

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



-Racial insults spray painted on Agassiz School

A special meeting was held at 7 p.m. December 30 at the Community Center to address concerns, share information, and generally come together as a community victimized by racism. Neighbors woke up on Christmas morning to see racial slurs spray painted and white supremacist literature posted at the Agassiz School. This was a great shock to a neighborhood that has always worked toward racial harmony.

The meeting was well attended by neighbors and city officials all of whom were taking the matter very seriously. Police Officer Joanne Cloran and Detective Bill Phillips, Cambridge School Department Desegregation Director Dorothy Jones, and City Councilor Alice Wolf all listened and responded to residents questions, fears and concerns. The police passed around a shocking series of pictures, which showed the Agassiz School covered with hate filled red spray painted racial insults.

Detective Phillips was thanked publicly for his concern and hard work on Christmas day when the crime was discovered. He advised us that two juveniles had been arrested, but was unable to provide much information due to their age. The investigation is pending, and there should be further information at future meetings scheduled for January 6 and January 13. However, the juveniles both attended the Agassiz School.

White supremacist literature had been found in the Agassiz School approximately one month ago, but it had never been reported to police or school department officials. Also unreported were swastikas found on a building on Newport Road, on Sacramento Place, on a stop sign at the corner of Frost and Forest Sts, and on the North Congregational Church.

Police were asked if they suspected adults or groups acting behind the juveniles but they were unable to comment while the investigation was in progress. It was also suggested that if this was gang behavior, other children could be involved. The police did state that residents should call them with any information about adults, gangs or groups who are distributing racist literature to children, and they will investigate. They stressed the need to report any kind of racist graffiti and let them investigate all incidents, since even small examples can provide a pattern for the police to see.

Residents questioned what would be done. Dorothy Jones assured the group that a letter would be mailed to all Agassiz School parents to explain the incident. She also advised us that Assistant Superintendent Mary Lou McGrath was planning to work with teachers and children in light of this incident, with help from a graduate student intern. She feels that everyone must be educated further in racial awareness, adults and children. Others felt that special attention should be paid to residents who do not have children at Agassiz School, so that the entire community would be reached.

Several residents feared that a racial incidents of this kind would be covered up by various officials. However, all residents at the meeting registered complete outrage over the incident, they are now organized, and the neighborhood council has no intention of letting the matter rest until neighbors are satisfied with the results.

There is much work to be done. There will be another meeting on January 6, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Agassiz School library which will include many more city officials, more residents, and members of the school department, many of whom were away for the holidays and could not attend. Please attend the meeting if possible, and if you miss that one, the neighborhood council will hold a follow up meeting on January 13, Wednesday at 7:30 in the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. These meetings will address the problems of racial intolerance and how to prevent incidents of this kind from happening again.

If you have any information on this crime call Detective Phillips or Officer Cloran at 498-9321

next council meeting...

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

- AGENDA
- Report on the January 6th meeting which was held to discuss Racist graffiti found at the Agassiz School on Christmas Day
 - Update on Hill Development by CDIA (Wasserman)

Neon on the Holiday Health Spa Update

After contacting the Community Development Department, it seems that the neon light which is wrapped around the temporary building located on Mass. Ave. next to the White Hen Pantry in Porter Square is not considered a sign, and therefore they do not need a permit to have it. There is some question that it violates FCC regulations, and that is being researched.

The free standing sign as well as the sign on the building were put up without permits, and we have just heard from the community development department that on December 29 the design committee did not approve either the free standing sign or the sign on the building. In order to keep those signs they must appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeal.

Programs of Interest to Agassiz



Prime Time Employment



Prime Time is a job resource for older workers, sponsored by the Cambridge Council on Aging. Any Cambridge resident 55 years or older looking for part-time, full time or temporary employment is cordially invited to use the services of Prime Time. For more information and a brochure call 498-9039



Cambridge Discovery

Cambridge Discovery, a visitor and resident information center, is looking for volunteers to give out information in the information booth located in Harvard Square. It is a way to meet people and learn about Cambridge.

The staff and experienced volunteers will train you. The booth is fully heated.

There are also trained guides for tours, the booth stocks brochures about Cambridge and posts information about happenings and travelers aid.

For more information call 491-6278.



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.



YOGA



The Yoga Experience.

A ten week class in Kripalu Yoga, taught by certified teacher Danielle Levi Alvares. For every age and condition—men and pregnant women encouraged to attend. Class information below, for more call Danielle Levi Alvares at 354-2113

Starting January 11 Monday
Peabody School Auditorium, 44 Linnaean St.
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Starting January 12 Tuesday
Jillsville Studio, 354 A Beacon St.
(Cambridge/Somerville Line)
9:30-10:30 a.m.

Starting January 14 Thursday
Jillsville Studio, 354 A Beacon St.
(Cambridge/Somerville Line)
8-9 a.m.

