



DECEMBER 1987

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Neighborhood Council Notes.....

The council voted to appropriate \$75 for the Mutual Aid Seniors Group, located at the 1803 Mass Ave. for a Holiday Party.

The council agreed to see if there would be interest in and support for a project to present multicultural family holiday celebrations at the community center. Notices will be sent out through the school (see article in this month's Whistler).

A committee from the neighborhood council has contacted Harvard Real Estate to propose the possibility of renovating the barn behind the community center as a multipurpose space with a focus on the performing arts. We have received word that Harvard is considering the project and will be in touch with us soon.

MT VERNON ST/MASS AVE DEVELOPMENT

Several neighbors reported back from meetings with Neighborhood 9 (across Mass. Ave. from Agassiz) Association and CDIA (Peter Wasserman's Company) to discuss CDIA's newest project on Mt Vernon St. and Mass. Ave. From the developers hand out, the general concept for Mt. Vernon St. is a 21 unit "townhouse development around cul-de-sac at end of Mt. Vernon. Smaller, less expensive units on 1820 side (as adjacent to 6 1/2 story apartment building. Larger, more expensive residences on northern side of Mr. Vernon..") Their idea is to dead end Mt. Vernon before it reaches Mass. Ave. At Mass Ave. the general concept for 41 units is a "retail strip at pedestrian level on Mass. Ave. with residential units above...three levels of housing above to be stepped back at each level. Four low or moderate income housing units would be proposed..."

next council meeting...

FLASH-THERE WILL BE NO DECEMBER MEETING

Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
January 13, 1988
7:30 PM Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento Street

We hope to have Rob Steck from Community Development to discuss the Tot Lot Renovation-More on this in January

At this point the project is only in the planning stages, but there are many critical questions to be resolved in this development including parking, density, street changes. If there is anyone who would like to see the information provided by the developers or attend future meetings, please call the council office.

TV Reception and Neon

We were advised by a resident who abutts the temporary home of the Holiday Health Spa that their neon sign was affecting TV reception in his home. After some investigation it was found that the Holiday Health Spa, which has a temporary building permit, does not have any permit for a neon sign. The council agreed to contact the Inspectional Services and ask them to see that the neon sign is removed.

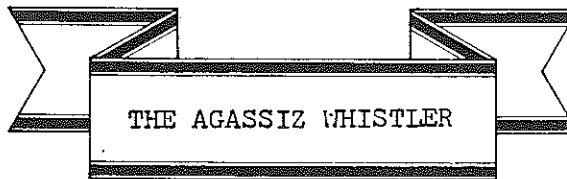
Frost Street Development

After the meeting it was brought to the attention of the council by residents that the underground parking spaces made available by Frost St. Associates for Newport Road residents are too small to meet code. Since these spaces cost up to \$75 per month, we have contacted Inspectional Services to verify this and see what can be done about it.

Another Agassiz First !

The Agassiz School's Baldwin Hall was the scene of a World Premiere on Friday, November 20 as the Agassiz Afterschool Players presented, "The Case of the Kidnapped Comedienne" in an evening performance. This 40 minute comedy drama was written by the cast members under the direction of Carol Hantman, Drama Specialist in the After School Program.

Parents, friends and community members braved the chill and rain to see Comedienne Joan Oceans (**Christiane Cormerais**) kidnapped by her agent Kathy (**Tove Hermanson**) and unscrupulous loan shark Jacknife (**Justin Doo**). The comedienne's family: daughters Mary and Samantha (**Emily Griffin** and **Mara de la Rosa**), husband Mike (**Michael Rosenberg** and Grandma (**Tamar Leffert**) are forced to seek assistance from the Sherlock and Watson (**Benn Leff** and **Jonah Goldschlag**) Detective Agency. After some false leads and a lot of laughs, the comedienne is rescued and the mystery solved.



CRIMEWATCH

This is a list of crime in the Agassiz Neighborhood
.....FROM 9/23 THROUGH 11/26.....

- Prentiss St.....Theft from unlocked car (9/23);
Unarmed street robbery (9/28);
Destruction of Property (10/9);
Theft from locked car (11/7).
- Sacramento St..... Theft in a building(11/6); Destruction
of Property (11/7).
- Oxford St..... Destruction of property (10/4 and
11/12); Attempted car theft (11/15
and 10/5); Car theft (11/12).
- Carver St.....Car theft (9/22).
- Holden Green..... Obscene phone calls (10/2); 3 Attempts
of Street Robbery unarmed (10/7).
- Holden St.....Street Robbery-unarmed (10/7, an
arrest was made); 2 attempts- Breaking
and entry (9/30 and10/14).
- Kirkland St..... Attempted car theft (10/10).
- Mass. Ave..... Hit and Run (10/1); Destruction of
Property (10/3); Obscene phone calls
Commercial Breaking and Entry (10/5
and 11/26).
- Museum St.....Armed (knife) street robbery (9/23) ;
Destruction of property (11/11).
- Garfield St.....Bicycle theft (9/28).

