

March 1987

The Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council



COUNCIL ELECTIONS:



NEW OFFICERS NEEDED

Joel Bard, Council Chairperson

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is looking for new officers. With the luxury of a period of stability and relative calm, each of the four of us has decided that the time has come to let others work on community issues and bring new energy and ideas to the Council. There are four offices (with the name of the current officer in parenthesis): Chairperson (Joel Bard), Vice Chairperson (Jody Garber), Treasurer (Bill Neukomm), and Secretary (Miriam Goldberg).

Are you interested? Do you know someone who is or might be? If so, please contact one of the four members of our Nominating Committee or Terry DeLancey, Neighborhood Coordinator, at the Community Center, (498-9056).

Nominating Committee

After discussion with the Agassiz Board, I have asked the following people to serve as a Nominating Committee:

- Barbara August (491-1018)
- Richard Griffin (661-0710)
- Carol Hantman (354-5118)
- Sebastian Lockwood (492-6857)

Their role will be to recommend a slate of officers to be elected by the Council. While they have some suggestions already, they will welcome your ideas. Please call them soon since their deadline is the March 11 Neighborhood Council meeting.

next council meeting...

MARCH 11 WEDNESDAY
7:30 PM, 20 SACRAMENTO ST upstairs

AGENDA TO INCLUDE: PRESENTATION OF SLATE OF OFFICERS
BY NOMINATING COMMITTEE (See above article)

Schedule and Process

The Nominating committee will report its recommended slate on March 11, at the monthly Council meeting. At that meeting, the process will also be open to other nominations for any of the offices. The committee's slate and any other nominations will be published in the next Whistler. The election will be held at the April 8 Council meeting. The Council's bylaws define an eligible voter as any member of the Agassiz community who has signed in at a council meeting during the previous 12 months.

Being an Agassiz officer, while occasionally time consuming, is a rewarding experience. It is, of course, an effective way to get to know your neighbors, but it also gives you a special perspective on our community. Agassiz is one of the city's strongest neighborhoods because we have a clear vision of ourselves as a community, and when called upon, we act as a unified entity. I hope some of you who have been interested in the Council will give some thought to becoming an officer.



City and Citizens Review of Major Developments

The main agenda item at the February Neighborhood Council Meeting was to begin organizing a process for city coordination of and citizen participation in review of all large developments proposed in Cambridge.

The consensus was that all neighborhoods in Cambridge should be included in the preliminary organizing, in order to make it a grassroots, city wide process. Volunteers were organized to contact activist groups in all parts of Cambridge and inform them of this organizing effort. They will be requested to discuss the idea of a review process with their organizations and send two representatives to a meeting, held by early April at a neutral site, possibly the community development conference room. The first meeting of this citywide group will provide the direction for this process.

Check THE WHISTLER for a report of the meeting.

SEWER RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We have received a copy of this memorandum dated 2/3/87 from the Budget Department, City of Cambridge on the status of Phases VI and VII of the City's Sewer Separation Project:

C.E. Maguire, the engineering firm responsible for the design of Phases VI and VII of the City's Sewer Separation Project has just received a contract to proceed. According to Bob Barrows of C.E. Maguire, the engineering design period for each phase will take 16 months, so construction will not begin until Spring 1988. Construction will have to be staggered throughout the neighborhood with six separate contracts over approximately a 4 and one half year period.

If all goes as scheduled, storm and sanitary sewers will be completely separated by 1992. Until then, we must be rigorous in monitoring the Department of Public Works to be sure the storm drains are cleaned on a regular basis.

CONCERN OVER KINDERGARTEN ASSIGNMENTS


Several Agassiz residents have been concerned over their Cambridge Public School Kindergarten Assignments. In these cases parents did not receive any of their first three choices for schools after having been to the first cycle of registration for kindergarten.

The Neighborhood Council would like to know if these are isolated incidents or if others have had a problem with this process. Call us if you have had similar problems.

MAY DAY CELEBRATION DANCE REHEARSAL

It has become an Agassiz neighborhood tradition to celebrate May Day at dawn in Sacramento Field with children dressed in white and flowers performing a traditional Maypole dance with musicians.

Rehearsals will begin the second week in March on Sunday evenings at the Agassiz School. If you are interested in having your child participate, contact Ada Snider at 661-2961.

