

the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

June-July

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

1985

COMMUNITY NEWS

Workday A Great Success !!!

On Saturday May 11 a faithful and hard working crew of volunteers met in the Community Center backyard and completely revamped the outdoor space.

Under the skillful direction of Foreman Ken Basler, 34 volunteers (that's right folks, 34 parents, staff and council members) from the Agassiz Community rebuilt the children's playspace.

We completely remade one climbing structure. Then we made safe and gave a facelift to another.

In the back of the yard, we set the frame for swings and climbing equipment. We gave the big trailer tires plywood covers.

Then we dug out a 6'x 8' sandbox, framed it with wood, and made three covers for the top.

And after we stained the new wood, we spread the two truckloads of mulch donated and delivered by the City of Cambridge DPW.

Two cases of beer and seven pizzas later, we all sat back and glorified in our work which was made even better by the yards of stockade fence installed by our landlords, Harvard University.

This is truly a community project that we all can be proud of because EVERYONE HELPED ! Thank you to all concerned but a special thanks to Emily Winston who watched the children while their parents worked and Naomi Vaters Balloffet who helped Emily.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LESLEY COLLEGE has a new president

(The following article is excerpted from a memorandum to the Lesley College community from Catherine N. Stratton, Chair, Lesley College Board of Trustees)

It is a joy to announce the selection of Margaret A. McKenna as the third president of Lesley College... She graduated from Emmanuel College in 1967 and was awarded the J.D. degree from Southern Methodist U. Law School in 1971... Ms. McKenna is finishing a four-year term as Vice President for Program Planning and Director of the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College... President McKenna will assume her full duties in mid-August... Margaret McKenna was presented to the Board as the unanimous choice of the eleven person presidential search committee.

Lesley College invited the Agassiz Council Chairperson to meet the three finalists on behalf of all the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. Chairperson Joel Bard was able to discuss Agassiz concerns with the three finalists and to make them aware of the need for ongoing Lesley-Agassiz communication. He also expressed his appreciation to Lesley College for being included in the process.

June Meeting Agassiz Neighborhood Council 6/13 Thursday
7:30 in the Agassiz School Library for an update on Rezoning
and planning fall programs for 10-14 year olds (see article)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Council Notes...

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council had the pleasure of a slide show by Charles Sullivan, Executive Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission. The show was on the History of Mass. Ave., and very appropriate in view of the huge rezoning effort taking place to preserve Mass. Ave.

We saw a picture of the now Porter Square Shopping Center taken in the 1950's, when it was a farmed field. And pictures of Mass. Ave. from the times when it was lined with mansions.

Sadly we saw pictures of buildings which no longer exist, or what is left has been devastated by renovation.

All this was to raise our consciousness regarding efforts by interested citizens to rezone Mass. Ave. so that it will keep the character of what it is today, and not become a remake of Mass. Ave. between Central and Harvard Squares.

The planning board, in its May 21 meeting has sent the rezoning petition to the City Council without recommendation. If you are interested in helping the rezoning effort, you must call or write to all members of the City Council, and let them know how you feel.

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Attention all parents of Agassiz School Children: Mr. Cushing urges you to check the lost and found located in the school basement. You may find \$5. worth of mittens you lost this winter!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Host An International Student

The American Institute for Foreign Study has established a Homestay in America Program in the Cambridge/Belmont area for July and August. Through this program, 30 students from Spain will study English and experience life in the United States.

The students, ranging in age from 13-21, will spend two weeks on the Tufts University campus and then move to host families where they will live from July 16-August 14, 1985. Throughout their stay the students will be active with a variety of cultural activities and formal classroom instruction.

More host families are needed. Each host family receives a scholarship of \$400 for one of their own children (or neice or nephew) to participate in an AIFS European, Asian or Mexican program any time in the next five years. The children of the host family are also included in many of activities and excursions, as well as being exposed to the culture and language of their international guest.

Families interested should contact Rachel Poliner at 492-6290.

