the AGASSIZ WIIIBBBBB

APRIL

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

1985

COMMUNITY NEWS

** Council Meeting Notes ...

In March the Agassiz Neighborhood Council was presented with plans for the Renovation of the Agassiz Community Center backyard. Gerard Frank, Architect, presented a master plan which divided the yard into four major projects. Two of these projects were the restoration and redefinition of the main playspaces. Plans included planting, mulching, and a general overhaul of existing play structures.

The third project was to build a outdoor stage and theatre area behind the barn. This simply would be a deck with a step and railroad ties for seating.

The fourth project proposed was the area directly behind the Community Center building. It would become a patio for seating and eating, or other quiet activity.

These projects were designed not only for the existing use of child-rens playspace. We would like to extend the community use of the Community Center, and the theatre area could be a space for adult readings. The patio area could make a good pot luck dinner space, or other community social or cultural events.

The council decided to persue the matter in several ways. Harvard, as our landlord, will be approached to help provide fencing. Another committee will draw up a list of priorities and costs, and from there organize a community work day.

We will have reports for the suncil at the April Council Meeting. For further information or a copy of the plan, call Terry DeLancey at 498-9056.

COMMUNITY NEWS

April 10 will be the Agassiz
Neighborhood Council's FIRST ANNUAL
CORPORATE MEETING. Come and enjoy
entertainment, refreshments and yes,
even prizes. We will attempt to do
some business from 7:30-8:30, agenda
below, and at 8:30 the festivities
will begin. Please come and join us!!

** Crimewatch Update
During the month of March we had
four thefts from motor vehicles on
Prentiss St, Carver St., Museum St.,
and Forest St.

There were four break-ins, one on Oxford St. and three on Everett St. Lieutenant Donovan advises us that there were arrests, important ones, made in relation to these crimes.

Remember, call 911 if you see anything or anyone suspicious, and let the police decide if there is a real problem.

REZONING IS A COMMUNITY ISSUE THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT NOW!!! SEE PAGE TWO

APRIL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday April 10 7:30 PM

- 1) Rezoning we will be voting on a Council position
- 2) Backyard renovations update
- 3) 1985-86 FY Budget- will be presented and approved unless discussion is necessary, copies available by calling 498-9056
- 4) Election of Officers- due to new bylaws
 5) A Video Presentation "Scenes from the Underground"

See articles for more details !!!!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mass. Ave. Rezoning

We've been talking about it for more than two years, you've been reading about it in <u>The Whistler</u> and <u>The Tab</u> and now FINALLY we're persuing it-REZONING OF MASS. AVE.

Our proposal calls for changing the zoning along Mass. Ave. from the Cambridge Common to the Arlington The formal petition includes eleven specific zoning changes, but its general objective is to establish a building height of 35 feet. Current zoning for most of Mass Ave in Agassiz allows construction of 85 foot high buildings! Similarly large buildings are permitted along most of the rest of Mass. Ave. The proposed changes will limit buildings to 35 feet along most of the Avenue north of Harvard Square except in Porter Square and the area around the MBTA car barns in North Cambridge.

We have been circulating petitions in support of the rezoning. By the time you read this the formal petition should have been filed with the City Council. However, we will continue to collect signatures up to the time of

the hearings.

COMMUNITY NEWS

There will be several key hearings before the Planning Board and City Council. Please watch for them (in The Whistler, The Tab, The Cambridge Chronicle or on flyers) and plan to attend to show your support. If you have any questions call the Community Center (498-9056).

##***** WHY REZONE ?? ****

Do we want to live near an open tree lined avenue, a pleasant place for you and your neighbors to shop, to walk and to live, a place with some interest and character? Or do we want to live near a faceless concrete canyon, like Mass. Ave. between Central and Harvard Squares ?

Do we want to have sunlight and open space near our houses or do we want to live in shadows of office and

apartment towers?

Do we want to have owner run grocery stores, cleaners, drug stores sandwich shops, laundromats and other small businesses nearby, or do we want to see them replaced with stockbrokerages, more computer stores, high priced boutiques and other big business enter-

*** Meeting with DPW Commissioner Kennedy on Recreation Areas Before the March 20 meeting, Commissioner Kennedy had visited the Tot Lot at the corner of 0xford and Sacramento Sts, the Community Gardens and Sacramento His assessment included work on the Tot Lot such as restoration of the lighting, refurbishing play equipment, and adding sand.