 **PIANO LESSONS AT AGASSIZ SCHOOL**- Piano lessons are available through Steve Cummings on Fridays afterschool. Call him at 868-0155.

CRIMEWATCH

- Sacramento St..... 2 thefts from cars (2/17, 2/18) one locked, one unlocked, 4 incidents of malicious destruction, (three on 2/17 one on 2/18)
- Mellen St..... 4 incidents of breaking and entry, (2/7), (2 on 2/14), 2/15)
- Everett St..... 1 assault and battery (2/3), 1 trespassing (2/18), one car theft (2/12)
- Oxford St..... 1 unarmed robbery (2/22), 1 hit and run to property (2/2)
- Mass. Ave..... 1 car theft (2/13)
- Museum St..... 1 hit and run to property (2/2)
- Holden St..... 1 hit and run to property (2/3)
- Kirkland St..... 1 incident of breaking and entry (2/14)

 **TOT LOT PROGRESS**

We have collected hundreds of signatures on petitions requesting that the city allocate money to reconstruct the Tot Lot located at the corner of Oxford and Sacramento Streets. These petitions along with a letter describing the problems in the park, and the assessment of the poor park condition from the community development's park inventory will be sent to City Manager Robert Healy in early March. The letter also reminds the city manager that Agassiz had the lowest per capita spending of all Cambridge neighborhoods last year.

Copies of this information will be sent to School Committee member, Larry Weinstein, and all City Councillors. Representatives of the Tot Lot Committee will be meeting with City Councillors to show them pictures of the park's condition and to answer any questions they may have.

It is our expectation that the recommendations for \$150,000 for renovations made by Robert Steck, Parks Specialist for the Community Development Department will be included in the budget presented to the city manager. If he approves it, and it is not cut during hearings, it is the City Council's role to approve it as part of the 1987-88 fiscal budget. At that time (May) the Community Development Department will discuss design and construction scheduling.

March 1987

LESLEY AGASSIZ RESOURCE COMMITTEE



On February 6 the Lesley-Agassiz Resource Committee met at Lesley College. This is a quarterly opportunity for representatives of the neighborhood and the college to meet and exchange information and news relevant to both communities.

HOUSING - Lesley College maintains information on available housing in the neighborhood. They are willing to share it with Agassiz residents, and they would in turn like to have Agassiz residents list their available housing with the college. If community residents have apartments or rooms for rent, or sharing arrangements of work for rooms, they should contact Lesley College Housing Offices at 868-9600.

PARKING FOR RENT - At times Lesley College students need parking spaces in the neighborhood, and they are willing to pay for off street parking. If you have available parking space, call Nancy Galvin at 868-9600.

NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT - This event is held every year on an evening in early May. This year there may be some afternoon events for community children provided by Lesley student groups. Look for a schedule of events in the April edition of THE WHISTLER.

CHILDREN'S CHORUS - Lesley College has agreed to provide rehearsal space to the Agassiz Youth Chorus for children ages 9-14 on Fridays from 3-4 PM. It is being organized by Ada Snider, and she can be reached at 661-2961 for more information.

LESLEY-AGASSIZ-HARVARD SECURITY MEETING - Due to the rape that occurred several months ago, the three organizations met to discuss and exchange safety information relevant to all three communities. The meeting was called by Lesley College, and the group agreed to meet whenever necessary and to informally call on each other for help or information as needed.

LESLEY COLLEGE VOLUNTEERS - There is a house on Oxford Street dedicated to service in the community. It is the LINC House, and this year, among other things, the students of LINC house are interested in working with senior citizens. They were referred to the Friendly Visitor program through the City of Cambridge. They also agreed to provide snow shoveling and other odd jobs for senior citizens who need the help. The Lesley Senior Class discussed the possibility of a "Tom Sawyer" weekend this spring, during which the students would help the community with outdoor odd jobs.

SACRAMENTO STREET PRESCHOOL ** Open House

Parents and preschoolers are invited to join the Sacramento Street Preschool on Thursday MARCH 12 at 20 Sacramento Street for an OPEN HOUSE between 11 AM and 12:30 PM. Meet teachers, currently enrolled children and their parents, see the school, located on the first floor of a stately old house, and stay to play in the backyard, large and tree filled. We are increasing our enrollment to 16 children for next year, and children who will be between the ages of 2 years, 9 months and 4 years may register for the fall.

