

June 1988

The Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Neighborhood Council Notes.....

(from the May 11 Meeting)

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council celebrated its 3rd year of incorporation with a party. Visitors enjoyed food, wine and entertainment by Carol Hantman, who played guitar and sang a few original songs about the Agassiz Neighborhood and some old favorites.

The Agassiz Community School Staff was on hand to present awards to administrators Terry DeLancey and Steve Winter for "continued administrative and personal support".

The plans for the Alden Tot Lot renovations were also available, and they will be on display at the Agassiz School as soon as Community Development sends the council office a copy.

June Council Meeting

Adult Family Care- Barbara Nowak from the Somerville Cambridge Elder Service will explain a program that offers a new choice for elders. This is a pioneering effort to combine shelter, health and social services to elders in a home environment. Each match of elder and host family represents a mutual choice by the participants.

Hosts receive \$525 per month TAX FREE. This payment is for the elders room and meals, and the only other requirement is that the host make the home one in which the elder can live happily. There are no geographic requirements.

Once a host is approved, that host can see as many elders as necessary until a suitable match is found, and neither host nor guest is ever forced into a living arrangement. Any additional services that the elder will need will be provided by the program, and hosts have access to a 24 hour emergency telephone line.

next council meeting...

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

JUNE 8, 1988

7:30 PM Annual Elections and General Business

8:00 PM Barbara Nowak will discuss an innovative program for Adult Family Care (see article)

8:30 PM Betty Desrosiers will discuss the new Incentive Zoning Amendment or Linkage for Cambridge (see article)

Benefits include:

- The elders who enter the program can remain independent
- Hosts will gain income, companionship, training, and a link to the community support system
- These services are better and cheaper than those provided by tax dollars

Come to the June 8 council meeting and hear Barbara speak. She will answer your questions and provide additional information.

INCENTIVE ZONING AMENDMENT (Linkage)

Come to the June 8th council meeting and hear Betty Desrosiers from the City's Community Development Department explain the Incentive Zoning Amendment which was written by her department and submitted to the Cambridge City Council on April 25.

"The Amendment requires developers of commercial projects of more than 30,000 square feet seeking a Special Permit to make a contribution to the creation and preservation of housing, particularly affordable housing."

Slate of Officers for June 88 Elections

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council annual elections will be held at the June 8th Council meeting at 7:30 PM. Nominees are:

Chairperson - Jody Garber

Vice Chairperson - Karen Vaters

Treasurer - Bob Johnson

Secretary - Sam Grobleski

Other Neighborhood Updates.....

CDIA DEVELOPMENT in Porter Square

MT VERNON ST- Report from Meeting at North Church 5/17

Concerns over parking, traffic flow, and density were voiced by area residents at a recent public meeting called to present a proposed development for the site across Massachusetts Avenue from Sears (between Upland Rd. and the Moun Shang House restaurant). The developers of the project propose to build a project which can best be described in two parts: the "front" part of the project along Massachusetts Avenue will consist of three buildings, each four or five stories high. There will be approximately 48 condominiums, of which six will be sold to the city "at cost", 15,000 square feet of office space on the second floor, and approximately 9,500 square feet of retail space at street level. This part of the project will include about 187 parking spaces, 88 of which are required by code to

be reserved for the Porter Exchange project across the street.

The "rear part" of the project includes a proposal to close Mt. Vernon Street at the Massachusetts Avenue end to form a cul de sac. Twenty-five luxury townhouses are proposed for this portion and include at least one parking space per unit. This zone, Residence C-1, permits 21,245 square feet for residential construction and 38,242 for townhouse developments. The CDIA proposal is for the full square footage permitted under the townhouse exemption.

CDIA has been meeting with a small group of area residents for several months to try to work out a mutually satisfactory development for the site. Many residents are pleased with, and have worked for, the proposal to close off Mt. Vernon St. to through traffic as a way of limiting the impact a development of this size would have on their street. With the exception of the cul de sac provision (which would necessitate major negotiations with the City), CDIA does not require any special permit or variance to build on this site.

Neighborhood residents, hearing the details of the project for the first time, voiced several concerns over its feasibility in particular and its desirability in general. Residents were primarily concerned about insufficient parking, confusing or non existing traffic flow and traffic control plans, and high density housing, traffic problems, and a glut of retail and office development. Residents were particularly concerned about accepting a project of this scope without first assessing the effect of the soon-to-be operational Porter Exchange and Holiday Health Spa.

