

the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

February 1980

COMMUNITY NOTICES

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, Wednesday, February 13th, 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz School library.

FEBRUARY RELEASE DAY, Thursday, February 14th. Half-day of school. No After-School Activities Program. After-School Day Care Program runs from 12:30 to 6:00. There will be a Drama Class for 4th and 5th graders, in the Community Center, as usual.

ENERGY WORKSHOPS at the AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CENTER, Saturday, February 16th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 20 Sacramento St. (see article below).

AGASSIZ WINTER VACATION, Friday, February 15 - Sunday, February 24. Schedule of Community School Activities will be passed out through school. After-School Day Care Program will run from 8:30 to 12:00, daily, Tuesday through Friday.

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TEMPORARY RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION MORATORIUM

Keeping up with the real estate dealings of the local universities and colleges is fast becoming a full-time job. As most of you are aware, in November Harvard University sold four residential units to Lesley College. The four units all are located in the C-I zone created last year by the Cambridge City Council. (They down-zoned the area from C-3 to C-I.) After two years of difficult negotiations between neighborhood residents, Lesley College, and the City of Cambridge, the hope by neighborhood residents was that the small portion of

MORATORIUM, Cont.

housing between Wendell St. and Mel-len St., which was down-zoned to C-I, would be saved as residential housing while Lesley would be allowed to build on the adjacent parcel at the Oxford St. end of the block.

Throughout the negotiations Lesley College presented plans that only showed new construction at the Oxford Street end of the block, but stated they needed the flexibility to expand to Mass. Avenue if future needs dictated. The community, on the other hand, presented a strong case for residential housing needs, neighborhood identity, and Lesley's questionable commitment to the City of Cambridge and especially to the Agassiz neighborhood. When the dust settled a compromise had been reached which neither side liked in its entirety, but which the neighborhood accepted as a step towards creating area stability.

Lesley did not accept the compromise, adopting the same attitude that Harvard works under that "what's best for the university (in this case, college) is what's best for the community". A deal between the two institutions was finalized and Lesley grew to include four more residential buildings in November of last year.

During the summer of 1979 the Mass. State Legislature adopted into law a statute that would allow the City of Cambridge "to regulate and restrict the use of land or structures for religious or educational purposes...within all residentially zoned districts..." This new act applies to all C-1 zoned areas of the city. For the first time in history the City of Camb. will have the ability to regulate the future growth of in-

MORATORIUM, Cont.

stitutions, especially in residential neighborhoods. The City's Community Development Dept. is in the process of drafting an order to be debated and voted at City Council but this order will not be ready until March or April. In the mean time the Lesley's recent purchase threatens not only the integrity of our neighborhood but the homes of those living in the affected buildings.

On Feb. 11 the Cambridge City Council will act on a petition by this neighborhood to impose a moratorium on institutional conversion or demolition involving any building located in a C-1 zone. If passed this would safe-guard tenants and protect affected neighborhoods from any sudden moves by the institutions to convert units before the new order is readied and voted on.

Come to the City Council meeting on Feb. 11 and show your support for your neighbors along with your concern for any more institutional expansion in this area. If you need a ride or would like any more information call 498-9056.

Agassiz Community Center becomes The Energy House

The Agassiz Community School in cooperation with Lieut. Governor Tom O'Neil City of Cambridge Community Development Dept., The Energy Bank, and with Harvard University funding the first stage of the project, will be converting the present Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. into an energy efficient model of conservation improvements. With technical assistance provided by the Cambridge based The Energy Bank we will begin a step-by-step process of making energy conserving improvements to the community center. The goal is two-fold: to save money on the heat costs which are approaching \$3000; and to develop an in-process exhibit for Cambridge residents to observe the work as it is done, to take part in the planned hands-on workshops, get reliable information applicable to their own home or apartment.

The first planned event is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16. This will be the big kick-off extravaganza with Tom O'Neil, the Lt. Governor; Jim Sullivan, the Camb. City Manager; Frank Duehay, the new Mayor and a number of other "important" people getting together between 9 and 10 AM for the opening ceremonies. Given the election year and all, Tom will probably arrange for suitable press coverage too. At 10 AM The Energy Bank will begin a series of workshops that will cover:

1. A general overview of energy conservation and an explanation of terms and concepts.
2. How to insulate basement pipes.
3. How to check out your furnace and run an efficiency check on it.
4. Weatherstripping doors and windows
5. Attic insulation. (they will be insulating the attic during the day with a blown in material)
6. Solar window greenhouses you can make
7. Hot Water heater testing and shower head conversions

The above is a sampling of what will be happening on Feb. 16. Come early and meet the politicians, have a cup of coffee with your neighbors, learn about ways to conserve energy in your home or apartment, have a good time. For more information call the Agassiz Community School at 498-9056

DROP-IN PLAY GROUP 20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, Mass.

An informal setting for parents and children, (infants and toddlers) every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

For more information, call 491-7023 (Carol)
924-1865 (Madeleine)

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