



DECEMBER 1986

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



Agassiz Neighborhood and the City Budget

At the November neighborhood council meeting both Alice Wolf and Frank Duehay were in attendance. They advised us that if we would like to see improvements in our neighborhood in the upcoming year, now is the time to get them into the city budget for the fiscal year 1987-88.

In order to succeed the expenditures should be placed in the budget by the city manager at the beginning of the process. Now is the time to get our priorities to the city manager, and at our council meeting on December 10, we will be discussing priorities and strategies. The point was made that last year almost nothing was spent in our neighborhood above basic services, yet the homeowners pay steep taxes.

Several projects were identified that neighbors felt deserved immediate attention in the city budget. It must be noted that the things included in this list are not new projects or special facilities, *they are all things that should be done in the course of the city's maintenance of our neighborhood to keep it a safe place.*

1. The Alden Tot Lot at this point is just plain dangerous. Located at Oxford and Sacramento Streets, it is used by approximately 265 Agassiz Public School children as their playground. (The playground adjacent to the school is used as a

next council meeting . . .

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10
7:30 PM
AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CENTER
20 Sacramento Street

City Budget Issues (see article)

parking lot). In addition to the public school, approximately 50 children from afterschool programs use the playground during their program hours. The playground is also used by preschool children in daycare and with parents.

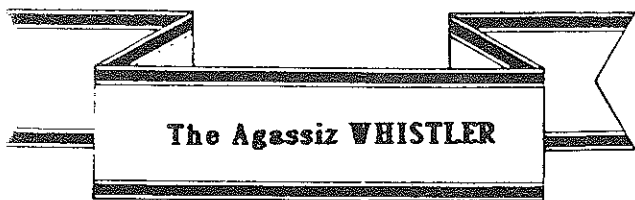
This tot lot has no gates, and small children have run out of the gates onto Oxford Street. The drain is clogged, causing an unhealthy pool of standing water on the blacktop every time there is a heavy rain. There is also standing water under the swings. The large wooden climbing structure has been severely splintered and large splinters in children's hands are an everyday occurrence. The cement boat structure has been worn down to the metal reinforcements, and it has caused many serious accidents when children fall. Many adults do not permit children to be on that structure.

Two years ago in a meeting with the DPW we were promised that these problems, which were less serious then, would be corrected. In addition we were promised that the lights would be reinstated, that sand would be delivered, that the fence would be fixed, and that regular maintenance would occur. With the exception of sporadic maintenance, nothing else has been done.

2. Residents around Wendell St. want a traffic light. Most feel this is the only real solution for safety on the Oxford Wendell Street corner. Another stop light will deter cut through traffic, made crossing safe, and slow down cars.

3. The problem of sewer upgrading still remains where it was after the flood in July of 1985. We were assured that a design study would begin during this fiscal year. The DPW was contacted in July and again this month, and the answer remains the same: They are waiting for state funding to make a design plan. Meanwhile we have over 50 families who signed petitions, attended meetings and returned questionnaires. These people all suffered severe property loss and will again the next time we have a major rainstorm.

Please come to the December meeting, and give us your suggestions and help us to strategize and prioritize for the upcoming City Budget. These expenditures are long overdue this neighborhood!



Council Notes from November

CRIMEWATCH

Lauren Preston, Traffic Engineer for the city was our guest at the November Neighborhood Council Meeting. He was there to address neighborhood concern over the dangers of walking and driving on Oxford Street, specifically at the corners of Sacramento and Wendell Streets.

Mr. Preston had done his homework. Before he came to the meeting, he had ordered two no parking areas on Oxford St. to be enlarged for more visibility at the Wendell Street corners and signs had been posted, he fixed the walk button at the Sacramento Street light, he had ordered six speed limit signs to be replaced on Oxford Street, and he had notified personnel to strictly enforce all no parking zones.

People were grateful for these actions, but all agreed that these corrections would not solve the problem. Many ideas were suggested to Mr. Preston, and many were rejected as being either too expensive or impossible due to state or city laws. This was getting nowhere, so it was decided that a traffic plan must be devised to find out just what we could do to slow down and lower volume of traffic.

Therefore a letter is being sent to Mr. Preston including the following options which are being considered by the traffic committee. The plan will be formulated according to his response to these options.

1. We would like a traffic count at Wendell St. to determine the feasibility of a light there.
2. We would like to have the traffic department study the feasibility of a flashing school sign on Oxford Street.
3. We would like some leadership on the part of the traffic department in working with Somerville in regard to the redesigning of Oxford Street after the bridge is built at the Somerville line.
4. We would like the traffic department to follow up on no parking around the Alden Tot Lot to insure visibility of children running out of the park.
5. We would like the traffic department to check the rating of Oxford St. to determine if stop signs are permitted.
6. We would like the traffic department to research the possibility of obtaining money for a traffic light at the Wendell Street corner.
7. We would like the traffic department to follow up on the possibility of a loading zone in front of the Oxford Spa.
8. We would like the traffic department to research the possibility of banning truck traffic on Oxford St.

