

September 1989

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



Neighborhood Council Notes.....

At the Annual Meeting in June, new officers were elected to the neighborhood council's board:

- Chairperson - Karen Vaters
- Vice Chairperson - Ken Basler
- Secretary - Paul Biciunas
- Treasurer - Karen Zahn

We were entertained by the piano music of Ed Wells, and Jody Garber, outgoing chairperson, made the desserts which had to be tasted to be believed. Jody was honored with an engraved gavel for her service, and a baseball book to read in her newly acquired spare time. Also honored was Emily Winston, afterschool teacher who left us after five years. Emily received a monogrammed Agassiz jacket and a plaque. She will continue to work at Joie de Vivre.

The executive board this summer organized several committees which will report back to the neighborhood council during the general business at monthly meetings when there is information to report. Below are listed the ongoing committees (chairpersons if we have them) for the upcoming year. Please call the council office at 498-9056 to join or to just be on the mailing list for any of these committees. We will keep you updated on special meetings, and other information.

Porter Square Development - Chairperson, Jody Garber. This committee will continue to track development in Porter Square. Originally founded when the old Sears building renovations were begun, it is now concentrating on the Mt. Vernon St. site.

next council meeting...

September Council Meeting

Wednesday September 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

20 Sacramento St. (call 498-9056 for information)

Agenda:

- 7:30 p.m. General Business
- 8:00 p.m. Discussion of August 13 flood in neighborhood.

Harvard U Property in Agassiz - Chairperson, Joel Bard. This committee was established in late June to discuss the acquisition of the Quality Inn and Bence Pharmacy block with people in the planning department of Harvard University. In a larger sense the committee would like to see what plans Harvard has for other property in the neighborhood. The first meeting will be scheduled for September.

The Future of Mass. Ave. - Chairperson, Ken Basler. The strip of Mass. Ave. from Harvard Law School to Porter Square is changing. Harvard now owns most of the property up to Wendell St. Porter Square has already changed drastically. Garfield St. can expect major changes soon. Many small businesses are being driven out by developers, new owners and high rents. This committee will look at these changes as a whole to see how they will effect our community and what we can do about them.

Fundraising - Chairperson, Karen Zahn. Everything costs more than in used to, and there are very few sources of money for a neighborhood such as ours. Instead of dropping programs and scholarships, the neighborhood council hopes to find many creative ways to make money.

Oxford St./Roseland St./Beacon St. Bridge This committee will watchdog the rebuilding of the Beacon St. Bridge, try to work toward a plan for the ever increasing traffic as Porter Square continues to be developed, and resolve the danger of certain intersections including Wendell and Oxford Sts.

☠ Cambridge Fire Department Warning ☠

The use of charcoal or gas grilles on porches or decks is forbidden by law in Cambridge. One might well ask why, if there is such a law, it is such a well-kept secret, but perhaps that will change if enough of us ask the question. In the meantime, please do not cook outside on your porch or deck in this congested neighborhood filled with old frame houses. At least one Wendell St building is now condos thanks to the wind-whipped flames of an untended charcoal grille on a rear porch. For any of us who have witnessed fires in this neighborhood, the open flames of your outdoor cooking are scary. Please don't do it.

Porter Arcade Donates \$500

At the grand opening of the Porter Arcadae scheduled for September 8th, a check in the amount of \$500 will be donated to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council to be used for the mural which will be erected in the Alden Tot Lot this fall.

In June Lotus Development granted the council \$1,000 for the same project.

Other Neighborhood Updates.....

Another 25-50 year flood in 4 years !

On Sunday August 13th many Agassiz neighbors were flooded for the second time in 4 years. Those who were flooded this time reported basement water heights of up to 3'. The water came into the houses through cellar doors, windows or backed up through toilets or other plumbing fixtures.

This kind of water will destroy motors in water heaters, furnaces, washers, dryers, and ruin storage of all kinds. For those who use basements as living space, it will permanently destroy walls, furniture, appliances and personal possessions. Clean up is indescribable - sludge, street dirt and an stench that lingers for weeks.

The City of Cambridge advised us that the flood of 1985 was caused by a storm that would occur only every 25-50 years. They further advised us that they were working on a sewer separation project that would enlarge pipes and separate the sanitary waste water pipes from the rain water run off pipes. Some streets already have this convenience, but all streets must have the pipes separated if the street run off and waste water are to stay separated during a major backup.