SEWER RECONSTRUCTION IN AGASSIZ

A meeting was held on May 4th to review the plans for the proposed Sewer Reconstruction Phase VI, and to explain timetables and costs. Commissioner Sommers, and others from the Department of Public works, as well as two representatives from the Maguire Group (who are designing the reconstruction) were present.

In summary, the city will start Phase VI beginning at the Charles River near the Weeks Foot Bridge in late 1989 (assuming approvals and state funding are received) travel under the MBTA lines (at a depth of 70') come north to Oxford St. beginning in late 1990 and renovate our neighborhood until Phase VI is completed (estimated 1993). This renovation will include a separation of sanitary lines from storm lines, which are combined on many streets in the Agassiz neighborhood. Also included in the design are larger pipes, which vary in size from street to street, the largest of which will be the main pipe going down Oxford Street. The pipe will be enlarged from 48-54" to 72" in diameter. Additional catch basins for storm water will be placed on many streets.

Call the council office at 498-9056 if you would like the handout provided at the meeting or to be on the mailing list for future meetings and information.

TOT LOT UPDATE

Plans for the Alden Tot Lot renovation, drawn up by Rob Steck from the Cambridge Community Development Department were on display at the May council celebration, and in general the response to them was very good.

The Tot Lot Committee will soon meet with Rob Steck to convey the comments and suggestions they have solicited. The committee has also met with artist Wen-Ti Tsen, and will be working this summer on finding funds to create a mural which will re-create Agassiz history. The committee hopes to have the neighborhood work on both the historical research and art. Rob Steck hopes to engage artist Lilli Ann Killen Rosenberg for some of her work around the water play area.

Soon there will be a copy of the Tot Lot plans in the Agassiz School which will be passed around through the classrooms for all the children and teachers to see.

LESLEY COLLEGE News and Events

Lesley College Job-Line 88

On Wednesday June 8 Lesley College will sponsor FIRST JOB FAIR Job-Line 88. The hours will be 4-7 PM and the fair will be held on campus in Alumni Hall, 29 Everett St.

Lesley College has many support staff positions available, therefore hiring managers and supervisors will be present to give on the spot interviews. We offer excellent pay and benefits including tuition remission and a friendly work environment. If you have any questions or for directions call the Personnel Office at 868-9600 x210. Community members are welcome. An affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer.

Graffiti Videotape played at Lesley College

On Wednesday May 4, *Graffiti*, a play about racism, was shown on videotape to an audience at Lesley College. The play was written and performed by Agassiz Afterschool Children under the direction of Carol Hantman, and videotaped by the Cambridge Cable TV company.

A discussion followed. On hand were the director and several children from the cast. The Lesley audience donated more than \$10 for the children to give to the charity of their choice.

COME TO The Agassiz School Gala

Thursday June 2 at 6 PM in the Agassiz School.
Children will perform for parents and friends.
For more information call 498-9256


 CRIMEWATCH
 

This is a list of crime in the Agassiz Neighborhood

.....May 1988.....

- Farrar St.....Larceny from a person (5/9)
 Holden (at Bryant)..Armed Street Robbery w/knife (5/9)
 Irving St (at Scott). Indecent Exposure (5/11)
 Mass. Ave..... Car theft (5/7)
 Oxford St..... Receiving Stolen Property (5/16);
 Car theft (5/3) Hit and run property
 (5/12)
 Sacramento St.Theft from unlocked car (5/6)
 Wendell St.....Missing Person (5/7)



Agassiz Community School



Community School Hosts Barbeque

Agassiz community School will host a barbeque on Tuesday evening June 21 beginning at 5:30 PM in the backyard of the Community Center at 20 Sacramento St All friends, participants, and their families are welcome.

Please bring a pot luck dish for your family plus 2 salads, desserts, drinks, fruit and vegetables are welcome), and we will provide hot dogs and hamburgers and the fixings.

REMEMBER - children must be accompanied by an adult.

Puppet Performance June 3rd

The Agassiz Afterschool Players, under the direction of Carol Hantman, have been working on a new performance. This last performance of the school year was planned in collaboration with Artist Rich Curran, who provided both artistic and technical assistance for the puppet show. It will be presented in Baldwin Hall at the **Agassiz School**, 28 Sacramento St. at **7:30 PM on Friday, June 3rd.**

Another performance will be held at the Morse School on Wednesday June 8th at 3:30 PM as part of the Childrens Celebration of the Cambridge River Festival.

