

the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

-October

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

1983

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING, October 5, 8-10 p.m. at the Agassiz Community Center

CAMBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD HEARING, Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 p.m., call 498-9056 for location.

OCTOBER RELEASE DAY, Wednesday, October 26. School is out at 12:30. After-school begins at 12:30 on Release Days.

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is the governing body of this neighborhood. The primary function of the Council is to oversee the Agassiz Community School programs, to ensure that the programming speaks to the needs of the community, and to bring new needs for programming to light when they develop.

The Council is also the forum for addressing other issues relating to the "quality of life" in the Agassiz community. Issues such as: zoning, neighborhood safety, housing, and the relations between neighboring universities and the community are routinely taken up in these meetings. The Council meets once a month and is open to all members of the Agassiz community.

The Community School office is in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street. Telephone: 498-9056.

NOTES FROM THE NIEGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING (9/14/83): Sacramento Field has come through the summer in good condition. The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is concerned that the field remain in good condition for many years to come.

A liaison from the Council will be consulting with people who are in the business of maintaining playing fields and will report to the Council about what an industry maintainance program for Sacramento Field would cost.

Garfield Street Lot - Joel Bard reported that a motion had been introduced, then tabled, at the Cambridge City Council meeting on Monday, September 12, concerning the MBTA-owned lot at Garfield St. The motion introduced by Councillor Lenny Russell, proposed having the city acquire the lot for open space. Councillor David Sullivan, aware of the on-going neighborhood planning process to look at the possible use of the lot for subsidized housing, had the motion delayed. Joel said he would talk to both councillors and other interested city officials and, if necessary, attend the next City Council meeting to explain the neighborhood process to date. (At the September 19th City Council meeting, the Council voted to have the city officials work with the Agassiz neighborhood on the possible use of this site for subsidized housing.) See PLANNING NOTES for more on this subject.

GEORGIE'S BAR - The bar, a Mass. Ave. establishment, was closed by the Cambridge Licensing Board for a period of 15 days. The reason for this temporary suspension of license was that the Cambridge police found persons in the bar "after hours" on two occasions.

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP

The Planning Group is a committee of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. It is a forum for discussion of general land-use and

development issues of concern to the neighborhood. The group exists to develop and pursue ideas in this area and also to react to public, private, and institutional proposals for development in or near Agassiz.

The group meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.

On September 21, the Planning Group discussed a new proposal to build townhouses on the parking lot and surrounding lots abutting it. The proposal is as follows:

6 townhouses on parking lot
 2 townhouses on adjacent lot on Frost Street
 5 parking spaces on one Newport Road lot
 "tot lot"/open space on the other Newport Road lot

The proposal requires a Special Permit and Variance from the city.

At the Planning Group meeting, area residents expressed concern that the proposal was overly dense, would take away on-street parking spots, and would diminish neighborhood safety. Someone volunteered to talk to the developers, but residents were preparing to attend a Cambridge Planning Board Hearing to protest, if necessary. The hearing is on Tuesday, October 4, at 7:30 p.m. at 57 Inman Street.

Residents discussed circulating a petition expressing neighborhood opposition. Call the Community Center at 498-9056 for more information.

The Planning Group at its next meeting will continue to discuss the two topics which were its focus last year:

-MBTA-owned lot at Garfield St. & Mass. Ave.: Current neighborhood objectives are (1) 35-foot height limit, (2) some commercial space along Mass. Ave., and (3) subsidized housing for families. This has been a subject of discussion for many months. No decisions have been made. Additional neighborhood involvement is needed. The MBTA still owns the lot. The city (Community Development Department) would like to hold a neighborhood meeting on this subject during the fall.

- Downzoning Mass. Ave.: Zone in question runs from Chauncy St. to Sears and is 200 feet wide. Current zoning allows 80-foot buildings (with residential use) and floor-area-ratio (FAR) of 1.75. Group objective is to lower height to 35 feet and to diminish FAR (i.e., allowable density). We will be exploring use of an "incentive" zoning system allowing developers to build larger (slightly) if they meet certain criteria.

Voucher Day Care

Demonstration Project

Child Care Resource Center

1. Call us at the Child Care Resource Center. We have up-to-date listings of licensed day care centers, nursery schools, after-school programs and family day care homes in the greater Boston area. If you are eligible for a voucher, we can refer you to participating programs.
2. Next, visit some day care homes or centers and choose the one you prefer. (We can help you think about how to observe and evaluate the programs you visit, and to decide which one suits you best.)
3. Call us at 542-4692 to make an appointment to come in to our office to get your voucher. Be sure to call for an appointment before you come in!

EVERYONE must bring:

- Proof of address
- Social security numbers of all family members
- Birth dates of all family members
- Documentation of all income

ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR VOUCHER

Take your voucher to the day care provider you have chosen. You will pay a portion of the cost (on a sliding scale, based on your income). The minimum fee is 60¢ per day for after-school care, and \$1.00 per day for full-time care. You will be able to stay on this voucher program until you are able to afford the full cost of care.

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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.

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WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING WITH YOU TO GET YOUR VOUCHER:

- If you are an AFDC recipient, or if you were cut off from AFDC within the past 30 days:
 - A. Go to your Financial Assistance Worker (at your Welfare office) for a referral to the Work/Training Program (WTP) for Voucher Day Care.
 - B. Then go to the WTP office for an "Authorization of Eligibility" (DC-1 form) for Voucher Day Care.

works like this:

- C. Bring with you: 1) the Authorization of eligibility, 2) documentation of income, and 3) documentation of AFDC status. (For example, your current paycheck stub, AFDC grant letter, or the letter or print-out which notified you that your AFDC is being reduced or cut off.)
- If you have been referred to us by the Department of Social Services, you must bring your DSS referral form (SOC-9).

Cambridge Department of Human
Service Programs
AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, Ma. 02138

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