The city has made progress on the sewer separation project, but it is still only in the design phase. Vice Mayor Wolf has sent us the following information excerpted from the current City of Cambridge Budget:

FY 91-94 FUNDING. The primary focus for the next five years will be the implementation of Phases VI and VII of the Sewer Separation Project. Although the cost of the project has not changed substantially since estimates were developed several years ago (current projections indicate \$19,800,000 will be required to complete both phases of the project), the financing plan for the project has been altered significantly. It was originally projected that \$11,000,000 in federal and state funds would be combined with \$8,800,000 in bond proceeds to provide total funding for the project. However, it now appears that the state will contribute only \$900,000 of the \$1,800,000 required for the design costs. The City has already funded the remaining \$900,000 from the balance of the appropriation for Phases I-V. The total cost of construction, \$18,000,000 will be funded through the issuance of bonds, with the debt service on the bonds paid through sewer service charges. \$13,500,000 of the required \$18,000,000 (an additional \$1,000,000 in bond proceeds is allocated for repairs to miscellaneous sewers) is included in the five-year plan with the remaining \$4,500,000 to be included in the FY 95 Capital Budget. It is anticipated that the loan order will be submitted to the City Council for approval based on the cash flow requirements of the

project. Although the design and engineering phase of the project is substantially complete, it is expected that construction work will not begin until the spring of 1990 due to yet to be resolved complicated engineering problems.

There has been no construction work done on the sewers yet, although street work was done last year around the neighborhood and in Harvard Square. Many people mistakenly thought it was sewer work. As stated in the budget excerpt, phase VI is still in the planning stages. Construction was scheduled to begin this fall, but has been delayed until spring 1990, and it will not reach our neighborhood for at least 2 years. Work will begin at the point where the water is released (the Charles River) and head north to our neighborhood and then to North Cambridge.

In 1985 there were 59 families who responded to neighborhood council inquiries indicating they had experienced flooding. If you have not contacted us please do so. We can send you a questionnaire, or just come to the council meeting on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:30 (discussion on the flood will begin at 8:30 p.m.). We have invited Commissioner Sommers from the Department of Public Works and Vice Mayor Alice Wolf who has been updating the council for the past several years on the sewer separation project's progress. They can answer questions and let us know how the city can help us while we wait for the sewers to work on our streets.

Community Residence at Hammond St.

Last year Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) purchased property on Hammond St. for a residence to house 8 mentally ill adults, which will be run by CASPAR. They had hoped to have the design by now, but there were the customary delays. They will meet September 6th with the Commonwealth and neighborhood representatives to develop a schematic design for the project.

CHA will visit a council meeting later this fall when they have a design, which will not change the house substantially on the outside. There are three neighborhood representatives who have taken part in this process and will continue to do so throughout the project.

Host a Student from Spain or Yugoslavia both to attend CRLS

A host family is needed for a student arriving from Madrid on September 9th who is part of the American Institute's AYA program. He speaks good English, and has visited the U.S. before. Call Andrea Kadomiya at 492-0248.

Also needed is a host for a Yugoslavian boy through American Educational Opportunities. His family is willing to take another student in exchange. Call Sam Donaghe at 206-459-3785.

Tot Lot Clean Up Needed

The Alden Tot Lot is a mess again. Call Rich Curran at 868-0685 if you are interested in a clean up on a Saturday soon.

Agassiz Community School Programs to Open

Afterschool programs will open on Monday September 11th, and Sacramento St. Preschool will open on Wednesday September 13th.

Open house and registration for Sacramento St. Preschool will take place on Friday September 8th at 10-11:30 a.m. There are a few spaces available in this program which meets Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to Noon for children ages 2.9-4 years of age. The program follows the dates of the Cambridge Public School Calendar. For more information on preschool call Dawn Greene at 498-9056.

Registration for Afterschool Activities will take place on Thursday and Friday September 7 and 8th between 2:45-5 p.m. After those dates, call for availability of days. Children in grades K-6 may enroll in this program for one, two or three afternoons per week. Full time programs (five days childcare per week) are filled, but you can be placed on the mailing list. Stop by the community center for a brochure, or call Anne Mahoney at 498-9056 for more information.

Highlights of the afterschool schedule include:

K-4th Grade Activities Term 1 (through December)

(check brochure for specifics)

- Monday:** Sports for 3-4th graders with Sonia Didrikson
Outdoor games with Michael Brown
- Tuesday:** Little Kids Day- Art with Cortney Skinner,
Storytelling with Peter Stroud and
Little Kids Sports with Sonia Didrikson
- Wednesday:** Cartoons and more with Cortney Skinner
Karate with Sensei Trance (Must be 6 years old)
Blender Magic with Michael Brown
- Thursday:** Art Projects with Rich Curran
Cooking with Sarah Doherty
Sports with Sonia Didrikson
- Friday:** Junk Art with Rich Curran
Y Field with Sonia Didrikson
Cards and Parlor Games with Michael Brown

5-6th Grade Activities Term 1 (through December)

(check brochure for dates and times, calendar varies)

- Bookmaking* Monday with Pam Hogan
Basic Cooking Skills Tuesday with Sarah Doherty
Visual Art Workshop Wednesday with Bernie Klim
Karate Wednesday with Sensei Gabriel Trance
Music Improvisation for Kids Thursday with Liz Hamill
Chorus Friday with Ada Snider
Games and Trips Friday with Jen Ansín
Agassiz Afterschool Players Wed, Thurs, Fri with Carol Hantman

Of interest to the neighborhood.....

Cambridge Recycles At Last!

When?