Editors Note Several people were disturbed about last month's reporting of armed robbery as a more serious crime than rape. The crime was not considered less serious; the statement was misleading because the rape actually did not occur in our neighborhood. It occurred behind a Harvard building on Oxford St. It was included in the report because most residents walk down Oxford St. to Harvard Square, and we hoped to increase awareness of the dangers. However, value judgements will be kept to a minimum in the future!

- Forest St.....2 thefts from unlocked cars
1 attempt, two break and entry
- Eustis St.....1 break and entry
- Sacramento St.....2 break and entry
- Crescent St.....1 theft from unlocked car
- Carver St.....1 break and entry
- Oxford St.....1 break and entry at Eustis
1 hit and run at Garfield
- Mass. Ave.....1 hit and run at Garfield
1 assault and battery at Wendell
2 car thefts at #1663 and Wendell
1 unarmed st. robbery at Everett
1 theft from locked car at #1525

ATTENTION PRESCHOOL PARENTS:

Fall 1987 registration for Cambridge Public Schools is being held this month. Cambridge Public Schools have an open enrollment policy, and parents may register children in any public school regardless of their school district.

If you are interested in Agassiz School for kindergarten, it is very important that you register early, since Agassiz traditionally cannot place all the children whose parents request it as a first choice.

Registration dates are December 2-4 at the Harrington School 3-8 PM, December 8 at the King School 8-12 Noon and 6-8 PM, December 9 at the Tobin School 8-12 Noon and 6-8 PM, December 10 at the Longfellow School 8-12 Noon and 6-8 PM, and December 11-12 at the Harrington School 3-8 PM.

At the time of registration you must present three documents. One is a certificate of Address form (available in libraries), Two is a birth certificate, Three is an immunization certificate signed by your child's doctor.

For further information, contact the Parent Information Center at 491-6200 or 498-9237 or the Parent Liaison for Agassiz School, Marcia Duran who may be reached at 498-9256.

Upcoming Community Events

*** ADS *** ADS *** ADS *** ADS *** ADS ***

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE DECEMBER 6,7,13,14

The Annual Christmas Tree Sale, to benefit the Agassiz Community Children's School, will be held in front of the North Congregational Church, 1803 Mass. Ave. (next to the old Sear's) on Saturday December 6th and 13th and Sunday December 7th and 14th.

Hours on Saturday are from 9 AM to 6 PM; on Sunday from 12 Noon to 6 PM. There will also be food and holiday ornaments on sale.

CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR for children

Come to the fair on Saturday December 6 from 9:30-4:30 at Christ Church, Zero Garden St. Make ornaments, see a clown, sing songs, decorate pine branches. Food available all day, puppets from 3-4 PM. Proceeds go to area charities.

Entertainment is free. There is a \$1.50 charge to enter crafts area from 12:30-4:00 PM, unlimited time and materials.

Neighborhood News

Georgie's Bar Sold- Licensing Hearing

Georgie's Bar, which caused great controversy last year when it was almost developed as a luxury apartment building, has been sold with liquor licenses transferred to the owners of Frank's Steak House, is a restaurant located in North Cambridge.

The License Commission has already transferred licenses as they stood to the new owners. However, there is a standing court case regarding the closing hour of the bar. The licensing commission will hold a hearing on December 9 at 6:30 PM in City Hall to determine if the case should be dropped, which would reinstate the old closing time of 2 AM.

*** ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS ***

The traffic committee would like to ban parking during daytime hours only around the tot lot located at Sacramento and Oxford Sts. This will allow greater visibility to motorists when children run for a ball or to cross the street.

FOR SALE

X-Country Skis, Fischer Europa, 180 cm, waxable, Nordic Bindings \$20. Alfa X-Country Boots, hardly worn, size 38 were \$90 now \$60. Call 547-6163.

Atari 800XL w/Built in BASIC, disc drive, letter quality printer, can use TV for monitor. Complete w/programs. \$1,400 new, used 2.5 years. Make an offer. Call 491-4684 eves, weekends.

Color TV, Sylvania 13" portable used 4 years. "Pretty good" for a spare, \$90 or best offer Call 491-4684

Bike, Man's 10 Speed Raleigh, \$25 or best offer Call 491 4284.

*** Help Wanted *** Help Available ***

NEEDED: UTILITY DISHWASHER with some experience. Excellent wage and working conditions. In private academic organization in Agassiz neighborhood. Call Ingrid at 492-8800.

