



January 1990

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



Neighborhood Council Notes.....

Notes from the December 13th council meeting

Harvard Visits the Neighborhood. Kathy Spiegelman, Director of Harvard Planning, came to the council with three Harvard University representatives. Marilyn O'Connell, Director of Community Relations, represented Government and Community Affairs at Harvard and Andy Kaufman, Chairman of Long Range Planning and Gene Reager, Administrative Dean both represented Harvard Law School. They discussed their plans for the 2 sites recently purchased on Mass. Ave., and answered questions from the council.

The history of acquisition was explained. They were approached by the owners of the Bence Pharmacy block, but since their most pressing need was housing, they initiated the purchase of the Quality Inn. The Quality Inn lease goes through December 1990, and Harvard expects to extend leases to the businesses at the Bence Pharmacy until August 1991.

While the interest in the Quality Inn is still for housing, the Bence Pharmacy site may be for other non residential needs of the law school including offices and other services.

Marilyn O'Connell talked about improving the existing community process. Kathy Spiegelman has hired new staffers to work on this. O'Connell discussed the need for a neighborhood based working committee to talk about neighborhood concerns and Harvards needs. The broader

next council meeting...

January Council Meeting

Wednesday January 10 at 7:30 p.m

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

20 Sacramento St. (call 498-9056 for information)

7.30 p.m. General Business: Agassiz misses April and June streetsweeping due to holidays

8.00 p.m. Oxford St. Traffic Committee - George Teso, Director, Traffic and Parking for Cambridge, will be our guest

agenda includes future development of other neighborhood sites. This will require us to find issues we have in common (traffic, safety, parking) and to agree on guidelines for neighborhood development.

The property on the corner of Oxford St. and Hammond St. is an example of a future development. It is now a parking lot but under the jurisdiction of Arts and Sciences. The neighborhood has long been concerned about its future development.

Many residents were cynical, and pointed to the parking lot behind Museum St. and the Divinity School. This property was developed without respect to the plan which was discussed with the neighborhood.

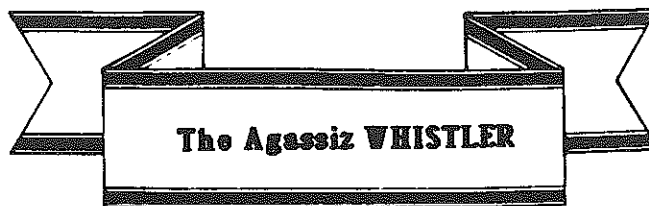
The Harvard representatives tell the neighborhood that they will sit down and discuss their long range plans. This is a new approach from Harvard, and the neighborhood is willing to work with them. It is now up to Harvard to show that they can be good neighbors.

Specifics on the building at the two sites

A major concern for the neighborhood is that the services we use (barbershop, pizza parlor, cleaners, pharmacy) will disappear if Harvard develops the site and raises the rent. The maintenance of moderate rent to retain services is a main priority for the neighborhood.

Joel Bard explained that the position of the neighborhood in regard to any building on Mass. Ave. is that the street floor remain commercial and alive in the evening to provide services for the neighborhood as well as safety. Obviously design and scale of any new building are important factors to the neighborhood as well.

Traffic and parking came up as they do in every discussion of development in this neighborhood. The use of Bence Pharmacy block as institutional and not residential will change the impact of traffic there. It was suggested that the Harvard shuttle service be expanded to take away the stress of car use around Harvard itself. Parking lots and locations must be given serious consideration with neighborhood input.



Other Neighborhood Updates.....

National Car Rental

The National Car rental office at the corner of Mass. Ave and Wendell street is a neighborhood service to those who occasionally rent a car, but it can be a source of trouble when the rules are broken. When National came into the neighborhood it was agreed that the drivers (who ferry cars between the airport and the site) would not use Agassiz streets. They were to drive through Porter Square and keep off residential streets. The complaints come from residents mostly on Sacramento and Wendell Streets who object to the excessive speed and recklessnes that drivers often exhibit.

