COMMUNITY EVENTS

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, Wednesday, October 11, 8:00 P.M. in the school library.

MELLON STREET DOWNZONING, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 9:00 P.M. - public hearing before the Planning Board in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

MELLON STREET DOWNZONING, Thursday, Oct. 19, 7:00 P.M. - public hearing before the City Council Ordinance Committee, in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

COLUMBUS DAY, Monday, Oct. 9. No School


AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

The K-3rd Grade Program is well underway with a daily enrollment of 50 to 60 children. Both Smiley Winter and Diane Williams are back for a second year.

(Many thanks to Annie Ashley who filled in during September.) We now have four work-study students working with us, as well, so our full schedule of weekly activities will be finalized in the next week or so (including sports for the younger children, the Third Grade Club, Science Clubs, etc.) Gymnastics classes with Robin White are also underway. There are a couple of spaces in the beginners' class. If you would like to enroll your child in this class, speak to Julie Snow any afternoon during after-school.

We need these items for our program. If you have any of them and would like to bring them in, we'd appreciate it:

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS (CONT'D)

- broom sticks
- liquid detergent bottles (with covers)
- clear plastic containers (with covers)
- old BIC pen
- old strings of beads, needles, etc.
- styrofoam meat trays
- corks

AGASSIZ AFTER-SCHOOL II - GRADES 4 - 8 - The 4-8th graders' After-School program this year consists of classes and sports, but these will be no drop-in. The following is a listing of classes and times set up so far. Complete descriptions and registration forms have been distributed through the school. If you need these forms or any other information, call Ken Basler at 876-9268, Mon-Fri, 2:30-5:30.

Monday - Needlepoint
          Embroidery
          Woodworking

Tuesday - Cooking
          Drawing and Cartooning
          Painting
          Gymnastics
          Piano Class

Wednesday - Indoor Gardening Club
             Cooking
             Judo

Thursday - Photography
           Swimming

Friday - Batiking
        Macrame
COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS (CONT'D)

The following sports will be offered through the intramural sports department of the school system. If interested, speak to the appropriate teacher:

Girls basketball - Mr. Michelski
Boys basketball - Mr. Madden
Flag football - Mr. Scaglioni
Soccer - Ms. Campbell
Gymnastics - Ms. Campbell

Evening gym sports will begin in November.

EVENING PROGRAM

Monday - The Little Orchestra rehearsals 7:30-9:30
Visitors welcome.

Thursday - Adult Volleyball
8:00 p.m. in gym

Evening basketball and gym hockey will begin in November.

MELLON STREET DOWN-ZONING (CONT'D)

The failure of the Council to act in June resulted from a series of parliamentary moves that took place during that month. In early June it appeared that the seven votes necessary for the compromise plan were there. Councillors Duehay, Graham, Frisoli, Velucci, Wylie, Danehy, and Preusser backed the City compromise, while Councillors Sullivan and Crane favored retaining the C-3 zoning (dense development). On two regularly scheduled Council meetings in June, the compromise plan was up for a role, but on one occasion Councillor Frisoli (for reasons unrelated to our petition) was not voting at all, while on the second attempt Mayor Danehy became ill and had to leave before the issue came up. The Mayor called a special meeting of the Council on behalf on Friday, June 30th for the express purpose of ordaining the compromise plan. At considerable inconvenience to themselves several Councillors changed their holiday plans at the last moment to attend. However, only six of the seven necessary councillors appeared (Frisoli did not) so the Council adjourned without taking up the matter.

(see attached map for ReZoning information, p. 3)

Don't forget to come to City Hall on Thursday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.
First an overview: The term red-line extension refers to the federally funded $440 million extension of the subway from Harvard Square to Alewife Brook Parkway. As proposed it will go in a deep bore tunnel from Harvard Square to Porter Sq. where there is to be a new station, then it will continue the deep bore to Davis Sq. for another new station. From Davis Sq. it will be cut and cover tunnel following the R.R. right of way back into N. Camb. across Mass. Ave. near the trolley yards and all the way down to Russel Field. There it will cut across the northern third of the field and go under Alewife Brook Parkway where it will terminate near the Route 2 rotary. The project will take at least 5 years to complete. So, where does Agassiz fit into all of this? Right in the middle.

Last Spring residents in the Agassiz neighborhood discovered that the MBTA had purchased the property on the corner of Mass. Ave. and Garfield St. At a meeting with the city planning dept. we were assured that the purchase was for the construction of a vent shaft and emergency exit for the tunnel beneath. Although the construction would take place in front of the house it would not be damaged and would be sold upon completion of the vent shaft. A minor inconvenience to the neighborhood compared with what other areas faced.