The program runs 5 days per week between 9 AM and 12 Noon. Holidays and vacations coincide with the Cambridge Public School Calendar. There are two teachers, both certified and graduates of Lesley College, and the program is licensed by the Office for Children. The preschool is sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. Call 498-9056.

ONGOING NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS

STRETCH AND STRENGTHEN CLASS-A stretch and strengthen class is now held at Agassiz School on Tuesdays from 6-7 PM from 8:15-9:15. It's an enjoyable and relaxing way to exercise. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy at 876-7374.

PULSE AEROBICS FOR EVERYBODY is held in the Agassiz Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays 6:30-7:50 PM, Saturday from 10:30 -11:50 AM. Per ten week session. Costs are: for two times per week \$72, for three times per week \$102. Single classes will cost \$5. For more information call Elise at 742-5342.



There is still time to see Nicholas Kilmer's series of paintings entitled "Conversations" at the Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento St, Mon-Fri. 9-5, Saturday and Sunday 2-6, and by appointment through March 12. Call 868-8569.

⚡ FLASH - PORTER SQUARE UPDATE ⚡

The agreements that were hammered out in great haste last summer and fall by the Porter Square Advisory Committee and developers Wasserman and Slater under strict deadlines were slated to be signed by the city and the developers by early March.





SPECIAL EVENTS



AFRICANS IN ANTIQUITY - The Cambridge Public School Department presents a Celebration of Black History with Guest Speaker Dr. Asa G. Hilliard, III, March 11, 1987 at 3:30 PM at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge. RSYP 498-9240.

 AGASSIZ YOUTH CHORUS ORGANIZED 

Lesley College has provided rehearsal space for the newly formed youth chorus for children ages 9-14. It will meet on Fridays between 3-4 PM. For more information contact Ada Snider at 661-2961.

 AGASSIZ READING SERIES FOR MARCH 

The Reading Series will have two dates in March at the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento Street, 7:30 PM. Admission is FREE!

March 9 Monday, Jon Lipsky will read from his own work, "Snake Bite Songs and Other Poems"

March 24 Tuesday, Mame Willey and Helen Davis will read "Lot's Wife" and Poems.

For information call Sebastian at 492-6857.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR MARCH

March 1-12

Paintings by Nicholas Kilmer in Gallery, 20 Sacramento St. (See Article for details)

March 9 Monday

Agassiz Reading Series - Jon Lipsky reading at 7.30, 20 Sacramento St. (See Article for details)

March 10 Tuesday

Released Day. School closes, afterschool opens 12

March 11 Wednesday

Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting, 20 Sacramento Street, 7:30 PM (See article for agenda)

March 11 Wednesday

Parent Steering Committee, Agassiz Community School, 20 Sacramento St., Childcare and Snacks 6-7 PM

March 11 Wednesday

Lecture "Africans in Antiquity" Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Auditorium, 459 Broadway, 3:30 PM

March 12 Thursday

Open House Sacramento Street Preschool, 20 Sacramento St., 11 AM-12:30 PM (see article for details)

March 17 Tuesday

St. Patrick's Day. No School or Afterschool

March 24 Tuesday

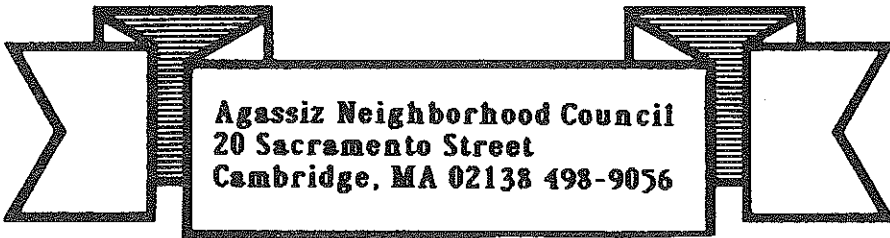
Agassiz Reading Series - Mame Willey and Helen Davis reading at 7:30, 20 Sacramento St. (see article for details)



DOG WALKER WANTED -Mature,

dependable, strong youngster to walk young dog each weekday at about 4 PM. Please call Dr. Cohen at 492-2239.

Somerville-Cambridge Elders Services Employment Program - Increase your income! We will help you find the job you want part or full time. Call 55+ Employment at 628-2601.

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

THE WHISTLER

MARCH 1987