On Saturday June 11 at 11 AM the children will march in the River Festival Parade at Riverbend Park with their puppets. Come and see them ! Participants include Maya Antic, Melina Avery, Emily Bosworth, Ian Cyr, Carmen de la Rosa, Mara de la Rosa, Marisa Dulyachinda, Neil Kadagathur, Christian Little, Sammy Nah, Shibani Pradhan, Carly Rothfeld, Luc Schuster, and Evan Zeisel.

Whistler Deadline is now the 20th of Each Month. Send us articles, ads, letters to the editor, or any information that you feel would be of interest to the Agassiz neighborhood.


 FOR SENIORS
 

The Department of Human Services has an excellent reference called Transportation Services for Elders which includes busses, taxis, and vans for social, shopping and medical needs. Call 498-9039.

ADS * HELP AVAILABLE *** HELP WANTED**

Bargain of the summer-- Hi quality, experienced skate board and knee pads for sale--call Dylan and make an offer; 491-4684

Agassiz Afterschool is looking for a permanent teacher for the fall. Hours are 2-6 pm, 42 weeks yr. \$7-9 hr. Excellent benefits including full individual medical. Superior program, stable staff with emphasis on team work. Music, sports or arts experience with children grades K-6 helpful. Call Steve Winter at 498-9056.

Great Job Available. Part-time office manager wanted for a Cambridgeport office - regional sales operation for international company. Need word processing skills. Part time (20-25 hours a week), great location, competitive pay, comfortable office and work environment, plenty of autonomy for creative person with the right talents. Call Jill at 868-4602 between 9-2.

CAMBRIDGE FURNITURE BANK- will pick up good, useable furniture and deliver it to those in need, and your gift is tax deductible. Call Mary Mengel, Co-ordinator at 498-9039 for details.

Volunteers Needed:

Wellmet Project, Inc

Responsible adults can volunteer to work in a supportive mental health community in Cambridge, and receive free room and board for their services.

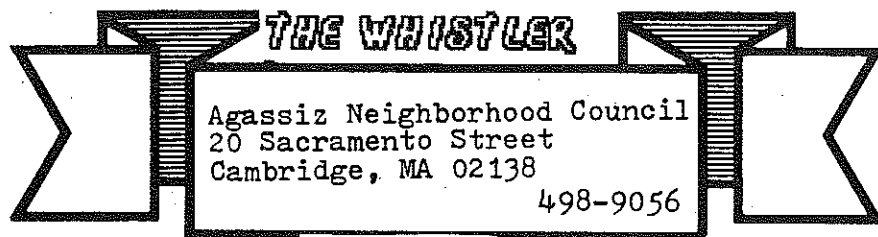
Responsibilities include 20 hrs per week of house coverage, household chores, staff and house meetings, and assisting residents meet their goals.

For more information call Jill Lynch, Residential Program Director at 491-2377.

Cambridge Council on Aging

The Cambridge Council on Aging needs volunteers to serve as visitors to the homebound elderly to chat or take short neighborhood walks. Meet an interesting new friend who will really value your companionship. Our volunteers offer friendship, enrichment and assistance during a once-weekly visit. Call Sandra Kahn at 498-9039 for more information.

June 1988	
June 2, Thursday.....	Agassiz School Gala beginning at 6 PM Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St
June 3, Friday.....	Agassiz Afterschool Players present "Three Puppet Plays" based on folk tales, 7:30 PM Baldwin Hall, Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St. Admission Free
June 8, Wednesday.....	Lesley College Job Fair - Alumni Hall 4-7 PM for more information call 868-9600 x210
June 8, Wednesday.....	Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting 7:30, 20 Sacramento St. (see agenda page 1)
June 8, Wednesday.....	Agassiz Afterschool Players present "Three Puppet Plays" based on folk tales, Morse School 3:30 PM
June 11, Saturday.....	Cambridge River Festival Riverbend Park -Parade begins at 11 AM. For more information call 498-9033
June 14, Tuesday.....	Early Release Day. Public School Closes and Agassiz Afterschool opens at 12:45 PM
June 14, Tuesday.....	Agassiz 8th Grade Graduation 7:30 PM Agassiz School
June 15, Wednesday.....	Agassiz Community School Parent Steering Committee 6 PM 20 Sacramento St. Childcare and Snacks
June 21, Tuesday.....	Annual Community School Barbeque, 6 PM Community Center Backyard, 20 Sacramento St.



June 1988

Community School Barbeque

Tuesday June 21 at 5:30 PM

20 Sacramento - Backyard

Bring a side dish and come!

