



THE WHISTLER

December 1990

The Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Neighborhood Council Notes

Please note new telephone number for Agassiz Neighborhood Council is 349-6287.

Police Lt. Donovan addressed the council to discuss neighborhood crime and how it is reported. Among the items discussed were an acid throwing incident on Sacramento St. involving a neighborhood woman and her child. [This was reported in the news to have occurred at 20 Sacramento St., but it happened between Carver and Beacon St. on Sacramento.] According to Lt. Donovan there is a suspect under arrest who is known to the victim.

According to Lt. Donovan's printouts, the number of crimes between automobiles has DECREASED dramatically in the last three years. He had no statistics on breaking and entering, and he would not leave the printout and said if the council wanted a copy of the statistics someone must come to the police station and claim them.

Street lighting is a crime deterrent, and if the trees are obscuring lights, the Department of Public Works will come and cut them back.

Lt. Donovan was asked if there is a police car specifically assigned to the neighborhood that does regular patrolling. His answer was that police cars usually go down Mass. Ave. from Harvard Square to Porter Square and sometimes go on Oxford St. Otherwise they patrol at random. Sector cars are assigned to each area. The area that includes the Agassiz is sector 6 which includes Harvard Square down to the river and up to Porter Square.

The police have a new telephone number 349-3300, and you can now pick up any pay phone and dial 911 without depositing any money. Response time in Cambridge to an emergency call is three minutes.

Lt. Donovan reminded the community that the most important thing to do is to REPORT CRIMES if there is to be an increased police awareness in the area. Report any suspicious activities to police and let them investigate.

Michael Sullivan from the District Attorneys Office was also a guest of the neighborhood council. He spoke on the need for citizens to come forward as witnesses and then to have patience while the district attorney prosecutes the criminals. He also discussed the fact that jail overcrowding allows criminals to serve less time for crimes such as breaking and entry.

Graffiti was also on our agenda, and Cara Seiderman from the Community Development Department was on hand to discuss it. No real solutions were found, but Lt. Donovan said that unless people call and are willing to fill out a complaint about graffiti, the police can do nothing about it.

☆☆☆ Other Neighborhood News ☆☆☆

October 13th Flood in Agassiz Neighborhood

There have been 28 responses to the Neighborhood Flood Questionnaires sent out by the Neighborhood Council. They show that the flooding is still a serious and aggravated problem for many residents of our neighborhood, and the responses also show that most victims of flooding have tried to remedy the problems with solutions ranging from simple to expensive and complex.

Mayor Wolf's Office has sent us an order from City Council

Do you know what to do each month to make your financial dreams come true? Receive a free financial planning consultation with this ad



FINANCIAL SERVICES

PETER G. MEYERSON
Registered Representative

800 West Cummings Park
Suite 5000
Woburn, MA 01801
617/933-2067
Personal Office
48 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617/861-3080

A Transamerica Company

Retirement and education planning
Life, disability and health insurance
Mutual funds and limited partnerships
Small business insurance and retirement plans

Next Neighborhood Council Meeting

Tuesday December 11 7:30 P.M.

Agassiz Community Center

20 Sacramento St. Cambridge MA 349-6287

Agenda:

7:30 General Business

8:00 Issues from the Neighborhood Forum on Harvard Expansion *Help the neighborhood develop an agenda to bring to the city wide meetings

regarding the recent flooding: " WHEREAS: Sacramento Place and the surrounding are routinely experience flooding after heavy rains; and WHEREAS: The City's long-term response to this problem will require several years of work; now therefore be it ORDERED: That the City Manager is requested to have the Department of Public Works promptly clean up the debris that accumulates after flooding in the Sacramento Place area so that residents do no suffer after the flood water has receded."

Sewer Update

We have received from Mayor Wolf an order from City Council which authorizes the appropriation of \$9,000,000.00 to begin Phase VI of the Sewer Separation Project:

ORDERED:

That \$9,000,000.00. is appropriated in addition to the funds previously appropriated, for the purpose of financing the construction and reconstruction of sewers and sewerage systems and surface drains (Phase VI) including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manger is authorized to borrow \$9,000,000.00. and issue bonds or notes therefor under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or chapter 29C of the General Laws; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the City unless the Treasurer with the approval of the City manager determines that they should be issued as limited obligations, and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C; that the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manger is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and /or a security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; and that the City Manger is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project.

