COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEETING, October 5, 8-10 p.m. at
the Agassiz Community Center

CAMBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD HEARING,
Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 p.m., call
498-9056 for location.

OCTOBER RELEASE DAY, Wednesday,
October 26. School is out at
12:30. After-school begins at
12:30 on Release Days.

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is
the governing body of this
eighborhood. The primary function
of the Council is to oversee the
Agassiz Community School programs,
to ensure that the programming
speaks to the needs of the
community, and to bring new needs
for programming to light when they
develop.

The Council is also the forum for
addressing other issues relating to
the "quality of life" in the
Agassiz community. Issues such as:
zoning, neighborhood safety, hous-
ing, and the relations between
neighboring universities and the
community are routinely taken up in
these meetings. The Council meets
once a month and is open to all
members of the Agassiz community.

The Community School office is in
the Agassiz Community Center at 20
Sacramento Street. Telephone:
498-9056.

NOTES FROM THE NIEGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEETING (9/14/83): Sacramento
Field has come through the summer
in good condition. The Agassiz
Neighborhood Council is concerned
that the field remain in good
condition for many years to come.

A liaison from the Council will be
consulting with people who are in
the business of maintaining playing
fields and will report to the
Council about what an industry
maintenance program for Sacramento
Field would cost.

Garfield Street Lot - Joel Bard
reported that a motion had been
introduced, then tabled, at the
Cambridge City Council meeting on
Monday, September 12, concerning
the MBTA-owned lot at Garfield St.
The motion introduced by Councillor
Lenny Russell, proposed having the
city acquire the lot for open
space. Councillor David Sullivan,
aware of the on-going neighborhood
planning process to look at the
possible use of the lot for
subsidized housing, had the motion
delayed. Joel said he would talk
to both councillors and other
interested city officials and, if
necessary, attend the next City
Council meeting to explain the
neighborhood process to date. (At
the September 19th City Council
meeting, the Council voted to have
the city officials work with the
Agassiz neighborhood on the pos-
sible use of this site for
subsidized housing.)
See PLANNING NOTES for more on this
subject.

GEORGIE'S BAR - The bar, a Mass.
Ave. establishment, was closed by
the Cambridge Licensing Board for a
period of 15 days. The reason for
this temporary suspension of
license was that the Cambridge
police found persons in the bar
"after hours" on two occasions.

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP

The Planning Group is a committee
of the Agassiz Neighborhood
Council. It is a forum for
discussion of general land-use and
development issues of concern to the neighborhood. The group exists to develop and pursue ideas in this area and also to react to public, private, and institutional proposals for development in or near Agassiz.

The group meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.

On September 21, the Planning Group discussed a new proposal to build townhouses on the parking lot and surrounding lots abutting it. The proposal is as follows:

6 townhouses on parking lot
2 townhouses on adjacent lot on Frost Street
5 parking spaces on one Newport Road lot
"tot lot"/open space on the other Newport Road lot
The proposal requires a Special Permit and Variance from the city.

At the Planning Group meeting, area residents expressed concern that the proposal was overly dense, would take away on-street parking spots, and would diminish neighborhood safety. Someone volunteered to talk to the developers, but residents were preparing to attend a Cambridge Planning Board Hearing to protest, if necessary. The hearing is on Tuesday, October 4, at 7:30 p.m. at 57 Inman Street.

Residents discussed circulating a petition expressing neighborhood opposition. Call the Community Center at 498-9056 for more information.

The Planning Group at its next meeting will continue to discuss the two topics which were its focus last year:

-MBTA-owned lot at Garfield St. & Mass. Ave.: Current neighborhood objectives are (1) 35-foot height limit, (2) some commercial space along Mass. Ave., and (3) subsidized housing for families. This has been a subject of discussion for many months. No decisions have been made. Additional neighborhood involvement is needed. The MBTA still owns the lot. The city (Community Development Department) would like to hold a neighborhood meeting on this subject during the fall.

- Downzoning Mass. Ave.: Zone in question runs from Chauncy St. to Sears and is 200-feet wide. Current zoning allows 80-foot buildings (with residential use) and floor-area-ratio (FAR) of 1.75. Group objective is to lower height to 35 feet and to diminish FAR (i.e., allowable density). We will be exploring use of an "incentive" zoning system allowing developers to build larger (slightly) if they meet certain criteria.
Voucher Day Care
Demonstration Project

Child Care Resource Center

1. Call us at the Child Care Resource Center. We have up-to-date listings of licensed day care centers, nursery schools, after-school programs and family day care homes in the greater Boston area. If you are eligible for a voucher, we can refer you to participating programs.

2. Next, visit some day care homes or centers and choose the one you prefer. (We can help you think about how to observe and evaluate the programs you visit, and to decide which one suits you best.)

3. Call us at 542-4692 to make an appointment to come in to our office to get your voucher. Be sure to call for an appointment before you come in!

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING WITH YOU TO GET YOUR VOUCHER:

-- If you are an AFDC recipient, or if you were cut off from AFDC within the past 30 days:
   A. Go to your Financial Assistance Worker (at your Welfare office) for a referral to the Work/Training Program (WTP) for Voucher Day Care.
   B. Then go to the WTP office for an "Authorization of Eligibility" (DC-1 form) for Voucher Day Care.
   C. Bring with you: 1) the Authorization of eligibility, 2) documentation of income, and 3) documentation of AFDC status. (For example, your current paycheck stub, AFDC grant letter, or the letter or print-out which notified you that your AFDC is being reduced or cut off.)

-- If you have been referred to us by the Department of Social Services, you must bring your DSS referral form (SOC-9).

EVERYONE must bring:

Proof of address
Social security numbers of all family members
Birth dates of all family members
Documentation of all income

ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR VOUCHER
Take your voucher to the day care provider you have chosen. You will pay a portion of the cost (on a sliding scale, based on your income). The minimum fee is 60¢ per day for after-school care, and $1.00 per day for full-time care. You will be able to stay on this voucher program until you are able to afford the full cost of care.

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The Council on Aging is now offering the Telephone Reassurance Program as one of its community outreach services to Cambridge elders. In this program, volunteers make daily phone calls to elderly people who live alone and are in frail health or who want the social contact. An emergency procedure is agreed upon ahead of time by the caller and the client, in the event that there is no answer to an expected call. For many people, these calls provide security and perhaps the only regular link to the outside world. Often the callers are elderly people, some homebound themselves, who enjoy being able to contribute this most valuable service. For more information call Phyllis Kornfeld at The Council On Aging, 498-9039.

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Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs
AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, Ma. 02138