Well, this minor inconvenience changed very quickly to a major and serious impact on the Agassiz neighborhood. From a simple vent shaft we now are faced with a major staging area. This means that the MBTA want to tear down the existing house, use the lot for storage of equipment and use the vent shaft tunnel as an excavating hole from which most of the tunnel debris will come out of the ground at Garfield St., by means of a three story tall crane, will be loaded into dump trucks and hauled up Mass. Ave. to Porter Sq. It may also necessitate the closing of at least one lane on Mass. Ave.

Residents have met with the MBTA, City officials, Harvard University and merchants in an attempt to deal with this serious problem. Our first plan was to save the house by having the MBTA use the property as it first intended. If this could not be accomplished we requested that the MBTA move the house back on the site for the duration of the construction period and then return it to its original foundation. Our third course of action was to request the MBTA to move the house to another site in the area and then move it back.

The MBTA has rejected the first two options because they need the whole site for construction. The impact to the neighborhood during the next
**ED-LINE EXTENSION (CONT'D)**

Two - five years may be devastating. The third option is now being considered. The community has indicated that the two sites in the area that would be acceptable for the temporary moving of building would be the parking lot on Sacramento St. or the back lot adjacent to the existing site overlooking Sacramento Field. Both sites are owned by Harvard. Harvard has indicated to the city that neither site is acceptable but proposed a third site in the neighborhood. Where else but the community gardens site. Once again the community is caught in the middle of a power struggle. The MBTA needs the site to keep to its time schedule with little regard to neighborhood impact. The neighborhood and the city faces the loss of one more fine old home to be replaced at a future time with a brick store front. Harvard is presented a chance to help with little or not cost to them and they play games by promising a site that this neighborhood hopes to turn into a park.

**PLAYGROUP FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN**

A number of mothers in the Agassiz neighborhood are forming an informal playgroup for preschool children. A place to meet other parents and have your children play with other children especially during the winter months. The Agassiz Community School is providing space in their new building at 20 Sacramento St. (formally Sanctuary). This group will meet every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 12:00 and all are welcome. If you would like more information call Ada at 661-2961 or Nella at 547-5399.

**AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CENTER (CONT'D)**

for 20 Sacramento St. This building was used last by the program when it was leased to Sanctuary. Sanctuary has gone out of business and the council was able to negotiate a lease with Harvard. Although it provides for much space it is a large responsibility. Let's hope we can do it. More on this at the council meeting.

**DISCUSSIONS FOR PARENTS OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN (K-12)**

A group for parents in the Agassiz neighborhood to share concerns, problems and survival techniques with the goal of helping one another to cope with the complexities and frustrations of parenting. Group facilitated by Joan Schulman and Steven Keats, practising counselors experienced in leading parent groups. Eight 1 1/2 hour meetings, one evening a week for eight weeks. (day and time to be announced, determined according to needs of group members) $40.00 for eight meetings. Sign-up deadline: Oct. 13. Group will begin in October. Call 547-8970 or 782-9637 for more information.

**MUSIC CLASSES FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS**

A class for young children learning to enjoy, and make their own music. Every Thursday morning from 10:00 - 11:00 at the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. $1.00 per class. For more information call Ada at 661-2961.

**AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CENTER**

The Agassiz Community Council has signed a one year lease with Harvard University
In our ongoing efforts to turn Sacramento Field and the Community Garden site into the much needed open space this community deserves we have hit a temporary delay. The City has just finished with two appraisals of the land. This is the first step toward taking the land by eminent domain from Harvard University. Unfortunately the two appraisals were $200,000 apart. This means that the City will have to seek a third appraisal and more lost time.

Harvard, in the meantime, has not given up the notion of holding on to the field. They have presented to the neighborhood and the City a new plan. Rather than build on the field new construction as they have proposed in the past, they would move four or five houses from other parts of Cambridge onto the field. This would be in keeping with the "nature of the neighborhood."

This new housing would be for jr. faculty. In exchange for the use of the field they would sell to the city the property from 20 Sacramento St. down to the school. The City would then tear down the six
SACRAMENTO FIELD (CONT'D)

houses involved and create a park adjacent to the Agassiz School. (See map, p. 5). What do you think? Come to the Council Meeting and share your thoughts.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Wanted to buy: a set of bunk beds. Please call Phyllis, 864-9081 Eves, or 547-3752 Days.

For Sale: (1) attractive child-size bed, handmade of wood with extra-thick and firm foam mattress; guard rail on one side. Perfect for child's first bed.

(2) Old G.E. washer, still works but going fast. Someone might want it for parts. Best offer. Call Phyllis, 864-9081 Eves, 547-3752 Days.