Traffic on Oxford Street

The Neighborhood Council wrote to Mr. Teso of the traffic department thanking them for their attention to the traffic light at the corner of Oxford St. and Forest St.. We explained that due to the full

traffic light, the traffic has been slowed and there is a safe place for residents to cross at that end of Oxford St. We expressed concern for the other end of Oxford (near Everett and Wendell Sts.) since that area remains dangerous for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

We have received a City Council Order from Mayor Wolf dated November 19:

WHEREAS: The new traffic light at the corner of Forest and Oxford Streets has had a positive effect on traffic in the neighborhood; and WHEREAS:

the traffic at the other end of Oxford remains dangerous and congested; now be it

ORDERED: That the City Manger be and hereby is requested to urge Commissioner Teso to work closely with the Agassiz Neighborhood Council to resolve continuing community concerns about traffic on Oxford St. especially near Wendell and Everett Streets.

 **News of Interest** 

Harvard Forum

There was an exciting Cambridge City Council hearing in late November regarding Harvard's In Lieu of Tax Payments Agreement with the City, an agreement which has not been renewed in some time. This hearing was planned as one response to the Neighborhood Forum on Harvard Expansion held in October.

There was much ground covered in the proposed agreement, and although nothing is signed, the city and Harvard have come to some understanding about the content of the ten year agreement.

Harvard will pay the equivalent of taxes on property that received tax exempt status this year, they will pay on housing owned by Harvard, and a city/university working group will be established to explore solutions for mutual problems such as housing, child care, traffic, parking and environmental concerns.

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council will take up some of these issues at our next council meeting on December 11 at 8 P.M., 20 Sacramento St. At the meeting, some of the important points from the October forum will be recapped, as well as the proposed agreement between the city and Harvard regarding in lieu of tax payments. We urge you to attend and to give us your input. [Transcripts of the Neighborhood Forum on Harvard Expansion are available for \$3 to defray the cost of printing this lengthy document. Call the council at 349-6287 for a copy of the transcript or more information on the council meeting.]

Kindergarten Registration Fall 1991

Registration for Cambridge Public Schools will begin in early January. To be assigned to the school of your choice you must register early. For more information on kindergarten in Cambridge call the Parent Information Center at 349-6550 or 349-6482.

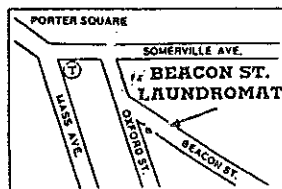
 **Seniors** 

District Attorney Scott Harshbarger's office has left us a useful pamphlet entitled "Security at Home and Away - A Guide for OlderAmericans". Anyone who would like to receive a copy can call the council office at 349-6287 and one will be sent to you.



BEACON ST. LAUNDROMAT

358 Beacon Street
Somerville/Cambridge Line
864-8654



 Cultural News and Events 

Holiday Crafts Sale

The Annual Holiday Crafts Sale will open on November 30 and run through December 9th. Hours are 4-6 P.M. on weekdays and 12-5 P.M. on weekends. Join us at the Sacramento St. Gallery for the opening between 5-7 P.M., located in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. There will be crafts to see, and all are for sale at prices for every budget.

There will be porcelain bowls, candle holders, and plant holders by Anne Hyland; woven scarves from Sarah Kaufman and silk scarves by Catherine Weller; jewelry from Mickey Sequenzia; painted shirts and pins by Nancy Ostrovsky, candles, Chinese paper cuttings and more.

The proceeds will support our ongoing cultural programs for children and adults. You can easily find several small gifts (and maybe large ones) at our sale, so shop with us. Get high quality, original work for the price you would pay in a store, while you keep our programs alive.

Thanks from the Agassiz Afterschool Players

The Agassiz Afterschool Players (AAP) successfully opened their fourth season with two original one-act plays in Baldwin Hall, Agassiz School on November 17th before an enthusiastic overflow audience.

The AAP functions as part of the Agassiz Community School and sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. The program could not exist without the support and cooperation of many people and AAP Director Carol Hartman would like to acknowledge the Afterschool staff: Anne Mahoney, Michael Brown and Peter Strand who provide us with services and cheerfully go far out of their way to ensure our success, and Community School Director Steven Winter who coordinates the performance evening providing support staff, refreshments, and an extraordinary amount of his own time.

Additionally, the beautiful sets for "A Night at the Fair" and "Time After Time" were painted by Lesley College graduate student Stephen Brennan with finishing touches by afterschool teacher Niki Ciernia. Thanks too to Jody Garber who helped out with make-up, to Adelaide Wadron-Goetz, Devin Meyer and Kathy Kenny who helped with the curtain and refreshments, and to all of our friends who contributed at the door to offset some of the costs of the production.

