

NOVEMBER

the agassiz WHISTLER

1985

The Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

COMMUNITY NEWS

Proposed Development for 1671 Mass. Ave. GEORGIE'S RESTAURANT AND BAR

A private developer (H.J. Davis of Brookline) has expressed interest in redeveloping the site currently occupied by Georgie's Restaurant and Bar at 1671 Mass. Ave., at the Wendell Street corner. The developers' preliminary plans call for a 70 foot, multi family building, possibly with commercial space on the ground level. The building would have a floor-area ratio (FAR) exceeding 4. FAR is a measure of density. A building with a 4 FAR could be 4 stories high and cover the entire site, or 8 stories covering half the site, etc.

The city's zoning for this section of Mass. Ave. allows building heights to 85' and FAR of 1 for commercial use, 1.75 for residential. The above proposal, therefore, is within the allowed height, but far exceeds the permitted density. In addition, a temporary height limit of 50 feet currently applies so that the 70 foot proposal also exceeds that limitation.

The developers have been told that the neighborhood believes the existing zoning is too generous and that efforts continue to lower the permitted heights

next council meeting...

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13

7:30 P.M.

Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento Street

Proposed developers to meet and discuss possible development of 1671 Mass. Ave.
GEORGIE'S RESTAURANT AND BAR

and densities.

Because this proposal exceeds the FAR limit, the developer will need to receive a variance from the City. However, the city rarely grants variances in the face of neighborhood objections. The developers, aware of the need to work cooperatively with neighborhoods, have asked to attend the November 13 Meeting of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council to present their plans and get the neighborhood's reaction.

If you are concerned with Mass. Ave. development, or with this particular site, please attend the Neighborhood Council meeting. The future of Mass. Ave. will be determined by developments such as this one. We must be actively involved in the plans for every one.

Flood Committee Update

There are several small items to update for those neighbors who experienced flooding on July 31/August 1 this year.

* The committee has sent a letter to the City Manager Healy, but to date they have not been able to arrange a meeting.

* The campaign to find other flood victims through door to door canvassing was a success, and there are now 43 people on the mailing list.

* One member of the canvassing operation advised us that State Senator Michael LoPresti signed our petition but Councillor and State Representative Sandra Graham would not.

* The Committee on Claims for the City of Cambridge will hear claims for amounts up to \$500. If your losses are above that figure, you can only recover if you file suit against the city. To do this you must first file a written claim to the City Solicitor. Some neighbors have been in touch with a lawyer, and all people on our mailing list will

Flood Committee Update cont.

receive a letter explaining what can be done according to this lawyer.

If you would like to be on the mailing list, or would like more information, please call 498-9056

Last Months Council Meeting

Our October 13 Council Meeting was enjoyed by more than 40 people who made time to attend a slide show on the history of the Agassiz Neighborhood.

As always Charles Sullivan was interesting and informative. Some of the most noteworthy buildings in the history of our neighborhood are no longer standing, but we were able to see the neighborhood as it was through pictures. That view included our own industry, a bleachery, which stood on the site of Sacramento Field.

An interesting point that Charles Sullivan did make was that the Historic Commission, of which he is the Executive Director, does have information on every building in Cambridge, and often there is an old picture with that information. If you are interested in the history of your home, call or drop into the Historic Commission located at 57 Inman Street (in the building where you get your parking stickers), and they will show you their files.

Congratulations to the Agassiz Fair !!!

Behind every successful event there is a cast of very hardworking people who deserve much praise. Thanks to Marcia Duran, our parent Liaison for Agassiz School, who set it all in motion, and to the Steering Committee, Arla Shearer, Connie May, Lynn Reiss, Meta Scheublin, and to Ruth Silva for the raffle, and Christopher Sanders for the banner, and countless others.

Their efforts made the fair not only a financial success but also a safe and fun event for the school and the neighborhood. Thanks again !

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AGASSIZ POT LUCK
THANKSGIVING FEAST

All Agassiz residents, school and afterschool students and families welcome !

Tuesday November 26
6:00-8:00 P.M.
Agassiz School Gym

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is happy to present another annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Feast. We will provide the turkey and fixings, and you can provide a dish with enough food for your family and 6 more. Usually we need salads, vegetables and other side dishes most, but we also need desserts, beverages and breads.

