COMMUNITY EVENTS

SACRAMENTO STREET GALLERY OPENING: FAVORITE THINGS: Home Made Toys and Other Objects for Children, Past and Present. Friday, Dec. 4th, 8-10 p.m., 20 Sacramento Street.

TEA AND COFFEE HOUR FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, Monday, Dec. 7, 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the North Congregational Church (corner of Mass. Ave. and Roseland St.).

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz School library.

DECEMBER RELEASE DAYS: Thurs., Dec. 10 and Tues., December 15. THE DECEMBER 10th MOVIE AT THE PEABODY SCHOOL IS "RETURN FROM WITCH MOUNTAIN", 1:00 p.m., 50¢ per child. (Parents of kids in After-School Program (K-4), please remember that the program closes at 4:30 on these days!)

CHRISTMAS VACATION - Weds., Dec. 23 at 12:30 through Sun., Jan. 3.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS, CONT.

- begin to formulate new programming ideas to meet these needs.
- continue to serve as a neighborhood forum for such issues as:
  - neighborhood safety
  - open space planning
  - relations between the community and neighboring institutions
  - neighborhood beautification
  - housing

In the coming year, the Department of Human Service Programs (of which the Agassiz Community School is a part) faces new budgetary cuts. It will be essential to have a strong, supportive neighborhood council in operation at that time so that citywide support for DHSP programs will be evident in every neighborhood!

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of every month at 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz School library. Everyone in the Agassiz School District is eligible to become a member of the Council.

ELECTIONS*ELECTIONS*ELECTIONS*ELECTIONS

The following nominations now exist for officers in the new year:

Council Chairperson - Joel Bard
Ken Reeves

Council Vice-Chairperson- Karen Tarter
Treasurer - Linda Brion-Meisels

We need nominations for a Secretary. The Secretary takes notes at Council meetings and helps to write up the minutes for the monthly Whistler.

In order to vote in the January
COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS, CONT.

elections, it is necessary to have attended at least one previous Council meeting since September. If you would like to vote in the January elections, and you haven't been to a Council meeting this fall, you must attend the December 9th Council meeting.

Other items on the December agenda will include:

1. A second presentation from Peter Helwig of the Community Development Department on the planned renovations for Sacramento Field.
2. A second presentation by Dennis Carlone, consultant to the Community Development Department, on possible design solutions to the problems of the Agassiz neighborhood/Lesley College interface.
3. Further reports on efforts by the Council "Tot Lot Subcommittee" to improve the uses made of the Tot Lot (by additional police patrols, lighting, posting, etc.)

Please consider joining the Council now. With a new mandate from the Department of Human Service Programs which increases the power and importance of neighborhood councils, this could be an exciting year to become actively involved in the Agassiz Council!

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

Here is a schedule of our Christmas Vacation special events:

MONDAY, December 28

JUST AROUND THE CORNER 7:00-3:30
THEATER GROUP FREE
at the Peabody School.
K-6th grades.
(Meet at Agassiz School at 1:15 to walk over; back by 4:00)
Limit: 25 kids.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS, CONT.

TEEN ROLLER SKATING 5:00-7:00
at the Bal-A-Roue $2.00
12 and over.
(meet at Agassiz at 4:30; bus out and back by 8:00)
Limit: 25 kids (SIGN UP AT AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL OFFICE BY DECEMBER 18. ONLY THOSE KIDS WHO SIGN UP CAN GO.)

TUESDAY, December 29

WAL-LEX ROLLER SKATING 9:00-12:00
2nd-7th Grades $1.25
(meet at Agassiz at 8:15; bus out and back; back by 12:30)
Limit: 25 kids

WEDNESDAY, December 30

SUPERMAN!!! (#1) 1:30-3:30
at the Fitzgerald School FREE
1st-8th Grades
(Meet at Agassiz at 12:45; back by 4:00)
Limit: 25 kids.

THURSDAY, December 31

SPECIAL EVENT AT AGASSIZ TO BE ANNOUNCED!!!

