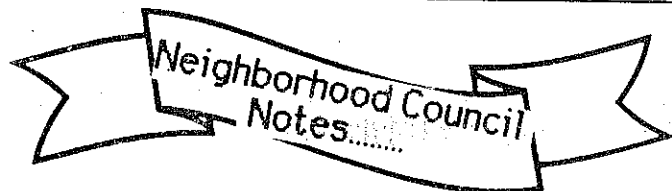


October 1988

The Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council



September Council Meeting

A response to the 9/20 article by J. Hart, reporter for the Cambridge Tab entitled "Agassiz Neighborhood Experiences a Rash of Anti-Semetic Graffiti; No Suspects":

There were many factual errors in the article, but to say that the council discussed a rash of anti semetic graffiti is simply incorrect. At best the reporter misunderstood what was going on, at worst it was irresponsible writing.

Terry DeLancey had not "called a meeting of local residents 9/14 to discuss the extent of the problem and what residents could do to stem it." It was the neighborhood council's regularly scheduled second Wednesday of the month meeting. The graffiti (which looks like backwards swastikas) has been found on 19 neighborhood mailboxes, and this was one of the topics of our monthly meeting. Below is the agenda that was distributed:

- Agenda:
7:30 PM
Alden Tot Lot update
Graffiti in the neighborhood
Discussion on summer crime
Short report on Community School
8:30 PM
Neighborhood Development update

If the council had seen a "rash of anti semetic graffiti" you can be sure that it would not have been one of four topics covered in one hour.

next council meeting...

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
October 12, 1988

- 7:00 PM Cambridge Police - Crime Prevention Tips
8:00 PM Miscellaneous Neighborhood Business
- Location of this year's neighborhood tree
- Upcoming neighborhood issues
8:30 PM Discussion of CDIA's application for a garage license behind Porter Exchange

The article refers to an anonymous note explaining that "the altered swastika is the symbol of a Cambridge "skinhead" group called Zaze." [Skinheads are youth groups often associated with white supremacy views.] This was not an anonymous note, the person who left it was simply unknown to the council.

What was not reported in the Tab was that the council did not assume that the graffiti was antisemitic. The police had been contacted and said they had no knowledge that this group was doing anything more than spraypainting, nor were there any organized skinhead groups in the area to their knowledge. We agreed at the meeting to contact Sally Greenberg of the Anti-Defamation League to see what she knew about the group. Our position was to look into the matter and try to find out who was represented by the graffiti. However, the focus of our discussion was how to get rid of the graffiti, which was difficult since it appeared mostly on mailboxes which are federal property. It was agreed to write a letter to the postal services asking them to rid the boxes of the graffiti.

Meanwhile the council was contacted by a teen who informed us that the symbol, so reminiscent of a swastika, is actually two Z's, the symbol for Zhar Zhay-a Harvard Square teen group.

Other Neighborhood Updates.....

CDIA DEVELOPMENT in Porter Square

Even before Porter Exchange opens its doors for the first time, CDIA has changed its parking plans once again and has applied for its second garage license in three months.

Two years ago developers Peter Wasserman and Sharon Cerney, now known as CDIA, signed an agreement with the City Licensing Commission, which stipulated that the 289 parking spaces required by code for the Porter Exchange development be provided in the following manner: 201 behind the Porter Exchange building (formerly Sears) and 88 spaces in the empty lots across the street (referred to as the Mount Vernon Street site). All spaces were to be open air and on grade. There were to be no parking structures although the developers reserved the right to apply for a garage license at a later date. It now appears that this later date has arrived.