- Wendell St..... Destruction of Property (10/1); Hit and
run property (10/15); Obscene phone
calls (10/9); Car theft (10/9); Assault
and battery (11/23).
- Forest St..... Car theft (11/23);Theft from unlocked
car 11/7).
- Scott St.....Trespassing (arrest made 9/24).
- Bryant St.....Breaking and entry (11/4).
- Everett St..... Car theft (10/4); Hit and run property
(11/10); Theft from unlocked car
(10/2).
- Mellen St.....2 cases of Breaking and entry (9/28);
Destruction of property (11/8).
- Eustis St..... Car theft (10/13);
- Hammond St..... Fraud, false pretense (9/26); Attempted
break and entry (11/2).

Whistler delivery in areas needed- WE Need PEOPLE to
deliver WHISTLERS to FROST ST, MUSEUM ST, HAMMOND ST,
HOWLAND ST, GARFIELD ST. If you can help deliver please
call the office at 498-9056.

Lesley College Events

LINC House (a community service oriented group on the
Lesley Campus) plans a toy drive for the holiday season. If
you have old toys (in good condition with all the parts) that
you would like to contribute, please drop them off on the
porch of the LINC House, 61 Oxford St. (the green house one
block down from Agassiz School that says Kirkland House) by
December 14. Call Michelle Frank at 661-5650 for more
information or if you need to have the toys picked up.

Parking and Housing for Lesley students needed- Each
year Lesley College students need not only housing but also
either daytime or evening parking spots. Often students are
willing to trade services or time for housing and parking. If
you think you can help out, please call Lesley College at
863-9600 and ask for the housing office.

Information for Kindergarten Parents - Register for Fall 88

The School Department has announced the dates and places to
register kindergarten students who will begin Cambridge
Public Schools starting September 1988.

Registration will be held January 4th through the 15th
from 8-11 AM and 6-8 PM . Locations will include the
Harrington School (Parent Information Center), the King
School, Jefferson Park Community Center and the Tobin
School, but registration will not be held at all locations every
day. Call for dates of most convenient location.

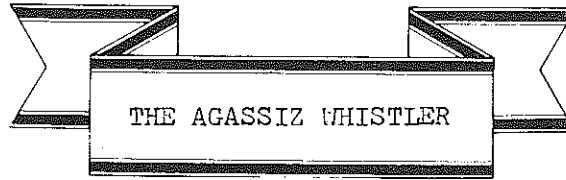
Several forms of identification will be required
including proof of address signed by your landlord, child's
birth certificate and doctors certificate of up to date
immunities. You will be unable to register without the
proper paper work, so check before you go.

If you need more information about the public schools
before you register your child, or for other information
please call the school department at 498-9250 or the parent
information number, 491-6200.

ADS *** HELP AVAILABLE *** HELP WANTED

Holiday Gift Special*** "Experienced", class skateboard,
customized by one cool dude; complete with knee pads. For
sale by Dylan Jones, for \$55 or best offer. Call 491-4684.

Dog walker available-afternoons in the Agassiz Neighborhood.
Experienced and responsible. Call 547-8566.



Although the Agassiz Community has had some dramatic presentations in the past, this production marks the first After School effort and everyone involved was extremely pleased by the large turnout and enthusiastic response from the audience. The Players hope to follow this successful venture with more student-written and produced works.

Those who missed the Premiere will have another chance to see the play which is currently being video-taped on locations throughout the neighborhood and is expected to air on the Community Access Cable Channel sometime early next year. Watch the Whistler for date and time. Video specialist, Diane Sollander Thomas, another After School Specialist, is doing the taping which is introducing the cast to another and quite different medium.

Tot Lot Update

The council has been in touch with Community Development's park specialist, Rob Steck. He has informed us that the park has been surveyed and he has visited the site. In January he will either attend our council meeting or we will have a special meeting to discuss park uses and possibly some preliminary design.

New Porter Square Association

A new organization has developed in our neighborhood. It is called Porter Square Neighbors, and it is composed of residents from both Cambridge and Somerville who abut Porter Square.

In their November mailing they explain that they are "concerned about the mutual peace and prosperity of area residents and businesses and in preserving and improving the quality of life for everyone in the area. We wish to become a neighborhood association which addresses neighborhood concerns, sets neighborhood goals and works together to realize them. We are not an established group, but in the few months since we first met, we've realized what cooperative efforts among neighbors can do to solve neighborhood problems. We hope you'll join us, help us grow and make our neighborhood a better place to live and work".

