

February 1991

# The WHISTLER

The Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

## ////// Neighborhood Council Notes • Council Notes

General business - Chairperson Karen Vaters was contacted by a man who was interested in purchasing the site opposite Porter Exchange now a parking lot owned by CDIA. She told him to come to a council meeting and discuss it, since there was a long history of neighborhood involvement in its development. City Manager Robert Healy has announced the formation of a new committee to discuss parking in the city. Several meeting dates for city wide traffic discussion were announced. Snow removal (or the lack of it) was discussed briefly at the end of the meeting.

Representatives from Harvard University Planning Group, Harris Band and Kathy Speigelman, and Harvard Law School, Andy Kaufman, Professor and Sandy Coleman, Administrative Dean, came to discuss three separate issues: 1). The announcement in the Harvard Crimson of a new building to be built on the campus next to Langdell Hall, the law library, 2). the status of the property known as the Bence Pharmacy Site which is home to Looks, Harvard House of Pizza, and Central Barbershop, and 3). the status of the Quality Inn.

As reported last month in the Whistler, the new building will provide much needed space for offices and smaller class rooms. The neighborhood was assured that there would be no increase in students or faculty on the completion of the building. Since there is not yet an

architect, there was very little detailed information beyond this.

There have been no plans made yet for the Bence site, and the representatives felt that the planning and expense of the new building (as well as major renovations to Langdell Hall) would delay and new development of that site.

The Quality Inn was another matter. The law school would like to see students use it as a dormitory as early as this fall. The neighborhood stressed the fact that the loss of the hotel was still a major concern due to the loss of revenue to the city, the loss of the last affordable hotel, and the loss of a summer recreational facility to many neighbors. The neighborhood would like to see Harvard University give something back to the community.

It was agreed to form a Harvard-Neighborhood committee to look into the development of the Quality Inn and address those issues. Anyone who would be interested in that committee should contact Terry DeLancey at the council office, 349-6287.

## ☆☆☆ Other Neighborhood News ☆☆☆

### Snow Removal

The last storm brought snow that was very difficult to remove, and everyone who cleared their sidewalk worked hard to do so. However, there were some institutional neighbors who were so slow that 5 days later the sidewalks were still impassible. The neighborhood council has contacted the institutions who seem to have forgotten their responsibilities, but we would be glad for you to let us know (349-6287) if there are sidewalks that are chronically not shoveled or shoveled days after the storms. We will contact them to be sure they remember that many people cannot leave their homes if sidewalks are not shoveled.

There is a city ordinance requiring that sidewalks be cleared. If you are unable to clear your own sidewalk due to infirmity or age, call the Mayor's office at 349-4321. They have been working on a list of snow shovelers.

### Recycling Volunteers Needed

Volunteers who have worked the afternoon shift at the Sherman St. recycling site for a year or more are repeatedly asked to work one and two hours more than their 3 hour shift to finish sorting the terrific volume that piles up by 3 P.M. One to two hours more means

### Next Council Meeting

Tuesday February 12th 7:30 P.M

Agassiz Community Center  
20 Sacramento St. 349-6287

#### Agenda:

- 7:30 General Business
- 8:00 Neighborhood Issues updates:
  - Traffic
  - Snow Removal
  - Garfield St. MBTA Lot
  - Curbside recycle
  - Sewer reconstruction project

until 5 or 6 P.M. in what is now the dark and cold.

Regular volunteers over the past one and one half years are getting burned out. The line of cars shows no signs of abating. This is good except that it means the same dozen people have to work more hours to process more stuff.

The current core of Sherman St. Afternoon shift volunteers may not last until curbside goes into effect. The end is in sight with curbside recycling, but there are no recycling elves to take care of the work until it comes.

Help bring the recycling volunteers in from the cold an hour sooner! Every 2nd Saturday you can help for the next three months-February 9, March 9 and April 13 between 1 and 4 P.M. Call 349-4005 and help out until curbside begins this year.