The Agassiz WHISTLER

In June CDIA presented testimony to the License Commission supporting their application to build a structured parking garage on the Mount Vernon Street site for approximately 190 spaces, 88 of which would be reserved (in a very complex manner) for users of Porter Exchange. The remaining 102 or so spaces would support the extensive commercial, retail, and residential development CDIA plans for the Mount Vernon Street site. Many members of the Agassiz neighborhood and Neighborhood Nine (Peabody) presented testimony which argued against the developer's plan. The communities were, and remain, concerned about increased traffic and noise, pollution, accident potential and parking difficulties. The scheme presented by CDIA as to traffic flow and control for this lot was thought by many to be inherently unworkable, potentially dangerous, and vastly impractical. Perhaps CIDA thought so too as they have now applied for a permit to allow structured parking behind Porter Exchange. They have not, however, withdrawn their June application for underground parking on Mount Vernon Street.

The issue of structured parking behind Porter Exchange is an important one for the Agassiz and Neighborhood Nine communities and, indeed for anyone who uses Massachusetts Avenue on a regular basis. All parking for the lot behind Porter Exchange must enter and exit via Roseland Street.

Many people familiar with traffic flow in the area fear that small Roseland Street (which also serves through traffic from Oxford Street) is incapable of handling the burden put on it by even 200 open air spaces; 300 spaces in a structured garage may make the situation beyond control. If there are too many cars attempting to enter and exit via Roseland Street, the fear is that traffic will back up along Massachusetts Avenue (in both directions) and that through traffic will be unable to proceed smoothly if, at times, at all. In addition, as most residents clearly know, traffic which does not flow freely down Massachusetts Avenue often feels free to flow throughout more quiet neighborhood streets.

As of this writing, the License Commission has agreed to continue the hearing for this application until an objective traffic flow study has been done to address some of these issues. The developer's desire to proceed as quickly as possible with garage construction (and, it should be remembered, with subsequent large-scale development on Mount Vernon Street) will have to be weighed against the neighborhoods' need to make certain that CDIA's plans do not result in greatly impaired traffic flow.

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.

TOT LOT UPDATE

Cambridge Community Development has chosen Nick Sacca to be contractor for the Alden Tot Lot. He is scheduled to begin as soon as the DPW finishes their part of the renovation, which is to finish the demolition, install electrical conduits and a light base.

Rob Steck has told us that the playground equipment has been ordered and with the exception of a few details (which must wait for good weather), the park should be ready by December.

As soon as the contractor begins work, a fence will be placed around the site.



Help us find a place for the Agassiz Tree



Each year the Agassiz neighborhood Council buys a tree through the Public Planting Program of the Community Development Department, and it is planted by the city in a location on an Agassiz neighborhood sidewalk in the early spring.

If you have an idea for a good location in the Agassiz neighborhood, please let us know, and we will discuss locations suggested at the October 12th neighborhood council meeting. Call 498-9056.



FREE ENERGY ASSISTANCE



-you may qualify!

- *Weather stripping, caulking, and repairing broken windows, at no cost to you.*
- *Insulate your outside walls, attic, roof or floor at no cost to you.*

**Professional cleaning, tuning, and repairing of your heating system, at no cost to you.*

-Landlords: Your tenants may be eligible

-Save up to 35% of your heating costs

-Be cooler in summer, stay warmer in winter.

This is a year round program. To learn more and to see if you qualify for free energy assistance, call 498-9034, Cambridge Community Development.

Professional energy experts can insulate your home and make your heating system more efficient-at no cost to you if you meet income guidelines.

OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES ?????

Are there local issues that you would like to see the neighborhood council consider? Come to the October 12th meeting, and let the council know what they are. Remember EVERYONE WHO LIVES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS A PART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL.

LESLEY COLLEGE News and Events
October 17

Lecture: "Values Americans Live By," L. Robert Kohls, Ph.D., Executive Director, Washington International Center, author of Survival Kit for Overseas Living, will speak. 4-7 pm, Lesley College, Alumni Hall. RSVP to International Studies Department, 868-9600x163.

WORKSHOPS FOR DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS

If you are a woman who has worked primarily as a homemaker, But now you must become self supporting And if you have had some college education, but are unable to find a position equal to your abilities- If you would like to develop business management skills, But you cannot afford further education at this time- Consider a move forward with

DISCOVERY

a tuition-assisted, part time, graduate level program of Radcliffe College

Open House for prospective students

Friday October 14th, 7 p.m.