These events are open to all Agassiz neighborhood kids, within the stated age ranges. Don't forget to register for Teen Roller Skating ahead of time. (Cambridge has rented the Bal-A-Roue for this evening.)

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The AFTER-SCHOOL DAY CARE PROGRAM will be open this week, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will take kids in this program to the above special events where appropriate.

TEENS & PRE-TEENS!!!

We now have a YOUTH WORKER named Ann Marie Maselli working in our neighborhood, bringing new programming to this age group. She is starting a WEEKLY ACTIVITY GROUP
TEENS & PRE-TEENS, CONT.
(field trips, hiking, roller skating, etc.) among the 7th and 8th graders immediately, and she'll work to involve older kids in new ways as she goes along.

- a teen council?
- special events?
- counselling?
- an employment program?
- courses?

Let us know your ideas!!!

P.T.A. NEWS, CONT.
This committee will report back to the larger Upper Grade Committee as their work proceeds. If you would like to work on either the Upper Grade Committee or the "Adolescent Issues" Committee, call Audrey Entin at 547-4872 or Julie Osherson at 498-9056.

**********AGASSIZ T-SHIRTS**********

MAKE WONDERFUL HOLIDAY PRESENTS!!!
(To order T-shirts, call Meredith Thompson at 864-8947)

P.T.A. NEWS
There is now an Upper Grade Parents Committee which was formed to address a wide range of areas including planned social events, academics, and the need for educational programs (courses, mini-courses, etc.) in "adolescent issues".

As part of the committee, there is also a group of parents and community and public school staff working specifically on the area of "adolescent issues". These include: drug and alcohol use and abuse, decision-making and peer group pressures, human sexuality and development, and perhaps juvenile law. It is the hope of this committee to develop a small working group of parents and staff who will take responsibility for developing (or finding the professionals to develop) a trial course in one of these areas, to be taught in the 8th grade some time after the start of the new year.

Parents of 8th graders will receive a questionnaire in early December asking them for feedback about which issues seem the most important to them (and their children) and how they think information about these issues should be passed along to kids and parents alike.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS
In the new year, would you like:
- exercise classes?
- energy and weatherization workshops?
- social or recreational events?
- volunteer opportunities?
- educational programs?

COME TO THE COFFEE/TEA HOUR AT THE NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH on Monday, December 7th and share your ideas with us!

Mary Ellen Ryan, the Coordinator at the Peabody Community School, and Julie Osherson, Coordinator of the Agassiz Community School, will be there to meet you and hear your feedback.

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH THRIFT SHOP HOURS: WEDNESDAY, 10-3.

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S SCHOOL PLAYGROUP - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE!!!

Saturday, Dec. 12 10:00 a.m. On Sunday, Dec. 13 1:00-6:00 p.m.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PLAYGROUP AND BUY A CHRISTMAS TREE ALL AT ONCE!
WHAT EXACTLY IS THE CAMBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS???

A Comprehensive City Human Services Department

The Department of Human Service Programs was created by a city ordinance in the spring of 1980 to coordinate, plan, and deliver services to Cambridge citizens. Formerly separate city departments: Recreation, Youth Resources, Community Schools, the Council on Aging, and the Civic Unity Committee, now work together under one Department, headed by an Assistant City Manager for Human Service Programs.

Services Include ...

Community and Youth Services
498-9037 or 498-9072

Neighborhood-based programs called community schools operate out of the city's school buildings. They offer after-school child care, adult education, cultural and social events for families and for the elderly, and other services tailored to the needs of each community.

Youth specialists also are based in each neighborhood or “cluster” of neighborhoods. They spend time getting to know the 11-18 year-olds in their areas, and provide a range of services that may include group recreation; individual counseling on employment, academic, or personal issues; discussion groups on alcohol and drug abuse; and liaison work with the courts and the schools. Youth staff also run the city’s teen centers — informal recreation centers located at various sites throughout the city.

Community and Youth staff work together to arrange citywide or areawide programs such as summer camps, holiday fairs, and field trips.

