



The Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

COMMUNITY NEWS

Porter Square Development

By now you have read about the proposed development in Porter Square on the site of the Sears Building. If you think it will be fun to walk to one of the six movie theatres, or attend one of the many restaurants, or shop at the new stores, you are probably right.

But if you are driving up Mass. Ave. when a theatre lets out, you will have up to 100 theatregoers to get past, and this can happen every 15 minutes. You will probably find people searching out free parking on your streets, and there will generally be more traffic in your neighborhood.

At the point when building renovations had begun, the neighborhoods had been given little to no information on the development. At the March Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting, people expressed concern over the lack of information provided at that time. It was decided to visit City Manager Robert Healy, and express our concerns to him. He has agreed to attend a meeting with heads of the building, traffic, licensing, and community development departments for the benefit of the community, to provide residents with an overview of the development, and to answer questions regarding its impact.

It is our responsibility to see that the development of Porter Square proceeds in a way that does not impact unfavorably on our neighborhood.

Come to the meeting on April 9 at 7:30 PM at the North Congregational Church, 1803 Mass. Ave., and find out from our city manager and his department heads what is happening. For more information, call 498-9056.

Liquor Cap on Mass. Ave.

North Cambridge has come out in support of a liquor cap from the Arlington line to Porter Square (including the Sear's site.) At the March 25 Licensing Meeting, this cap was passed, which now leaves only the stretch of Mass. Ave. between Harvard Square and Porter Square uncapped from Boston to Lexington.

Under a cap no new liquor licenses of any kind could be created. However, existing licenses could be transferred from site to site.

James McDavitt will speak at the April 9 meeting at the North Congregational Church regarding the impact of liquor licenses and development of the area. At that time he will have information regarding licensing meetings and hearings on the subject.

Petitions which state that the undersigned wish to see a liquor cap from Harvard Square to Porter Square will be available to sign at the community center, or to take to acquire more signatures. For more information call 498-9056

next council meeting...

APRIL 9
7:30 North Congregational Church
Development in Porter Square
(See inserted flyer for details)

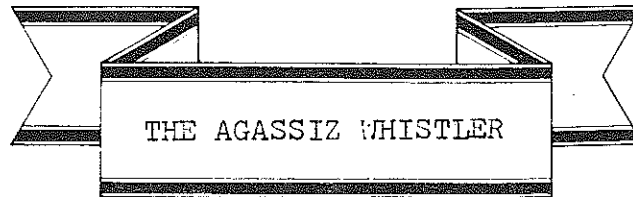
APRIL 16
7:30 Agassiz Community Center
Agassiz Neighborhood Council Annual Meeting
Election of Officers

For the second month running:

This edition of the "Whistler"
compliments of the

Oxford Spa

7 AM - 9 PM
Open 7 days a week
102 Oxford St 547-5440



Georgie's Denied

The final word on the development of 1671 Mass. Ave. (the site of Georgie's Bar) is that the applications for variances to the Board of Zoning Appeals were denied.

According to the developers, a smaller version of the proposed building would not be cost effective, and at this point the proposal has been dropped.

Council to Receive More City Funding

Mark Hinderlie, Division Head for the Cambridge Department of Human Services attended the neighborhood council March meeting to report that the City Manager had OKed additional funds of \$1,500 for each Cambridge neighborhood in the 1986-87 fiscal year budget.

Mark suggested that the money be earmarked for underserved groups in the Agassiz neighborhood, citing teens as a likely target group. If you are interested in pursuing this possibility, please contact Terry DeLancey at 498-9056. If you have other underserved groups in mind, please let us know that.

Traffic Department Receives Recommendations

The traffic committee was able to make several recommendations to the department of Traffic and Parking's Lauren Preston.

The most popular suggestions were drawn up from participants at two council meetings and from the tear out coupon in the "Whistler" in March. They are :

1. Better signage to show a school zone at Oxford and Sacramento Sts, including a flashing yellow speed limit sign, and better delineated cross walks.

2. Placement of the Oxford - Sacramento St. light on a cycle.

3. Prohibition of large trucks on Oxford Street (except for deliveries to the Oxford Spa)

4. Create a loading zone in front of the Oxford Spa to prevent overnight parking.

A letter was also forwarded to Police Chief Paolillo requesting enforcement of existing speed limits and existing parking regulations.

The least popular suggestions generally were any of those which dealt with changing existing traffic patterns with one ways or dead ends.

We have requested that Lauren Preston review these solutions, and let us know about their feasibility in a council meeting some time this spring. Look for the "Whistler" for a notice of the meeting, and see what the Traffic and Parking Department has to say.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

Outback Summer Camp will be back again this summer for children entering 1st through 6th grades. If your child is enrolled in any of our Community School Programs or the Agassiz Public School, you will be receiving a brochure sometime in mid April. There will be 8 weeks of camp beginning on June 30 - August 22, from 8:30-2:30, extended day aftercamp until 5:45.

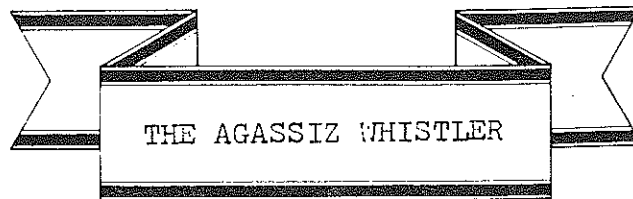
The Counselor in Training (CIT) program of Outback will be back for its 3rd year. Youth entering grade 7 or older may apply. Agassiz Public School 6th and 7th graders will receive a letter, others can call Steve Winter at 498-9056 in the AM.

Preschool at the community center will begin in the fall. This will be a program that will follow the Cambridge School Calendar, and will be a 5 day program for children ages 3-4 years, from 9 AM to Noon. We are taking interested people's names, so call if you are interested-498-9056.

Community Gardens

The Community Garden, located across from the community center at 20 Sacramento St., had its annual meeting on March 20. The garden has been busy with small beautification projects such as a platform for garbage, and hopes to have a new fence from the city some time soon.

If you are interested in a plot, there is a waiting list. Please call Lynn Gay, Garden Co-ordinator, at 491-4263, and she will place you on a chronological waiting list for the next available plot. There



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