#### **MBTA Lot on Garfield St. at Mass. Ave.**

Through Mayor Wolf's office we have received a copy of a memo from Michael Rosenberg, Cambridge Community Development to City Manager Robert Healy which states:

"I have been informed that the MBTA has begun the property disposition process for the Garfield St. Site. Appraisals of the property are now underway. The MBTA is interested in a long term lease rather than sale due to the presence of the Red Line vent shaft on the site and the need to have continued access to the vent shaft.

We will continue to work closely with the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) to ensure the development of this project for low income families and also assist the CHA in keeping abutters and neighborhood residents informed as the process moves forward."

#### **War in the Gulf**

A neighbor has asked us to let other neighbors know about an organization that is sending packages to the troops. Operation Homefront Action Alert is soliciting donations to help send essential personal care items to the troops in Saudi Arabia, and donations can be sent to Freedom Alliance, P.O. Box 10405, Fairfax, VA 22031-0405 She advises us that the 100,000 X-Mas packages were well received by the troops, and items included sunscreen, socks, razors and soap. For more information, call the council, and we will send you a copy of the original solicitation letter.

### **City News and Information**

#### **Comprehensive Traffic Management Plan is begun for Cambridge**

The kick off meeting of the public process to involve the community in the development of a comprehensive transportation management plan was held on January 16. Because of the inclement weather and the catastrophe in the Gulf, the attendance was light and the meeting was brief.

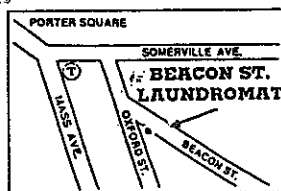
At the meeting Robert Healy, the City Manager, reviewed the history of the problem and the pressing time frame the City is under to produce a plan that will help the City meet federal air quality standards, encourage the use of public transportation, bikes and feet, in addition to considering limits on parking as a way to discourage private car traffic. He briefly reviewed the process for citizen involvement and distributed materials which describe the process and include a menu of strategies for Cambridge to consider. A working committee will meet to discuss possible plans to reduce car pollution.

A report from consultants, Cambridge Systematics, Inc. dated 1/14/91 was sent to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. In it were identified potential parking and transportation management measures, which they advise work best if done in combinations. We include the report outline:

- 1). Parking Management-controls over supply, cost and utilizations of parking
  - A. Pricing Options- Adjustments to costs of parking
  - B. Preferential Parking-Allocation of parking for high occupancy vehicles, residential and other preferred use, discourage non preferred use.
  - C. Control Over Supply-adjustments to parking supply relative to demand
  - D. Increased Enforcement -fines
  - E. Fringe Parking Facilities-Additional capacity at major transit stops
- 2). Transit Improvements - Actions to increase transit use
  - A. Service Expansion
  - B. Operational Changes-Schedule, route and operational modifications
  - C. Transit Marketing/Advertising -Information and pass program
- 3). Trip Reduction Ordinance-Regulation of travel behavior
- 4). Transportation Management-Employer based activities
  - A. Expanded Commuter Mobility Program
  - B. Employer Sponsored Ridesharing- Promotion and assistance through employer
  - C. Alternative Work Schedules
  - D. Employer Subsidies-Financial incentives for employees who use transit or rideshare

## **BEACON ST. LAUNDROMAT**

358 Beacon Street  
Somerville/Cambridge Line  
**864-8654**



- 5). Traffic Flow Improvements
- 6). Land Use and Zoning Controls
- 7). Pedestrian and Bicycle Amenities

For a copy of the complete report, contact the City Manager's Office, 349-4300.

### Persian Gulf Crisis Hotline

Lesley College has begun to establish a parent - teacher Persian Gulf Crisis Hotline in collaboration with other organizations. The hotline is intended to help adults deal with questions children have about the war. It would be staffed by volunteers, who volunteer in two hour blocks and will be trained by experts in how to assist callers with their questions.

Any Lesley College students, faculty or staff who would like to volunteer, can call the president's office at 359-8511.