We were too late going to press to advise you of the first meeting on December 3, but if you would like more information, please contact Paul Fowler at 547-2610.



Alateen Groups in the Area



These programs are for teenagers who feel they have been effected by someone elses drinking. If you are or know a teenager who may be helped by this kind of group, they are held on Tuesdays 7-8:30 PM at the Youth Consultation Center, 12 Prescott St. Arlington AND Wednesday 7-8:30 PM at the Youville Hospital School of Practical Nursing, 1575 Cambridge St., Cambridge. Call 843-5300 for more information.

Programs of Interest to Agassiz

Come join us at

Family Folk Dance DECEMBER 11

with Jill Gleim, Michael Punzak and other guest artists from 7:30 to 9:30 PM in the Agassiz School Gym. Everyone is welcome. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for kids (children must be accompanied by adults).

There will another family folk night January 8, same time, same place. These events sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. For more information please call Debbie at 628-5077 or Carol at 666-2855

Sacramento St. Gallery Children's Program Art from the Agassiz Afterschool Programs curated by Rich Curran will be shown from December 5 through the Holiday Season. There will be a reception on Saturday December 5 beginning at 2 PM, and at the same time Robin Winter, our former afterschool artist and teacher will be back by popular demand to tell stories to all the children and their guests.

Agassiz Youth Chorus to Perform

The Agassiz Neighborhood Youth Chorus will perform at the Yule Log Hunt at the Arnold Arboretum on Sunday, December 6 at 3:30 PM. The event is free and open to the public. Please come!

The chorus rehearses at Lelsey College and draws from several different schools in Cambridge, but with one unifying thread-most members either live in the Agassiz Neighborhood or go to the Agassiz School.

Watch for information on other performances! In January the chorus will perform in the production of Tosca by the Longwood Opera Co. in 11 different locations throughout the greater Boston Area.

For more information on the chorus call Ada Snider at 661-2961.

Kids Only Sale

Come to a sale sponsored by the Agassiz Community School, which will feature holiday presents for children to buy for their friends, sisters, brothers, parents and grandparents. All items will be under \$5, most will be in the \$2 or less category.

The 2nd Annual Sale for Children will be held in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. beginning Monday December 11th -afterschool to 4 PM through Saturday December 16th (Sat. hours will be noon until 4 PM).

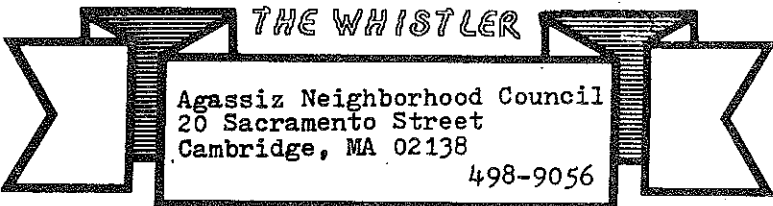
DECEMBER CALENDAR

- DECEMBER 5, Saturday.....Agassiz Reading Series and Sacramento Street Gallery present Robin Winter, Childrens Storyteller and the Opening of our Childrens Art Show, 2 PM, FREE, 20 Sacramento St.
- DECEMBER 8, Tuesday.....Early Release Day. Public School Closes and Agassiz Afterschool opens at 12:45 PM
- DECEMBER 10, Thursday.....Agassiz School PTA Meeting, last in series of four, 7-8:30 Agassiz School Library 28 Sacramento St. Call 498-9256 in advance for childcare
- DECEMBER 11, Friday.....Family Folk Dance with Jill Gleim, Michael Punzak 7:30-9:30 PM Agassiz Gym \$2 Adults, \$1.50 Kids
- DECEMBER 19, Saturday.....Kids Only Holiday Sale. Gifts under \$5 for brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents. Noon-4 PM
20 Sacramento Street (afterschool hours till 4 PM Monday, December 14-Friday, December 18)
Parents can wait and drink coffee in the community center while kids shop.
- DECEMBER 23, Wednesday.....School, afterschool close at regular time for December Vacation
- DECEMBER 28-31.....Afterschool Vacation Childcare 8:30-5:30 for children regularly enrolled in afterschool.
Call Steve Winter for information at 498-9056

Holiday Multicultural Celebrations at the Community Center

The Agassiz Community is looking for families of different cultural/religious backgrounds to help host a number of evenings in December-January highlighting their different holiday/solstice traditions. These events would be open to the community. Whether presented by an individual family or a group of similar cultural background, the community center at 20 Sacramento St. would be available for assistance, such as advertizing, co-ordinating, providing space at the center (some may prefer to hold the events thre or in their own home), etc.

If you are interested in participating in this kind of an event, please contact Nella Waters, who will co-ordinate these events with the neighborhood council. Leave your name and phone number in the Community Schools Box at the Agassiz School, or leave a message at the council office.



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