

AGASSIZ WHISTLER

OCTOBER 1972

A NOTE FROM THE RETIRING COORDINATOR
By Richard E. Mumma

For a year and a month, from October 1, 1971 to October 26, 1972, I have been Administrative Coordinator of the Agassiz Community School. I have had an illuminating and enlarging experience and I am grateful for it. The Agassiz Neighborhood Council has had an enlarging experience also. It has organized itself to be even more reflective of neighborhood concerns and interests than it has so excellently in the past. Mr. Millard Long is the new Chairman of the Council. I am confident we have a good future.

Old friends and neighbors will be interested to know that while I have resigned from Agassiz, I have applied for the vacant position of Director of Cambridge Community Schools and that my application, with others, is in process of being considered. I hope to continue to serve Community Schools on a city-wide basis.

I shall continue as a very interested member of the Agassiz Council. I cordially invite all residents of the neighborhood to take advantage of the service and opportunities that are available because the Community School Program exists and I urge them to support and call on Ken Basler, Janet Kaplan and Kitty Gulinello as they seek to fulfill our desires and interests with the resources we have at hand.

NEW FALL PROGRAMS AFTER-SCHOOL

The after-school program is expanding rapidly. There are several new activities -- all of which have openings.

Creative movement (see Sept. Whistler for description) is now offered in 3 classes.

Tues. 2:30 - 3:30 -- ages 7 & 8

Tues 4:00 - 5:00 -- ages 9-14

Thurs. 2:30 - 3:15 -- ages 5&6

Classes cost \$1.00 per session to pay the teacher but kids can attend whether they can pay or not.

Drama -- For kids from 2nd through 8th grade. Class to write and perform in a play. It meets Wed. & Thurs. from 2:30 to 5:00 at 63 Wendell St. The cost is \$1.00 per week, but people who cannot pay are still encouraged to join. There is a limited number of openings.

English as a Second Language -- A class for adults who want to learn to speak English or who want to practice their conversation skills. No charge and meets Tuesdays 2:30 - 4:00.

Sports -- For kids ages 9 - 14. Meets Thursdays from 4 - 5. The gym is open and a teacher available for older kids to play hockey, basketball or whatever else. No charge.

ZONING LAWS CHANGE by Allan Korb

During the summer the residents of this area were informed that an eleven story luxury apartment house for 104 families was to be on Prentiss and constructed by the Debra Realty Trust if the zoning board would grant the almost one hundred percent variances required.

This is how the people in this district became aware of the danger of turning these streets into many high rise buildings once a foothold was gained. It prompted us to organize both tenants and home owners to object to such a detrimental effect on our neighborhood. As a group we successfully stopped the proposed high rise when we appeared in force before the Zoning Board in July.

The disadvantages of buildings too high and too dense for this residential area are many.

1. The squeezing of as many people as possible into each apartment because of the expensive rental.
2. The constant noise resulting from such density.
3. The added air pollution of hundreds (maybe even thousands) of additional cars.
4. The increase of traffic down the quieter side streets to avoid the busier main ones.
5. The encouraging of the destruction of older buildings (instead of rehabilitating and maintaining) to build more profitable and expensive apartments which do not come under rent control.

Now we are applying for a zoning change from C2 which allows buildings up to eighty-five feet to C1 which allows up to approximately thirty-five feet, since builders very often will be allowed a small variation. Most of the area from the Somerville line to Oxford Street are in C1. We want the side streets from Oxford Street to Mass. Ave. (and Oxford Street except those beyond Hammond) which are now in C2 to conform with those of C1 so that we can preserve the desired characteristics of the Agassiz neighborhood. The Historical Society lists about three houses of historical interest in this area and they are in favor of the zoning change. If you have not already signed our petition, we would appreciate your doing so by calling at 114 Oxford Street. A preliminary hearing before the Planning Board is to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 7:30 in City Council Chambers. This is for a preliminary recommendation to the City Council for action. We will need community support to appear with us at the City Hall when the petition comes before the Council. Look here and in other local newspapers for the announcement of the exact date. In the meantime, please write to as many Councillors as you can to tell them you are in favor of the zoning change from C2 to C1 by Richard Hodgdon, et al. Thank you.

FROM THE NEW TEEN/ADULT COORDINATOR

By
Ken Basler

NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL MEETINGS

"What is happening within this community?" is a question I am hearing more and more from residents concerned with one or more of the problems now besetting this community. Will Harvard eventually own the entire community? Can we stop the increasing breaking and entry crime? Why can't we have open classrooms in the school? There is not enough discipline in the Agassiz school. All are real concerns that affect people on a day to day basis, but they are also concerns that people feel powerless to deal with. When a crisis arises somebody always seems to be able to handle it but maybe it is not enough to go from crisis to crisis. This is especially true when there is no observable growth within the community. There is no way to overcome apathy, frustration and escapism unless we experience that our decisions are important... that our involvement is critical... and that our freedom to control what happens to us possible.

Involvement is what community schools is all about and maybe we can begin to offer no only a forum to vent frustration but to turn that frustration into positive action. Let's start taking a look at this community and see what we can do to make it into just that - a community. Come to the next Community Schools Council meeting and get together with other concerned residents and start on solutions not just complaints. And don't forget to vote on Nov. 7th.