Starting January 15 Friday
Tobin School Music Room 328
197 Vassal Lane
2:15-3:15 p.m.

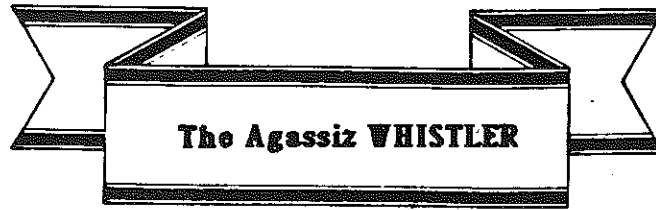
Lesley College Events

The LINC House of Lesley College would like to thank all the members of the Agassiz Community who donated so generously to their toy drive which was a great success.

Lesley Graduate School, Division of Education and Special Education, present Literacy Learning: Across the Grades and the Curriculum, two Saturdays, January 16 and 23 from 8:30 a.m - 4 p.m. Registrants can choose two of the four workshops offered each Saturday. These workshops can be attended for graduate credit

This year the Literacy Institute "will focus on the rich learning which results from the collaboration of older and younger children on significant works of literature, and also on the integration of whole language with science, math and social studies." For a registration form and information contact Charlotte Scannell at 868-9600 x36.

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



Register for Fall 88 KINDERGARTEN

(this information is available in Spanish and Portuguese-call 491-6200 or 498-9237)

DATE	SITE	TIME
Jan. 4,6,7,8, 11,14,15	Harrington School Parent Information Center 850 Cambridge St.	8-11 a.m. 6-8 p.m.
Jan '5	King School 100 Putnam Ave.	8-11 a.m. 6-8 p.m.
Jan. 12	Jefferson Park Community Center 1 Jackson Place	8-11 a.m.
Jan. 13	Tobin School Vassal Lane	8-11 a.m. 6-8 p.m.

You may apply for any school/program in the Cambridge Public Schools. Assignments will be mailed February 12, 1988. To be eligible for kindergarten in September 1988, a child must be 4 years old on or before March 31, 1988.

When you apply, please bring:

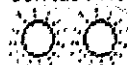
- *BIRTH CERTIFICATE or PASSPORT
- *CERTIFICATION OF ADDRESS FORM (available in schools and libraries and parent information center)
- *IMMUNIZATION CERTIFICATE

For more information call 491-6200 or 498-9237

ADS * HELP AVAILABLE *** HELP WANTED**

Affordable Housing Organizer wanted by CEOC. Cambridge's anti-poverty agency seeks to hire an Affordable Housing Organizer. The primary responsibilities of this challenging position are: to establish and co-ordinate an Affordable Housing Coalition in Cambridge; and to assist in finding housing for both homeless and at risk individuals and families.

Send resume to Roberta Baker, 11 Inman St., Cambridge, MA 02139, deadline 1/22/88. For more information, contact Neil Rohr at 868-2900.



Summer Jobs with the National Parks Service in BOSTON.

Jobs are available in the division of law enforcement (traffic control, patrolling, and visitor information) interpretation (tour guides and staff at visitor center) and maintenance.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and US citizens. Applications can be obtained by calling 242-5638. The deadline is February 15, 1988.

AGASSIZ SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The draft of the document of the Agassiz School Improvement Committee, which defines the purpose, composition, terms of office, quorum and decisions, committees and subcommittees is available to the school community.

This document will be reviewed by the PTA at the next meeting on January 14, Thursday at 7:30. For a copy call the council office at 498-9056.

CLIP AND SAVE

Cambridge School Committee 1988-

Telephone Number 498-9251

(the 7th member will be the city councillor who becomes Mayor in January)