He agreed to prune trees in the garden, and to look into the expense of a chain link fence.

Kennedy listened to our requests for general maintenance of the field such as garbage removal and fence repairs, watering and cutting of grass. Additionally requested was an aerator, reseed of the field. Kennedy will respond to our requests, and let us know what his department will do this spring and summer.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Scenes from the Underground"-Harvard Square Video

No, its not about the latest Cambridge Radical Movement. It concerns a subject which has had a profound effect on our recent lives-the construction of the Red Line in

Harvard Square.

At the April meeting of the Neighborhood Council (Wednesday April 10) we will be showing a 40 minute video documentary of the construction of and the people who built the new subway tunnel in Harvard Square. It was made by Barry Strongin, a teaching assistant at Harvard, who will be available to discuss the video with us.

Most of us have spent the last 5 years (at least) looking down into the various man made caverns around Harvard Square as the Red Line Construction progressed. Here's our chance to watch the underground work, an experience which should be especially injoyable now that it is completed.

Artspace Exhibit at Lesley College

An exhibition of art works of children through adults will be held at the Heterick Lounge in front of Welch Auditorium. The opening is SUNDAY MAY 12 from 12-2:30. the works were done in studio art classes called Artspace. Painting, drawing and sculpture are the primary media. All classes are taught by Carolyn Boriss-Krimsky. For further information call 547-8444

AGASSIZ READING SERIES

The reading series is program of authors in our neighborhood reading their own works of prose or poetry. There is no charge. All sessions are held at the Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. at 7:30 in the gallery. For information call 498-9056.

April 9 Tuesday- Jane Brock and Sebastian Lockwood reading poetry
April 24 Wednesday- Alfie Alcorn reading from his forthcoming book,
Pull Of The Earth

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reading Series Continued....

April 30 Tuesday- John L.B. Bockman and Fred Marchant reading their poetry

**Do You Get The Whistler Monthly ?

As you may know, in the past few months we have established a delivery system for The Whistler. Teens and school groups cover the Agassiz neighborhood on foot, and hopefully deliver to each home in our neighborhood.

If you have not been receiving your newsletter regularly, please let us know. It is our hope to reach all of you every month!

Please call Terry DeLancey at 498-9056, and we will either place you on our mailing list or we will be sure delivery is being made in your apartment or on your block regularly.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

The Joint Parent Steering Committee will be discussing the budget at our next regular meeting. Please come if your are interested.

OUTBACK (Agassiz Neighborhood Council's Summer Camp) brochures should be reaching you by April 12. If you have not received one by then, please call 498-9056.

If you wish to enroll your child in our Vacation Week (4/16-4/19) please ask your afterschool teacher for a registration form. Trips include Drumlin Farms and Candlepin Bowling. There will also be a Feature Film!

We have received some returns from the questionnaire which was intended to get your ideas about spending some money on childrens programs. The Backyard Renovations seems to be the most popular item by far. We will be collecting them until April 10, so return them if you have not yet.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 5 Friday NO SCHOOL Good Friday

April 9 Tuesday 7:30
Agassiz Reading Series
(See announcements)

April 10 Wednesday 7:30
Community Council Meeting
Agassiz School Library

April 10 Wednesday Early Release Day School closes 12:45

April 15-19 NO SCHOOL-Vacation Week Childcare Program 4/16-4/19

April 24 Wednesday 7:30
Agassiz Reading Series
(See announcements)

April 24 Wednesday 6-7

Joint Parent Steering Committee
Agassiz Community Schools
Childcare and snacks
All parents invited

April 27 Saturday
Art from Mexico
Painting on bark- for
details contact 498-9056

April 30 Tuesday 7:30
Agassiz Reading Series
(See announcements)

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Need to get away ??
Agassiz Neighborhood mother
looking for babysitting jobs Weekends and overnights. Can stay
in your home or bring child(ren)
to mine.

References available Call evenings 354-2324 Donna Treece Jacobson

Agassiz Neighborhood Council 20 Sacramento Street Cambridge, MA 02138 498-9056