Cronkhite Graduate Center, Reception Room
6 Ash St. (corner of Brattle), Cambridge
For further information call 495-8600

CIVIC UNITY SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Civic Unity Committee of Cambridge is currently seeking candidates for the committee to serve a one year term.

Civic Unity Committee, established in 1945, whose purpose is to promote harmonious relationships among the diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds who make up the population of Cambridge.

The Civic Unity Committee carries out its purpose by:

*Assessing, analyzing and evaluating the problems of minority groups.

*Planning programs designed to bring about the maximum degree of understanding and cooperation among the various groups which make up the city.

*Acting as a referral agency to which individuals can bring their problems involving conflict with others.

Individuals interested in serving on the committee should write a statement of interest enclosed with a resume and forwarded to the office of Civic Unity Committee, 57 Inman St., Cambridge, MA 02139. Statements of interest will be reviewed by the members of Civic Unity Committee, who will develop a list of candidates for nomination by the City Manager.

CRIMEWATCH

This is a list of crime in the Agassiz Neighborhood
.....September 1988.....

- Eustis St..... Break and Entry (9/13,9/15)
- Everett St..... Destruction of property (9/5)
- Forest St..... Hit and run property (9/10,9/20)
- Garfield St..... Break and entry (9/13,9/19)
- Gorham St..... Destruction of property (9/12)
- Hammond St..... Destruction of property (9/10,9/19)
- Mass. Ave..... Car theft (9/15) Destruction of property (9/2) Break and entry (9/7) Hit and run property (9/7)
- Mellen St..... Car theft (9/15)
- Museum St..... Bicycle Theft (9/9)
- Oxford St..... Car theft (2 on 9/5,9/9, 9/10); Possession of cocaine(9/10)

Sacramento St. Destruction of property (9/11),
***Last spring there was a man in the neighborhood who had been entering people's yards and in some cases unlocked houses. Stolen were non valuable articles. The man (mid thirties, black, often wearing a hat and pushing a shopping basket) has again been spotted in the neighborhood.

If you are interested in way to secure your home and prevent crime, come to the 10/12 neighborhood council meeting at 7:30. The police will have some information on securing your home and keeping your valuables safe.

ADS * HELP AVAILABLE *** HELP WANTED**

Studio space available. Porter Square near T. \$15 per hour for 1,000 sq ft. basement and darkroom space, too. Presently being cleaned out. Call 547-5024.



YOGA



Kripalu yoga at the Square | On going classes in Kripalu yoga taught by certified teacher Danielle Levi Alvares. Monday at 5:30 or 7 pm. Thursday at 5:30 pm. All welcome. Call for more information at 354-2113

Volunteers Needed:

To visit or phone homebound elderly. The homebound elderly in Cambridge really look forward to a weekly visit from a Friendly Visitor. Meet a new friend- chat, play cards go for short neighborhood walks or out for a cup of coffee. Or join our Telephone Friendship program. Make a difference in their lives and yours. Call Sandra Kahn, Co-ordinator of volunteers, Cambridge Council on Aging, 498-9039.

Community Calendar

- October 6, Thursday Mass Freeze celebrates 25th Anniversary of Limited Test Ban Treaty 7:30 pm 6 Ash St \$25 Donation Call 491-7809
- October 10, Monday Columbus Day No School or afterschool
- October 11, Tuesday Discover Project for Displaced Homemakers
OPEN HOUSE 7 p.m. 6 Ash St. For info call 495-8600
- October 11, Tuesday Agassiz School Improvement Committee Meeting
3 pm Agassiz School (check in office for location)
- October 12, Wednesday Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
7:30, 20 Sacramento St. (see agenda page 1)
- October 18, Tuesday Early Release Day. Public School Closes and
Agassiz Afterschool opens at 12:45 PM
- October 29, Saturday Agassiz Festivities and Fundraiser - Check with school for
upcoming details

THE WHISTLER

October 1988

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

498-9056