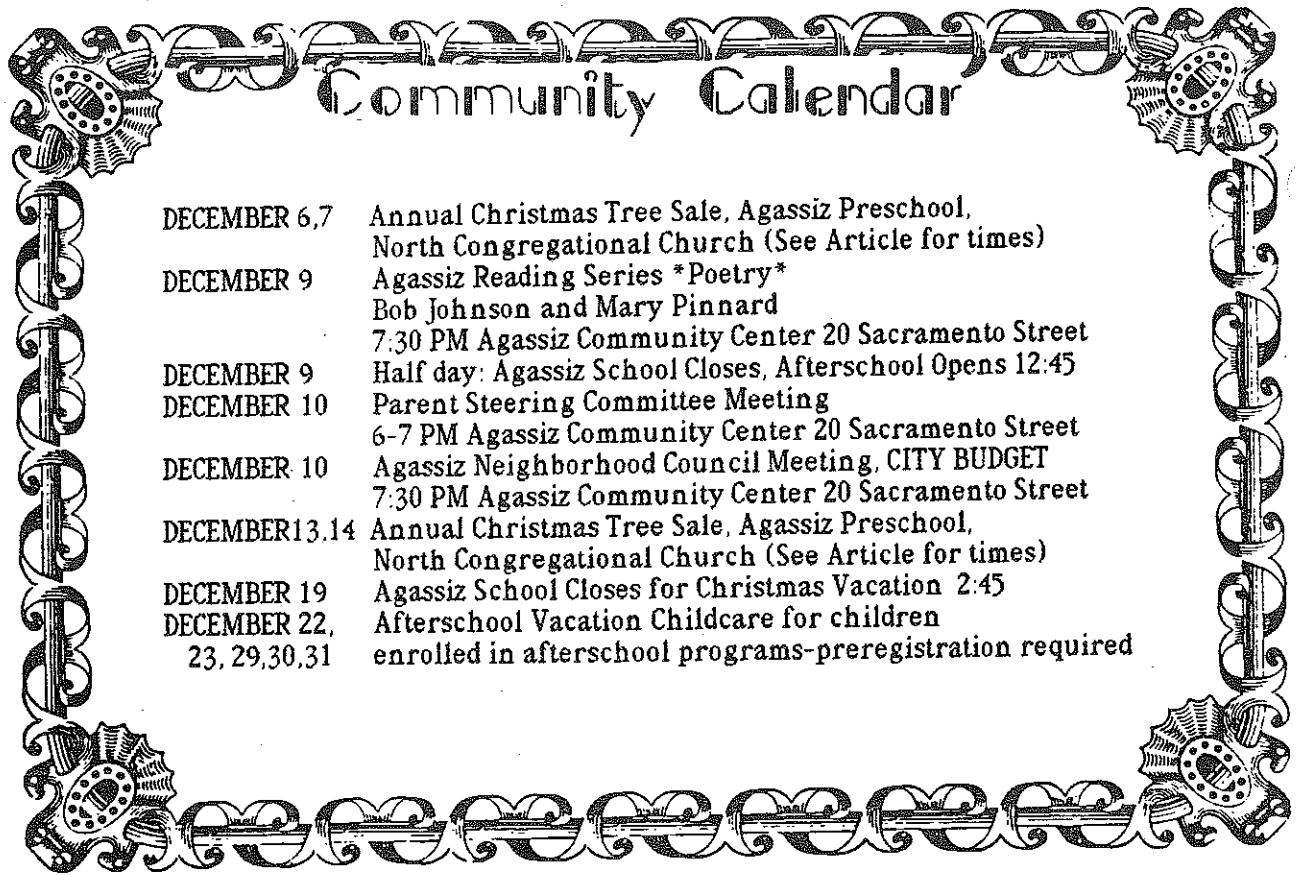
WasherWomen-housecleaning service located in Agassiz neighborhood. Call 497-7885.

Mother's Helpers Available

Several 5th and 6th grade students from the Agassiz Afterschool have finished a 4H Babysitting Course. They are available to be mother's helpers after school hours. If you are interested in hiring a mother's helper, contact the Neighborhood Council office at 498-9056.

DO YOU NEED EXERCISE BUT CAN'T TOLERATE THE THOUGHTS OF DOING AEROBICS ???

Now there is an exercise class for you! Beginning December 2 at the Agassiz School Gym there will be a stretch and strengthen exercise class. It will meet ever Tuesday from 6-7 PM. The emphasis is on stretching, toning up and becoming strong. The instructor has taught at Harvard for 3 years and has been trained in dance, dance therapy and martial arts. If you have wanted to take action and haven't found the exercise class that feels right for you, this may be the class for you. Try it. You can only help yourself by doing so! Please contact Kathy Cox Chason at 876-7374. Prices \$20 mo or \$6 individual class.



Community Calendar

- DECEMBER 6,7 Annual Christmas Tree Sale, Agassiz Preschool,
North Congregational Church (See Article for times)
- DECEMBER 9 Agassiz Reading Series *Poetry*
Bob Johnson and Mary Pinnard
7:30 PM Agassiz Community Center 20 Sacramento Street
- DECEMBER 9 Half day: Agassiz School Closes, Afterschool Opens 12:45
- DECEMBER 10 Parent Steering Committee Meeting
6-7 PM Agassiz Community Center 20 Sacramento Street
- DECEMBER 10 Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting, CITY BUDGET
7:30 PM Agassiz Community Center 20 Sacramento Street
- DECEMBER 13,14 Annual Christmas Tree Sale, Agassiz Preschool,
North Congregational Church (See Article for times)
- DECEMBER 19 Agassiz School Closes for Christmas Vacation 2:45
- DECEMBER 22, 23, 29,30,31 Afterschool Vacation Childcare for children
enrolled in afterschool programs-preregistration required

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