Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting on March 9th.

Please see the proposal as drafted by the Planning Committee beginning on page two of this Whistler.

COMMUNITY GARDENS/SACRAMENTO ST.

Once again there will be city garden plots available to residents of the Agassiz neighborhood. Plots not currently being actively worked will be distributed to new gardeners by lottery on April 15th. Those wishing to participate in the lottery should submit your name to Smiley (a phone call or post card to the Community Center) by that date.

A meeting has been organized by Bonnie Soloman, Community Gardens liaison, for those who currently have garden plots to discuss the mechanics of starting up this new season. It will be held at the Community Center on Monday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

For further information on the agenda for the March 21 meeting or on the Community Gardens in general, contact Bonnie or Smiley at 498-9056.

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Smiley Winter's Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL 498-9056 AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CENTER 547-1062
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