

the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

DECEMBER

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

1984

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*December 8-9, 15-16 Sat. and Sun.
Agassiz Community Childrens School
Annual Christmas Tree Sale
Trees, Tree Stands, Wreaths, pot-
ted trees (and food on Saturdays)
North Congregational Church
1803 Mass. Ave
Saturday 10-5, Sunday 1-5

*December 12 Wed 7:00 Public Hearing
Reconstruction of bridge at end
of Oxford St. in Somerville
JFKennedy School, Elm St. Smvl.
(Behind Porter Square Shopping
Center)

*December 12 Wed 7:30 Agassiz
Neighborhood Council Meeting
Agassiz School Library

*December 15-16 Sat. and Sun.
Special Christmas Program for
the Entire family from the
Underground Railway Theatre
21 Notre Dame Ave. (near Rindge and
Mass. Aves) 497-6136
The Firebird and Till Eulenspiegel
\$6 (\$5 with reservations) Adults
\$3 (\$2 with reservations) Kids
Saturday 2 and 8 PM
Sunday 2 PM

*December 19 Wed 6:00 Joint Parent
Steering Committee Agassiz Commu-
ity Schools-Community Center

*SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

December 11 Tuesday-school closes
at 12:45-Released Time

December 21 Friday-school closes
regular time.
January 2 School reopens-Wed.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL
will meet DECEMBER 12 Wed
7:30 PM
AGASSIZ SCHOOL LIBRARY
NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS
for 1985

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

News from the council meeting...

One big issue was the pos-
sibility of Oxford Street becoming
one way. Lauren Preston from the
Traffic and Parking Bureau argued
that this would keep Mass. Ave.
traffic off Oxford St., and that
it might relieve the traffic on
Irving St. and Roberts Rd. which
are used as cut through streets
to mid Cambridge from our neigh-
borhood.

Those present at the meeting
were vocal in their rejection of
the plan, noting many disadvan-
tages. These included the possi-
bility of even greater speeds on
Oxford St. if one way, the empty-
ing out of both Harvard and Les-
ley Parking lots on Oxford, being
physically cut off from Harvard
Yard when driving, and the incred-
ible congestion already on Wendell
Street at 5-6 PM (the plan would
route southbound Oxford St. drivers
onto Wendell.)

Several alternate suggestions
were made. One was to realign the
curb on Oxford St. in Somerville
to make access less easy. This
could be incorporated into the
plans to reconstruct the bridge

between Somerville Ave. and Beacon St. (See community calendar for dates of the hearing on the bridge)

Another suggestion was to make the first block of Oxford St. between Beacon and Forest St. ONE WAY. Only entering Oxford St from Beacon St. would be disallowed. (See following petition for that suggestion)

Chief Paolillo from the Cambridge Police was in attendance, and he addressed the issue of some disruptive persons who have by their unusual behavior frightened children and adults as well. He said that unless these persons were breaking the law, they could do nothing to remove them. However, the police are well aware of these persons, and when YOU are frightened or annoyed by some one CALL THE POLICE. In that way they will be both aware of these people, and we will have police presence around them.

The last agenda item from the November council meeting was a presentation from Commonwealth Electric on their plans to bury a cable through our neighborhood. The cable would come through Chauncy St. to Everett, down Oxford toward Harvard. The only disadvantage that was stated was the digging up of the proposed streets, and the traffic disruption that would occur. If you have any questions you may call Mr. Mullaly or Mr. Des Roche at Commonwealth Electric, phone 864-3100 ext. 4532.

DECEMBER AGENDA
AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING

1. Nominations for officers 1985
2. Tree purchase and location
3. CRIMEWATCH- Lt. Donovan and Officer Joann DeLuise will present a film, pass out literature, and give tips on the crimewatch program.

-OXFORD STREET PETITION (proposed)

The residents of the Agassiz and Mid-Cambridge Neighborhoods have expressed great concern about the use of Oxford St. as a "cut-through" in order to avoid Mass. Ave. or Beacon St. This "cut-through" traffic has become a serious hazard to the residents of the area and is also causing unmanageable congestion on neighborhood streets.

We are considering collecting signatures in support, so that we may request the cooperation of the Cambridge and the Somerville Traffic Departments in order to make the first block of Oxford St., between Beacon and Forest St., ONE WAY. Only entering Oxford St. FROM Beacon St. would be disallowed.

Before a petition to this effect will be circulated in the affected neighborhoods, we want to hear from you. If you have any questions or would like to help gather signatures please call Richard Silver at 492-4999.