Neighborhood Council meetings of the Agassiz Community School, are held the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will take place in the Agassiz library 8PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8. Everyone is invited!

Proposed Agenda

- * Budget Planning - How Should We Spend \$5200.? The Council will begin to decide how to spend the budget for the next 18 months. There will be reports on what has been done in the past and discussion of future plans. All ideas from the community are welcome.
- * Planning of Winter Activities - We need to plan activities for the next 4 months. In the past special winter programming has not been very successful. We hope people will come with ideas about what we should or could be doing.
- * Locating a Community Center - At present some community schools activities are held in the school and others in different places of the neighborhood (most notable the Playgroup at the North Congregational Church). Many ideas are afloat about ways to bring all the activities together in a community center: renting, buying, getting a space loaned to us. Come and explore this with us.
- * New Business

The Agassiz Community School number is 876-9268. Please feel free to call us after 2:00 if you have any questions!

WORK-STUDY STUDENTS

Beliot College in Beliot, Wis. operates a variation of the work-study program called the "Field Term". The Field Term is a four month period during which a student is placed in a community to work. He or she either gets paid or receives room and board in exchange for whatever the work is. Beloit is now looking for places for its students to work. There are three terms: winter (early Jan. to mid April), summer (early May to mid Aug.) and fall (early Sept. to mid Dec.).

If someone in the Agassiz community could provide room and board for one Beloit student, one or he would be available to work as a teaching assistant/recreational aide/community worker or whatever on a FULL-TIME basis--a good deal for the student (in view of the learning experience involved) and a good deal for the community (in view of the energy and talent obtained at low cost).

If anyone feels he could offer room and board to a student or could suggest some other workable arrangement, please call Janet after 2:30, Mon.-Thurs. 876-9268

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YOGA

Every Thursday from 7:00-9:30. There is no charge and it's being done by the Ananda Marga Society. Come and find out what it's all about at the Agassiz Community School.

GUITAR

If you are interested in learning to play the guitar and you are just beginning, we have a teacher who is willing to develop a small class. It starts this Thursday from 6:30-7:30. There will be a small charge. Call the school for more information after 2:30 P.M.

BULLETIN BOARD

The Lochness Monster is alive and well! Tune into the pedestrian press for more information.

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BRIDGE and CHESS

Anyone interested in getting together for bridge--games or matches, call Bob Brown 868-8548.

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FOLKDANCE

One event during Community Schools Week was so much fun we've decided to do it again. Tom Blumenthal will teach simple folkdances on TUESDAY, NOV. 21. There will be refreshments, music and dances everyone can enjoy. If you aren't sure about dancing, come and watch.

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VOLUNTEER NEIGHBORS

Would you be interested in being a volunteer for neighbors who become ill for a short time, to help them get on their feet? If so--call Ginny at 876-5096 or Janet at Agassiz Community School 876-9268.

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SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed in Cambridge schools to tutor elem. school children (K-3) in remedial reading program. No previous training or experience necessary. We will train you. EDCO Reading & Learning Center 124 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge Call 661-1900.

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To place ads or notices in The Whistler, call or write:

Agassiz Community School
28 Sacramento St.,-Camb.
876-9268

WHISTLER WANT ADSFor Sale

SNOW TIRE - 5.60 X 15 Delta (fits V.w. Bug and others). \$7.00.
Call 666-1715.

SUPPER STEEL BED (Hollywood frame, box spring, firm mattress and pine headboard), excellent condition. \$50.00 - will haggle or trade for waterbed. 876-3472.

Cobbler treadle SEWING MACHINE (for leather) - needs a little work. \$35.00. 666-1715.

Elegant Afganistani womens' LEATHER EMBROIDERED COATS (from entire sheepskin) - \$75.00, small size. Also FUR HATS - \$3-5). 864-9159.

6 ARABIA-RUSKA cups and saucers, hardly ever used, in perfect condition. ½ price or best offer. Call Phyllis Kornfeld, 864-9081.

Portable SINGER SEWING MACHINE. About \$40. Good condition. 547-8429.

Tall narrow white METAL CABINET. Good condition. Best offer. 876-0642 after 4.

4 matched KITCHEN CHAIRS. Also attractive LAMP TABLE. Best offer takes one or all. Call Joe at 864-4147 evenings and Sundays.

Cambridge 3 BEDROOM SINGLE with small garden near Agassiz elem. school. For sale by owner - in 50's. 491-7312

Think about RABBITS -- more next month!

Wanted

Large DOWN COMFORTER. Charles - 666-1715.

I need MATTRESS TICKING - got any? I could trade for other things. Sylvia - 666-1715.

MAN for cleaning and odd jobs - one ½ day each week, \$3.00/hr. 491-3455 (leave message).

CAR or VAN in excellent mechanical condition (or may need minor repairs.) Can pay up to \$400. Call Harriet - 666-4829.

Old TRANSISTOR RADIO PARTS - to use with kids in making a radio. Call Janet at Agassiz Community School - 666-9527.

Babysitter for 6 year old. Evenings. \$1.00/hr. Call 876-5954.

For Rent

5 ROOM APT. Wendell St - \$205 monthly. Call 547-8429.