John Grasso, representative from National Car Rental, stands by the no neighborhood route policy. He told us that in the orientation of new hires, they are given specific non neighborhood routes to follow. He told the council that if any employees drive through our neighborhood, they can be reported to him at 569-7070 ext. 315. Please note the plate number of the car and time of the incident

An Educators Conference on Trash at Harvard 1/20/90 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Graduate School of Education, Gutman Library on Appian Way. This one day conference is for educators, administrators and interested citizens with hands on workshops and useful teaching materials. Learn to set up a recycling program in your school!

For more information call Barbara Boudrot (508) 877-8165.

Futures for Young Parents - This is a GED/Placement program for pregnant women and young parents ages 16-24. It includes education, career exploration and job placement, life skills workshops, peer support, mentors and counseling.

It is held at Just A Start House, 16 Butler Drive, Somerville. Call Julie Aronson at 494-0444 for more information.

Of interest to the Neighborhood

Clare Walker Leslie - naturalist, artist, author, educator and neighborhood resident, offers guided Nature Walks to learn more about what lives and grows of wild interest in your neighborhood. Contact her at 547-9128 for a personalized tour. Price upon contact.

Boy Scouts Troup 2, Cambridge Council will sponsor an open house on Monday, January 8th. at 7 p.m. The troop is located at the North Prospect (formerly the North) Congregational Church, 1803 Mass. Ave. (at the corner of Roseland). Call 547-2760 for more information.

The YOGA Experience - a twelve week course in Kripalu Yoga taught by certified teacher Danielle Levi Alvares at the First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St. For every age and condition. Classes begin:

- Jan 16 Tue 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Jan 17 Wed 5:15 -6:15 p.m.
- Jan 18 Thu 8:30 -9:30 a.m.
5:30 -6:30 p.m.
6:45- 7:45 p.m.

Call Danielle at 354-2113 to register, for information and fees.

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY FORUM -

January 17th- "Patterns of communication: Culture-specific differences which influence teachers' and students' expectations and behavior." Speaker: Sau-Fong Siu of Wheelock College. FREE. Come to the Harrington School Cafeteria, 6-8:30 p.m., 850 Cambridge St.

Sponsored by Cambridge child care and public school communities. For more information call Sheli Wortis at the Cambridge School Dept. 498-9200 x9461

Calling all public service agencies!

Are you on the board of an organization or do you know of a public service that you would like the Agassiz neighborhood to include in *The Whistler*? Please send us some information about the organization or service, and we will include it in an upcoming edition of *The Whistler*. Call or write to Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge 02138, 498-9056.

FOR SENIORS

Volunteer Visitor Program

The Cambridge Council on Aging Volunteer Visitor Program enables elders to maintain more independent and interesting lives within their community. The Council is seeking volunteers to serve as weekly visitors to the homebound elderly. It's an opportunity to offer friendship and companionship to an elderly person and enrich their lives and yours. Please call Sandra Kahn at 498-9039.

Winter Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center

Call CMAAC for a schedule of very interesting program throughout the winter months which include a salute to Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday 1/14 with the Bullock Brothers. Also this winter will be Indian Ranjana and the Nataraj Dancers on 1/27, Jazz by Con Alma on 2/10, A Klesmer Journey on 3/8 the Little Orchestra of Cambridge on 3/12 and much, much more. Call 577-1400 for a schedule. Call 577-1403 for the CMAAC ARTS HOTLINE.


 Special Cultural Programs 
"Home for the Holidays" A Great Success

The Agassiz Afterschool Players, under the direction of Carol Hantman, thrilled their audiences again with their latest original comedy piece "Home for the Holidays". It was produced by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council in Agassiz School's Baldwin Hall on Saturday December 16th at 7:30 p.m. Another performance for the Agassiz School was given at 10:15 a.m. on December 20th.

The cast wrote and performed three vignettes, one from prehistoric times, one in the wild west, and the last in the future. The Agassiz Afterschool Players, from 5th and 6th grades of Cambridge public schools included: Andrew P. Frankel, Emily Jane Griffin, Adam Hauptman, Tove Reiss Hermanson, Steven E. Hodges, Kate W. Kindleberger, Ben Leff, Tamar Leffert, James Lund, and Ciel Wendel.