FRANCES H. COOPER
160 River St. 02139

JAMES J. RAFFERTY
6 Washington Ave. 02140

HENRIETTA DAVIS
120 Chestnut St. 02139

TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY, JR.
88 6th Street 02141

ALFRED FANTINI
82 Plymouth St. 02141

LARRY WEINSTEIN
25 Sherman St. 02140

Cambridge City Councillors for 1988

Telephone 498-9094

THOMAS W. DANEHY
19 Richards Ave. 02140
354-5551

WALTER J. SULLIVAN
28 Putnam Ave. 02139
864-0554

FRANCIS H. DUEHAY
26 Lowell St. 02138
547-0271

ALFRED E. VELLUCCI
42 Porter St. 02141
354-7809

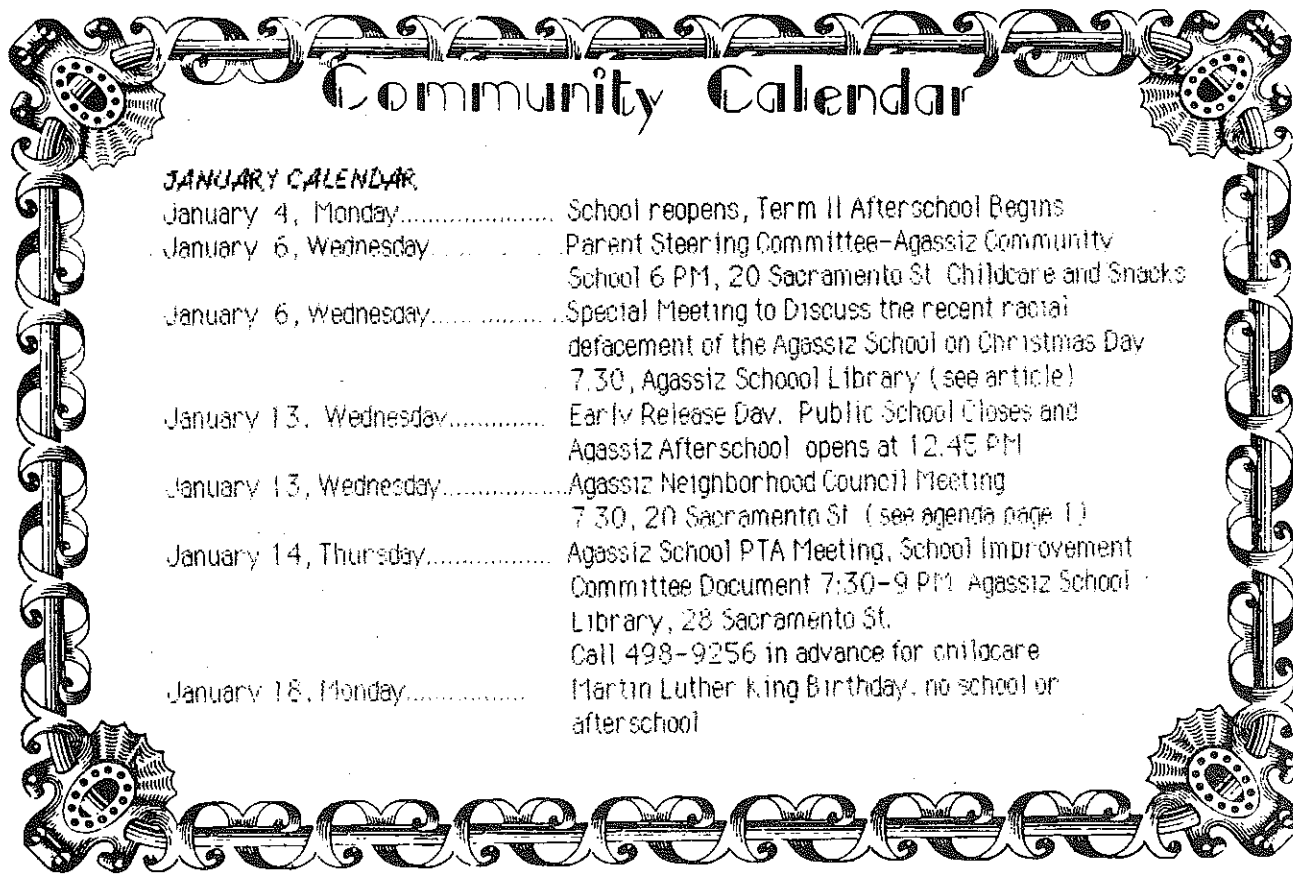
SAUNDRA M. GRAHAM
189 Western Ave. 02139
498-9094

WILLIAM H. WALSH
26 Huribut St. 02138
547-1772

SHEILA T. RUSSELL
5 Hawthorne Park 02138
354-1900

ALICE K. WOLF
48 Huron Ave. 02138
868-8127

DAVID E. SULLIVAN
323 Allston St. 02139
492-0159



Community Calendar

JANUARY CALENDAR

- January 4, Monday..... School reopens, Term II Afterschool Begins
- January 6, Wednesday..... Parent Steering Committee-Agassiz Community School 6 PM, 20 Sacramento St. Childcare and Snacks
- January 6, Wednesday..... Special Meeting to Discuss the recent racial defacement of the Agassiz School on Christmas Day 7.30, Agassiz School Library (see article)
- January 13, Wednesday..... Early Release Day. Public School Closes and Agassiz Afterschool opens at 12.45 PM
- January 13, Wednesday..... Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting 7.30, 20 Sacramento St. (see agenda page 1)
- January 14, Thursday..... Agassiz School PTA Meeting, School Improvement Committee Document 7:30-9 PM. Agassiz School Library, 28 Sacramento St.
Call 498-9256 in advance for childcare
- January 18, Monday..... Martin Luther King Birthday. no school or after school

January 1988

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

THE WHISTLER