

# the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

January 1, 1977

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, Wednesday, January 5th, 8:00 pm in school library.

AGASSIZ PLAYGROUP MEETING, Monday, January 17th, 7:45 pm at the North Congregational Church.

AGASSIZ SCHOOL RELEASE DAY, Tuesday, January 18th - no school all day.

## AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

It was agreed at the December Community Council meeting to limit the enrollment in the after-school program to 115 children. This is still an enormous number of children to accommodate in our program, but we'll do our best and we will continue to let new children into the program as others either drop out or move out of the school district.

Our EVENING PROGRAM schedule will change slightly starting in January. Starting the 3rd, the program will look like this:

### MONDAYS:

Beginning Piano 6:30-7:30

Beginning Flute 7:00-8:00  
(We still have openings in this class.)

Little Orchestra Rehearsal  
7:30-9:30

## COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS, Cont.

### TUESDAYS:

Beginning Guitar 6:00-7:00  
(One opening - hurry and sign up now!)

Intermediate Guitar 7:00-8:00  
(Three openings)

Gym Hockey and Basketball 6:30-8:30

### WEDNESDAYS:

Gym Hockey 6:30-7:30

Teen Basketball 7:30-9:00

### THURSDAYS:

Folk Dancing for Families 6:30-8:00

Modern Dance for Beginners 8:00-9:30

TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 876-9268, Mon-Fri, 2:30-5:00.

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A LETTER TO YOU FROM CAROL SWAN, OUR THURSDAY EVENING FOLK DANCING LEADER:

Good folks in the Agassiz community, let's come together for family and community celebration. Let's learn in new ways (or old ones revised) how to move our bodies to beautiful rhythms of music from many countries. Let's play games in a totally new attitude of excitement and creativity.

No-one need be alienated or hurt over people's enormous differences so consistently. I think we tend to lose sight of the many things we have in common and of how our differences can be shared. Folk dancing and playing

A LETTER TO YOU, Cont.

new games together is one fun way that can contribute greatly to making attitude changes happen. I believe dancing is something everyone can do given a cooperative and supportive environment. Rhythms are natural to our bodies. Yet growing up without exercising these rhythms, they become stiffened and we become strangers to our own bodies.

We take ourselves so seriously we have a hard time responding to the enthusiastic, creative and mischievous parts of ourselves and other people. With new games, we are allowed to respond spontaneously in a safe structure. The games are flexible so as to be created and re-created according to the needs and growth of the people playing them. Both the games and the dances maintain a cooperative spirit and use up as much energy as people can muster.

So far, up to 40 people have been coming to these weekly events, although not all at once (unfortunately!) The fun starts at 6:45 and goes until 8:00 at the Agassiz School on THURSDAY nights (changed from Tuesdays). And we've had great fun so far. We would like people to know that there's LOTS more room in the gym, and the more joining in, the merrier times we can have together. It is especially important for men to come. Little people need to see men dancing and playing (little boys in particular) so that they may grow up knowing that these things are okay for them to do, too.

And last but not least, I need to live, I need materials, records, to participate in learning skill workshops and continue to broaden the leadership I'd like to share. This costs money. I am asking a donation of one dollar for families and fifty cents for individuals.

So. COME THURSDAYS! Bring friends,

parents, grandparents, roomates, children, a new game, a folkdance, and lots of energy. I'm up for creating with everyone as big and good a time we could possibly have in an hour and a half! (Call me if you have questions at 628-6880.)

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Minutes from the December Council Meeting:

1. Alan Korb proposed that we withdraw from the Police Task Force, the reason being that the police have been unable to respond to our requests, particularly with parking violations.

It was proposed that we send a letter to the City Manager with a copy to the Police Department stating that we are withdrawing from the Task Force because of lack of concrete results.

2. Community Gardens. Apparently the Cambridge D.P.W. mistakenly cleared the Community Gardens on December 1st. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to all gardeners informing them of this, and that the ad hoc garden committee would see to staking out the gardens again. It was agreed to send a letter to the D.P.W. as well.

3. After-School Program. The program has reached its enrollment limit and cannot accept more students. This was agreed upon by the Council. (There are now 118 children in the program.) We will be getting space at 20 Sacramento Street, but this will only relieve the present crunch and cannot be used for additional children. The space at 20 Sacramento St. will be provided rent-free by Sanctuary, with a pro-rata sharing of utility costs.

4. Attendance. Several people noticed the low attendance at recent Council meetings (eleven were present at this meeting). It was suggested

COUNCIL NEWS, Cont.

that people involved in community programs, such as the after-school program, should become more involved in council activities. This means the families of children who use Agassiz Community School programs regularly and their (your) participation would turn both the Council and the Community School program into more truly cooperative ventures.

The next Council Meeting is on Wednesday, January 5th at 8:00 in the school library.

Won't you come and explore the ways you might become more involved in Agassiz community activities? See you there!!!

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP NEWS

The A.N.P.G., with support from the Agassiz PTA and Community Council, has submitted a proposal for the purchase and renovation of Sacramento Field to the Community Development Block Grant Program. This proposal has attracted a lot of attention in the Planning Department because if it is approved by the Block Grant Advisory Council and the City Manager, it will be one of the first major land purchases by the city for open space use and will serve as a warning to developers such as Harvard that community needs, particularly for open space, are more important than those for luxury housing. Furthermore, it will show that communities can have a serious effect on their own future development.

Copies of the proposal are available through Agassiz Community School and will also be available at the next Council meeting.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR TEENS - JAN 17-MAY 15

This winter The Sanctuary, Inc., in conjunction with the Agassiz Community School, is offering Cambridge teens a 16 week program in leadership development, free of charge. Participants will be personally challenged by:

--Rock climbing, kayaking, backpacking and other wilderness activities.

--Environmental and neighborhood awareness activities.

--The chance to learn how people work together and how individuals contribute to a group through the formation of a supportive group where appreciation of differences will be encouraged.

--Opportunities to develop individual ability to overcome difficult obstacles, whether physical or interpersonal.

Beginning January 17, four groups of teenagers (12 in each), from four Cambridge neighborhoods will meet two days each week and one weekend per month. Various sites in and around Cambridge will be used for group skill training. One afternoon session each week will meet at Hale Reservation in Westwood for outdoor skills activities. Weekend camping trips will be held at Hale and other sites throughout New England.

Each group will be led by an experienced neighborhood agency staff member and two outdoor-skills instructors from Hale Reservation. The outdoor-skills instructors will train participants in rock climbing, kayaking, wilderness travel, and environmental awareness.

For more information, call Tracy DeNagy at 661-1600.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!