Council on Aging/Elderly Services
498-9039

This division advocates for the city's elderly and develops services as needed. Currently provided for the Cambridge elderly are an information and referral service; a transportation service; emergency fuel assistance and weatherization programs; an outreach service providing visits to homebound or isolated elderly; and a monthly newsletter called Newslines.

Recreation
498-9028

The Recreation Division organizes citywide basketball and softball leagues, summer-winter general recreation programs, a recreational/social program for special needs youngsters, and gymnastics and exercise programs for all ages. This division also operates three swimming pools for public use.

Golf Course
354-8876

The Department oversees a self-funding municipal golf course at Fresh Pond. The nine-hole course is open on a seasonal basis.

Administration and Planning
498-9076

This component provides resources and technical assistance to human service staff throughout the city. It administers Community Development Block Grant contracts with private agencies including the Cambridge Organization for Portuguese Americans, Concilio Hispano, the Cambridge Haitian-American Association, and the Child Care Resource Center. Administrative and planning staff also conduct research on service needs in Cambridge and meet with citizen councils to set priorities for future program and advocacy efforts.

How You Can Participate

Citizens participate in human service policy making and programming through the following forums:

Neighborhood Councils

Each of the city's school districts has a corresponding Neighborhood Council that plays a major role in the planning of human services for that community. Councils make recommendations to the Assistant City Manager on the hiring of neighborhood service staff, and work closely with staff in setting program priorities and managing program monies.

Councils hold monthly meetings that are open to all neighborhood residents. Each council has its own set of by-laws that governs decision-making procedures.

Council on Aging

The 11 members of the Council are appointed by the City Manager. Seven represent Cambridge's elderly population and four are Cambridge service providers. The Council also has an Advisory Board composed of representatives of elderly groups, clubs, and agencies throughout the city.

The Council holds monthly meetings that are open to the public and are announced in the Cambridge Chronicle.
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS, CONT.

Civic Unity Committee
The Civic Unity Committee is a 30-member board that works to promote racial equity and intergroup harmony in the city. It regularly sponsors seminars on issues such as desegregation in housing and education; these are open to clergy, service providers, and the general public.

Members of the Committee are appointed by the City Manager on the basis of past community service. Staff to the committee work from within the planning office of the Department.

Commission for Human Service Programs
This nine-member board advises the city on human service policy and prepares a triennial planning document, incorporating recommendations by all the Neighborhood Councils and the Council on Aging, that sets forth service priorities for Cambridge and suggests ways to implement those priorities. The members of the Commission are appointed by the City Manager and include representatives of the city’s various communities and private sector service agencies.

If you would like more information, or need a particular service, call the appropriate division of the Department or the central number, 498-9076. You may also call your neighborhood community school; if you don’t know how to contact it, inquire at 498-9037.

BABYSITTING!!

We now have on file a large list of babysitters from 12 to 20 years of age. Call Julie in the Community School office at 498-9056 to get names. Or come by the office at 20 Sacramento Street between 2 and 6 p.m. any weekday.

Thanks go to Tina Cruz at Lesley College for advertising in the Lesley Weekly as well, as this produced several additions of college students to our list.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO MR. AND MRS. BAILEY ON GARFIELD STREET FOR DONATING AN ELECTRIC STOVE TO THE AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL! We are in the midst of renovating the basement in the Community Center so it can be better used for cooking, ceramics, and photography. The stove from the Baileys will provide a crucial element of this project.

THANKS AGAIN!!

COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

BABYSITTER AVAILABLE - Experienced, responsible 14 year old wants to babysit. I enjoy children and have passed the Community Schools babysitting course. Call Brian Jones at 491-4684. (I live on Sacramento St. and I will walk to your house.)

FOR SALE - 2-slice toaster, Eureka up-right, carpet vacuum, assorted kids' skates, ski boots, and poles (to fit age 9 or under). Call 491-4684 evenings.

NEEDED - TODDLER TOYS! Our Parents and Toddlers Group (Tuesday and Friday, 9-11, Agassiz Community Center) needs EQUIPMENT. If you have any toys, puzzles, soft blocks, or toddler games you'd like to donate, please bring them by the Community Center any weekday afternoon. THANKS!

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