### Neighborhood Council Programs

As we settle into the second half of our afterschool year, we will say goodbye to Anne Mahoney, who is Site Director in the Afterschool Activities program, and has been with the community school programs for the past three. We thank Anne for all the help she has given our children and wish her well in the future.

#### ADULT CLASS:

**Tae Kwon Do** comes to the Agassiz School. This class is designed for men and women (17 and older) who are interested in learning the ancient Korean martial art of Taekwondo along with practical self-defense techniques. It focuses on enhancing flexibility, concentration, self-discipline, physical conditioning, self-esteem and the ability to defend oneself when confronted.

The instructor, Heather Tallman, is a black belt who has competed in Taekwondo at both national and world levels. The first session will begin Tuesday February 5th 6:30 P.M. in Baldwin Hall, and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday for 20 sessions (none will be held 2/19 and 2/21). For more information please call 349-6287.

**Sacramento St. Preschool** is accepting children who will be 2 years nine months in September for the fall. The program runs 5 days a week from 9 A.M. until Noon and follows the Cambridge School Calendar for holidays and closings. For a tour and interview call Dawn Greene at 547-1062.

**Fall registration for Afterschool Childcare** will begin as soon as school assignments are mailed out by the Cambridge Public School. For a tour and interview call Dawn Greene at 547-1062.

**Attention to Agassiz Afterschool Players** who left props after the fall productions *A Day at the Fair* and *Time After Time*: we have them in the community center. Contact Steve Wintercollect them.

## Cultural Happenings

Diana DeLaHaye will present a show in the Sacramento St. Gallery for the month of February. The show, entitled "Synthesis of Structures", will include collage, relief, photographs and works in progress. Gallery hours Tuesday - Friday are 12-5 P.M. Saturday Feb. 9 and 23 hours are 1-5 P.M. Reception Saturday February 2 from 1-3 P.M. For more information call 349-6287.

## Ads and Announcements

### CCTV Training

Cambridge Community Television has planned training for February. Beginning courses are planned in camcorder, editing and production planning. Beginning courses are free to members. For more information call CCTV at 225-2500.

### Cambridge Employment and Training Report

A report has just been published on the changing environment for employment and training, an assessment of the problems and needs, and responses and recommendations.

Produced jointly by Cambridge Community Development and Cambridge Community Services, you can receive a copy by calling 876-5214.

### Affordable Housing

Cambridge has advised the neighborhood council that they are expanding their mailing list of Cambridge households interested in hearing about affordable housing projects. City sponsored projects vary greatly, but they include limited equity co-operatives and condominiums, affordable rental projects, and rental and homeownership opportunities for Section 8 and 707 certificate holders.

If you are interested in the mailing list please call Michelle Maher at 349-4600.

### More Scholarship Donors Named

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Scholarship Fund Drive a success:

John and Leslie Akula	Joel and Ada Snider
James Baldwin	Susan Sachs
Kate Judd	

Dr. Ronald Wayne Smith, DDS.

If you are interested in supporting our scholarship fund, please send a donation of any amount to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge, 02138. Your donations are tax deductible and will be used to keep our programs both economically and culturally diverse. Anyone who donates \$100 or more will have their name placed on a permanent honor roll to be displayed in the Agassiz Community Center.

## Februray Community Calendar

February All Month

Artist Diana DeLa Haye's show " Synthesis of Structures" in the Sacramento St. Gallery

See Cultural Happenings for times and information

February 8, Friday

GOSPEL MUSIC Union Baptist Church FREE

874 Main St. 7 P.M. Call 349-6230 about tickets.

February 12, Tuesday

Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting 7:30 P.M.

20 Sacramento St. Agassiz Community Center

See page one for agenda

February 13

Early release day Cambridge Public Schools

Agassiz School closes 12:45 P.M.

February 18-22

Cambridge Public School Vacation

Agassiz School Closed

February is Black History Month-For various happenings in Cambridge call the council office at 349-6287 and we will send you information.



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20 Sacramento St.

Cambridge, MA 02138

349-6287

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