We love your children, and this year we will be showing cartoons and other short subjects in the library. However, to insure a safe and enjoyable evening, please be sure to watch your children, or have someone else there who will !

We need volunteers to help cook turkeys for our Thanksgiving Pot Luck. We will deliver the turkey to you on Monday 11/25, and you can bring the cooked turkey back on Tuesday at 6:00 as your pot luck contribution.

Call Terry DeLancey at 498-9056

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWS

*** The Afterschool Programs will hold an informal meeting for all parents with children in afterschool programs at Agassiz. Activities*Childcare*5-6th Activities Come and meet the teachers, hear about what is happening every afternoon, and ask all those questions you never had a chance to ask:

November 6 Wednesday
7-8:30 P.M.
Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento St.

Childcare and snacks provided

** The playgroup which meets Monday-Friday 9 A.M. to Noon is looking for a 3½ year old boy for the group. Call 498-9056 if you are interested.

*** The K-4 Activities Program has openings on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Tuesday specials include:

- *Music with Patrick
- *Art and Ceramics with Nancy
- *Dance with Dawn
- *Little Kids sports

Thursday specials include:

- *International Cooking with Tracy
- *Storytelling by Robin
- *Big Kids Sports
- *Art projects with Karen

For more information call 498-9056.

*** Girl Scouts does indeed have two new leaders for the Agassiz Saturday morning troop. Please call before going: 1-800-442-5575. Ask for Susan.

Whistler Delivery

Are you getting your copy of "The Whistler" regularly? If not please call our offices, and we will either mail it out or check on your route. Call 498-9056

CRIMEWATCH

Due to forces beyond our control the Crimewatch Statistics are unavailable as we go to print. Look for October and November statistics next month.



READING SERIES PRESENTS:

Charles Sullivan's slide show on "Historic Cambridge" based on the book by the same name. Some of you saw his presentation on "Historic Agassiz", now you can see the overview of the whole city.

NOVEMBER 4 Monday
7:30 Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento Street

Rent the Agassiz Community Center

Did you know that you can rent very lovely meeting rooms at the Agassiz Community Center on 20 Sacramento Street? These rentals help defray the cost of building upkeep, and they are good spaces for small meetings, conferences with clients, group sessions, and the like.

For more information contact Steve Winter at 498-9056. He is in the office on Thursday mornings. Otherwise, leave your number and a good time to call.



Community Calendar

- November 4 Monday * Agassiz Reading Series (see schedule)
- November 5 Tuesday * Election Day * School Open
- November 6 Wednesday * Joint Parent Steering Committee 6:00 P.M.
Parent Information Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Agassiz Afterschool Programs
20 Sacramento Street
- November 11 Monday * Veterans Day * School Closed
- November 13 Wednesday * Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting *
7:30 P.M. Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento St.
- November 14 Thursday * Released Day * School dismissed at 12:45
Afterschool opens at 12:45
- November 20 Wednesday * Released Day * School dismissed at 12:45
Afterschool opens at 12:45
- November 25 Monday * Agassiz Reading Series (see schedule)
- November 26 Tuesday * Annual Agassiz Pot Luck Thanksgiving Feast *
6:00 P.M. Agassiz School Gym (see article)
- November 27 Wednesday * School dismissed at 12:45
Afterschool opens at 12:45
- November 28 Thursday * Thanksgiving Recess-School Closed
- November 29 Friday * Thanksgiving Recess-School Closed

WRITER looking for a one room office- call Sebastian 492-6857

tired of cleaning your own house ?
Call Emily at 442- 9469 after 7:30 P.M.
Available mornings 8:30-12:30 weekdays
except Wednesday. Neighborhood reference.

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

AGASSIZ READING SERIES

20 SACRAMENTO ST. CAMBRIDGE
Monday Evenings 7:30

- Sept. 23 *Rhoda Alcorn - prose - Pull of The Earth.*
- Oct. 7 *Sue Standing - poetry - Deception Pass.*
- Oct. 21 *Paul Kahn - translation - The Secret History of The Mongols.*
- Nov. 4 *Charles Sullivan - lectures - Historic Cambridge*
- Nov. 25 *William McCann Henderson - prose - Stark Raving Eliza*
- Dec. 9 *Bill Corbet
Fred Marchant - poetry -*

MASS. AVE.	20	Sacramento
	Wendell	
	KILLAMP	

Information: call Sebastian 492-6857