This is the first of three productions for the year. Look for "Miss Baldwin of Agassiz", an historical play documenting the life of Maria Louise Baldwin, appointed first black female headmistress in New England one hundred years ago. "Miss Baldwin of Agassiz" will be part of the Rededication of Baldwin this March. The Agassiz Afterschool Players are currently in their third successful year at Agassiz.

Community Mural Project Fund Drive

Additional donors since the last edition of *The Whistler* include:

Lilly Baldwin, May Baldwin and Elliot Kronstein
 Astrid, Doug and Lydia Dodds
 The Fiveash Family
 Haim and Miriam Goldberg
 George Hein and Emily Romney
 Max and David Hoffman
 Sharon McBride
 The McElarney Family
 Eva Sym
 University Wine

For more information on the mural project or to donate contact the Agassiz Neighborhood Council at 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge 02138 or 498-9056. Your contributions are tax deductible, and everyone who donates \$25 or more will receive a free copy of "The Cambridge Kids Calendar" a 1990 calendar with historic photos of the Agassiz neighborhood, kids drawings, the Cambridge school calendar at a glance and important city phone numbers. Contributors of \$100 or more will have their names placed on a plaque near the mural.

Chekhov's THE SEAGULL at Agassiz JAN 11TH

The Chekhov Theatre and Film Company, a new artistic collective under the leadership of Alexander Chirkov, makes its debut with a presentation of Chekhov's THE SEAGULL in a new translation by Martin Cafasso (with consultation by Paul Artemis) opening **Thursday January 11, at 8 p.m. at the Agassiz School at 28 Sacramento St. in Baldwin Hall.**

THE SEAGULL is one of Chekhov's most controversial plays, and elicited a strong response from the public when it was first produced at the Imperial Stage in St. Petersburg in 1896. It returned to the stage in 1897, when it was produced at Stanislavski's Moscow Art Theatre to overwhelming reviews. Alexander Chirkov, founder and Producing Director of the Chekhov Theatre and Film Co. and director of this production, is a native on Leningrad, where he began his career at the age of 12, working with Georgi Tostanogov, the Soviet Union's leading director of the time. He received his degree in both Acting and Directing from the Leningrad State University of Theatre, Music and Cinema, then went on to teach. While in the USSR, Mr. Chirkov was acclaimed as both an actor and director, staging over 100 productions and founding 3 theatre companies. A prolific writer, Mr. Chirkov is the author of 12 original plays and 3 volumes of poetry. He is completing a PhD in Theatre Studies at Pittsburgh State University and has been a guest lecturer at Boston University, Boston College, Harvard University, and has worked with the Boston Arts Group where his children's play THUMBELINA and A LITTLE BIT MORE was produced several years ago.

THE SEAGULL opens January 11 and runs through the end of February, with performances Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. General Admission is \$10. (\$8 for students and seniors). Call 547-8688 for tickets and information.

Call to Artists-Cambridge River Festival

The Cambridge Arts Council has called artists to help with the Cambridge River Festival June 8-10th, 1990. They have requested proposals for performances and arts projects celebrating the City of Cambridge.

Festival events will include Street dances, a Caribbean Festival, a Children's Festival, Parades, street performances, concerts, dance and temporary artworks, and dancers from the four corners of the world.

Deadline for proposals is February 5. For more information call the arts council at 498-9033.



Community Calendar

January COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- 1/1 Monday..... New Year's Day
- 1/8 Monday..... Open House for Boy Scout Troup 2,
Cambridge, 1803 Mass Ave 7 p.m.
- 1/9 Tuesday Public school half day,
afterschool opens 12:45 p.m.
- 1/10 Wednesday..... Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
7:30 p.m. 20 Sacramento St. agenda pg 1
- 1/11 Thursday..... Chekhov's THE SEAGULL, Agassiz School
Baldwin Hall 28 Sacramento St. 8 p.m.
Admission \$10 (\$8 students and seniors)
Call Chekhov Theatre Co. - 547-8688
- 1/13 Saturday..... Recycling at 147 Hampshire, Sherman
St. behind St. Peters Field 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Every 2nd Sat. For info call 498-9078
- 1/15 Monday..... Martin Luther King Birthday Observed
No School No Community School

THE WHISTLER

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

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