Cambridge Guidance Center Vandalized

The building a 5 Sacramento St. which houses the Cambridge Guidance Center was vandalized recently. During the night of May 6th, red spray paint was used to paint swastika symbols and dollar signs on the front wall of the building, the steps, and the porch. The staff of the Guidance Center is very concerned about the vandalism and asks that anyone having information about the incident call the center's receptionist at 354-2275.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Foster Grandparent Program

The foster grandparent program is looking for persons 60 years of age or older to work as foster grandparents in schools or day care centers.

Foster grandparents work four hours per day five days per week for a stipend of \$2.20 per hour. Travel and lunch expenses are also paid.

Each foster grandparent is paired with two children who need special attention, love and caring.

For more information contact 742-1326.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

End Of Year Barbeque

For the past several years the Afterschool Childcare Program has had a pot luck barbeque. This year the dinner will be for all children and families in Agassiz Community Schools Afterschool Programs.

The Barbeque will be held on WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, 5:30-7:30. Come and see our beautiful, almost finished backyard, relax, see your children's afterschool teachers, and enjoy at 20 Sacramento.

Robin Winter and Steven Winter will be on hand for the parents who will have children entering the activities program as full time afters kids. They will take time to speak about their program and what to expect.

Camp Outback

Our summer camp program is almost completely enrolled, so please do not delay with your registrations. Those of you who have registered will be receiving confirmation shortly.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

Fall Programming For 10-14 Year Olds

Be at the June 13 meeting of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council and help us plan and organize some new and interesting programs for this age group. Laura Garton Manager, and Suzanne Kenny, Youth Specialist, will be on hand to explain some of the successful programming they have worked on, and they will be acting as resources for our programs.

Some ideas so far are a city wide performing arts group with satellites in various neighborhoods, a series of social events for 7-8th grades, and a preteen council.

We will be launching a new 5-6th grade program in the fall based on the Activities Afterschool Program, but the activities will be more age appropriate for older elementary school students, and it will be separate from the younger children. We intend to include more rights and responsibilities for the 5-6th graders.

If you have ideas on community school programs for this age group, please call Terry DeLancey at 498-9056 or drop her a note at 20 Sacramento. We cannot plan successful programming for this age group without both input from parents and their children.

ArtiCulture Show A Great Success

Several Agassiz students took part in a production called LIFELINES, Portraits of Cambridge women from the past, present and future. The show took place at the newly opened Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center in East Cambridge May 30-June 1.

The cast included Lace Campbell, Sarah Colman, Paige Giovinco, Maya Goldberg, Sara Jones, Jessica Moon and Brian Williams. The play was a very ambitious, original piece and the cast did a very professional job.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- June 11 Tuesday Kindergarten Pot Luck for entering and leaving Kindergarteners and families 6-8:30 Sacramento Field
- June 12 Wednesday 8th Grade Graduation 7 PM Agassiz School Gym
- June 12 Wednesday Joint Parent Steering Committee, Agassiz Community Schools, Snacks and Childcare 6-7 Agassiz Community Center
- June 13 Thursday Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting featuring fall program planning for 10-14 year olds, rezoning update 7:30 PM Agassiz School Library
- June 19 Wednesday All Afterschool Barbeque, bring something to cook or a side dish for 6 5:30-7:30 PM Community Center Backyard
- June 20 Thursday-Last day of school

CRIMEWATCH STATISTICS

The two most prominent crimes this spring have been Larceny from cars (one each from Francis, Eustis, Museum and Everett Sts.), and Malicious Destruction of property (2 on Sacramento, 2 on Carver and 1 on Oxford). For May there were three cases of breaking and entry (2 on Wendell and 1 on Everett)

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Lesley College student living with family in Agassiz interested in caring for young children this summer-regular hours, 5 days Willing to run playgroup. Leave message at 492-6964

Professor coming to work at MIT 85-86 will swap beautiful home in Amherst for home in Camb. or rent in Camb- call H. Bernstein (413) 253-5709 or 549-4600

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
 20 Sacramento Street
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