- The second Saturday of every month from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where?

- Sherman St. (behind St. Peter's Field, between Walden-Rindge)
- 147 Inman St. (DPW Yard, east of Inman Sq)

What you can bring?

- Newspapers tied on 4 sides or banded tight in double paper bags
Don't bring junk mail, magazines, or other paper
- Bottles (glass) preferably sorted by color and rinsed
Don't send bottles with caps or any rings of lead or plastic

What else is needed

- Bring drink bottles with deposit due back. Volunteers will turn them in to help fund recycling program

Don't bring cans, plastic, paper that isn't newspaper, styrofoam

How to volunteer?

- Call the Recycling Hotline at 498-9078, leave your name, address and telephone, which site you'd prefer to work at and whether you prefer 8:30-12:30 or 12:30-4:30

Traffic Department studies Forest - Oxford St. intersection

We have a memo from George Teso, Traffic Director, to City Manager Robert Healy (courtesy of Alice Wolf) stating that an accident and traffic study was made for the intersection:

"The studies showed that our enforcement program did reduce the number of reported accidents from eight in 1987 to 4 in 1988 and presently 3 have been reported in the first six months of 1989.

It is our opinion that even with the strict enforcement of parking at this intersection, the drivers on Oxford St. are not aware of the cross street traffic. To make this a safer intersection we will install signing warning motorists of this dangerous intersection and will in 1989 install an overhead warning beacon."

(Next we will ask the traffic department to study Wendell)

Voter Registration

The Ward 7 Democratic Committee is continuing voter registration outreach. To volunteer, or for information, call Bill August, 491-1018 (evenings). The last day for voter registration is Wed. Oct. 18. The Peabody School will be open for voter registration between 6-9 p.m. on October 2, 5, 12, 16. Sidewalk registration will be held through September 30, every Wed. 3:45-6:45 p.m. at the Porter Sq. T and every Saturday, 10:45 a.m. - 1:45 next to Tags in Porter Square Shopping Center.

September Community Calendar

- 9/7 Thursday Cambridge Public Schools First Day
- 9/7, 9/8 Thurs and Fri..... Registration part time Afterschool Activities Program
2:45-5 p.m. for grades K-6
- 9/8 Friday..... Open house and registration Sacramento St. Preschool
20 Sacramento St. Cambridge. Call 498-9056 for info.
- 9/11 Monday..... Agassiz Community School Afterschool First Day
- 9/13 Wednesday..... Sacramento St. Preschool- First Day
- 9/13 Wednesday..... Agassiz School Improvement Committee
3 p.m. Agassiz School - Resource Room
- 9/13 Wednesday..... Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
7:30 p.m. 20 Sacramento St.
- 9/21 Thursday Public school half day, afterschool opens 12:45 p.m.

ADS* HELP AVAILABLE* HELP WANTED

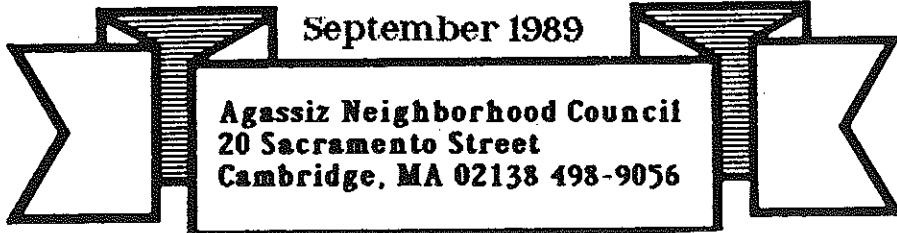
The Yoga Experience-A twelve week course in Kripalu Yoga, taught by certified teacher Danielle Levi Alvarez at the First Church, 11 Garden St. Cambridge. For every age and condition. Classes begin:

- Tuesday September 19th 12:30-1:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday September 20th 5:15-6:15 p.m.
 - Thursday September 21st 6:45-7:45 p.m.
- For information and fees call 354-2113.

Penpal Wanted by girl in Sri Lanka-Priyanthi Guruge, 17, would like to correspond in English with someone between the ages of 13-18. Call Astrid Dodds, 354-6553 for more info.

Used Magnavox Videowriter for sale: low budget word processor for junior high student. Can insert, delete, move and copy and more, with a 50,000 word dictionary. Cost \$775 in 1986, is yours for \$200 or best offer. Call Astrid Dodds at 354-6553.

THE WHISTLER September 1989



Order a calendar from the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Help us fund our programs (including *The Whistler* which everyone receives free) and purchase a calendar. For \$5 plus \$1 postage and handling you can receive a calendar from October 89 through December 1990. It will feature photos of children around Cambridge, childrens art, and work from our afterschool art teachers. It will include a Cambridge Public School Calendar, important Cambridge City Phone numbers, and more.

.....
 PLEASE SEND ME A CAMBRIDGE CALENDAR FOR 1990. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR \$6. to include postage and handling. Calendar will be mailed sometime in October.

Name _____

Street _____

City State Zip _____