*RETURN OF A POPULAR PROGRAM

The Agassiz Reading Series, coordinated by Sebastian Lockwood, will begin on Wednesday December 19 at 7:30 PM in the Community Center. All work read is original and read by the author. Any interested writer who is performance oriented, can participate. Contact Sebastian at 492-6857.

January and February programs are listed below:

- *December 19 Wednesday 7:30
Ed Cates and Sebastian Lockwood
Poetry
- *January 16 Wednesday 7:30
Bob Callahan-Storyteller
- *January 23 Wednesday 7:30
Alfie Alcorn-Prose from a novel
Pull of The Earth
- *February 6 Wednesday 7:30
Bob Smyth and Elizabeth McKim
Poetry
- *February 20 Wednesday 7:30
Bill Henderson-Prose

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

*Notes from the Parent Steering Committee...

December Vacation Programming

Both Afterschool Activities and Afterschool Childcare Programs will combine resources at the Community Center for Christmas Vacation Childcare. Half day care will be offered 8:30-1 on Christmas Eve, December 24. Full day care will be offered Monday-Wednesday, December 26-28, 8:30-5:45, and again on Monday December 31.

Afterschool Activities parents must preregister by December 15. Afterschool Childcare parents must sign up so we can plan adequately. For further information check with your child's afterschool teachers.

Activities Sliding Fee Scale

The newly devised sliding fee scale for activities program families has been put into the mailboxes of all participants. Please let us know what you think of the fee scale, or call if you would like to see it and haven't gotten it. Contact Terry DeLancey at 498-9056 or Karen Vaters at 876-8314. There will be a meeting of the Parent Steering Committee on December 19 (see calendar). Any parent is invited to discuss this issue with the committee at that time.

Community Center Backyard

A committee is being formed to :

- *Brainstorm ideas for the yard
- *Get designs drawn up
- *Get estimates on cost
- *Present a proposal to the council

This yard is presently used for afterschool play space and Outback Summer Camp. Do you have any ideas? Contact either Terry DeLancey 498-9056 or Bill Neukomm 492-8452.

*Afterschool Childcare Program hires a new Head Teacher!

Tracy Winn has begun as the new Head Teacher. Her experience includes 8 years of teaching kindergarten, first and second grade children. Tracy holds a graduate degree from Lesley College, and she has done teacher training. The hiring committee was unanimous in its recommend-

ation to hire Tracy, and felt that we were lucky to find a teacher of so high a caliber, especially one who lives right across Mass. Ave.!

*Swimming Program

Our Wednesday afternoon swimming lessons have been a grand success. The children are transported by bus to the Cambridge YWCA in Central Square at 3:00 PM. There they have half hour swimming lessons which are Red Cross Certified. The children (grades 1-4) are grouped according to ability, and work in small groups with a Certified Water Safety Instructor. They return by bus at approximately 5:15.

Until now only children in Wednesday Afterschool programs were eligible. For the next term, beginning in January, we would like to open it up to all children who participate in Afterschool.

If you are interested in this program, please contact Terry DeLancey at 498-9056, and she will expand on the particulars.

COME AND GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY THEATRE

Did you know that there is a very good theatre group located in North Cambridge at the Institute for Arts and Sciences ? They are located just off Rindge and Mass. Ave. on Notre Dame Ave.

They will be presenting a Holiday Program (see calendar) featuring the company's shadow puppet spectacles, which are a cross between a light show, and animated stained glass. These spectacles were originally commissioned by the Boston and Cleveland Symphony Orchestras, and have toured nationally.

Although most of their shows tour, they would like to become better known in their neighborhood. Call for more information: 497-6136

For the Holiday show they will be joined by the Cambridge Madrigal Singers, who will offer international holiday songs.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Cambridge School Department

The Cambridge School Department is currently accepting applications for voluntary membership on the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee which "shall be responsible, together with the Affirmative Action Officer for formulating affirmative action goals, and planning, implementing, evaluating and disseminating information about the Cambridge School Department affirmative action plan."

The committee shall be composed of two teachers, two parents, two administrators and two members of the school committee, and half of those will be minority persons.

Please send application letter to:

Mr. John R. McCarthy, Secretary
Cambridge School Committee
458 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138

THE COMMUNITY CENTER NEEDS....

Babysitters who will be in our file for parents to review. If you or someone you know would like to be in our file, call and leave your name and address, and we will send out an application.

Instamatic cameras for our photography courses, #126.

Businesses or others who would like to advertize in 'The Whistler' to defray printing expenses.

..... Call 498-9056 and ask for Terry DeLancey.

The 8th Grade is selling white hats that say AGASSIZ for \$2.50. If you are interested in buying one, see Rentzi Thompson, Mrs. Rodrigues's class.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
20 SACRAMENTO ST.
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138