We look forward to our next production in March 1991

Community Sing at Lesley College December 7

The Agassiz Neighborhood Youth Chorus, under the direction of Ada Snider, and the Kids' Earth Chorus, directed by Jill Stein will lead a community sing in Alumni Hall at Lesley College on Friday December 7th at 7 P.M. The children will perform songs of season from many cultures. Song books will be available, and all voices and ages are welcome. This event is free and open to all members of the Lesley and the Agassiz community.

There will be cider and donuts after the performance. For details contact Ada Snider at 661-2961.

KIDS ONLY SALE opens Saturday December 8

A sale that fits the needs (and pocketbooks) of kids will open on Saturday December 8th in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge. The sale will run through December 14th, weekends from 11 A.M.-5 P.M. and weekdays from 2:45-6 P.M.

There will be gifts for all members of the family, teachers and friends which include: toys, books, cards, stuffed animals, desk accessories, dreidels, Christmas ornaments, candles, jewelry, and lots of gifts for cat enthusiasts. Gifts are mostly in the \$1-\$3 range, but none are more than \$10 and many are under \$1.

There will be a special day for preschoolers and their parents on Tuesday December 11 from 11 A.M. until 1 P.M.

This sale was created to make holiday shopping easier and less commercial for school age children. Staff from the Agassiz community School help the children with math and gift choices. Parents are invited to attend the sale on the weekend, but beginning Monday December 10th it's **KIDS ONLY!**

Boy Scout Troop Seeks New Members

Daniel Beck, Scout Master for Troop #2 located at the North Prospect Congregational Church at 1803 Mass. Ave. in Cambridge (next to Porter Exchange). Boys must be 11 years of age or older, and the meetings are held on Monday nights from 7-8:30 P.M. For more information call Daniel Beck at 730-8487.

Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Awareness Day

Lesley College will present "Proud to be Ourselves" on December 6 with a full day of programs designed to enlighten and educate all interested people. For more information call Jennifer Kilson-Page in the office of Student Affairs, 868-9600.

The City of Cambridge and Lesley College have both changed telephone systems. For a listing of frequently called city numbers call the council at 349-6287. For a directory of Lesley numbers call them at 868-9600.

Remember to recycle at the recycle site located on Sherman St. between Rindge Ave and Walden St. on December 8th between 9 A.M. and 3 P.M. For more information call 349-4005.

For Sale: NINTENDO GAMES: Bases Loaded and Major League Baseball. Wanted to buy: Battle Beasts. Call Matt Meyersohn 354-3060.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

This holiday season remember the business community in our neighborhood. Support your favorite stores and restaurants with your business. This will keep our stretch of Mass. Ave. vital and alive with the businesses we need and want.

Community Calendar DECEMBER 1990

- December 1 Saturday
through Sunday December 9th..... Holiday Crafts Sale Sacramento St. Gallery 20 Sacramento Street
Unique gifts, proceeds benefit cultural programs in Agassiz community
12-5 P.M. Weekends, 4-6 P.M. Weekdays
- December 6, Thursday..... Agassiz School Early Release 12:45 P.M.
After school opens 12:45 P.M.
- December 7 Friday..... Holiday Sing at Lesley College Alumni Hall 7 P.M. All Ages
All members of the Lesley Agassiz Community invited No admission
See "Cultural Events" for more information.
- December 8
through Friday December 14..... KIDS ONLY SALE Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.
Gifts for family and teachers, most cost \$1-3 Run by Community School
Weekends 11-5, weekdays afterschool (2:45) - 6 P.M.
- December 11 Tuesday..... Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
20 Sacramento St. 7:30 P.M. (see agenda page one)
- December 21 Friday..... Agassiz School Closes for year at 2:45 P.M.
Regular Agassiz Community School programs close for year.
- December 26 Wednesday
through 28 Friday..... December Vacation Program for afterschool programs
8:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M. Pre-registration required
- January 2, 1991 Wednesday..... Agassiz School Opens
Community School Term 2 Begins

DECEMBER 1990

THE Whistler

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

20 Sacramento St. Cambridge MA 02138 349-6287

VISIT THE HOLIDAY CRAFTS SHOW 12/1-12/9
AND
OUR KIDS ONLY SALE 12/8-12/14



Please note our new telephone number 349-6287