EXTRA! Former Mayor FRANK DUEHAY to speak on PROP 2½ and the REFERENDUM

AT THE AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CENTER, 20 SACRAMENTO ST., CAMBRIDGE

TUESDAY MARCH 23RD 8:00 PM

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY EVENTS

SACRAMENTO STREET GALLERY OPENING AND BIRTHDAY PARTY! Friday, March 5, 8-10 p.m., 20 Sacramento Street.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING, Weds., March 10, 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz School Library.

INFORMATIONAL NIGHT ON 2½ AND THE UPCOMING REFERENDUM, Tues., March 23rd, 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento Street.

MARCH RELEASE DAYS:
Wed., March 10
Thurs., March 25
The March 10th FILM will be: THE MAGIC OF LASSIE! 1:00 p.m. at the Peabody School. 50¢ per child.


MORE ABOUT 2½ AND THE REFERENDUM

The City Council has voted unanimously to hold a special referendum election on Tuesday, April 13 on slowing down the implementation of the funding cuts dictated by Prop.

2½ AND REFERENDUM, CONT.

2½ in Cambridge next year.

Unless the referendum questions pass, the city will be forced to reduce services and staff by $10.2 million in the fiscal year beginning July 1. Three and a half million dollars worth of cuts will be made in the schools, which were already cut by $2.3 million last year (details are available in the Feb. 11 & 18 Chronicles). On the city side, where $2.5 million was cut last year, the $6.7 million in cuts will range from a 10% reduction in Police and Fire budgets, 20% in Library, 25% in Human Services and Public Works, to 90% of Neighborhood Health Services. Such cuts can be avoided only if the voters approve BOTH questions on the referendum ballot.

The state law permitting the referendum dictates that the ballot questions be worded as follows:

"Shall the City of Cambridge be allowed to assess an additional $______ in real estate and personal property taxes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1982?"

"Additional" in this context refers to WHAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE REDUCED
UNDER PROP. 2½ if voters do not pass the referendum questions. It does NOT mean additional taxes higher than the present level.

The two ballot questions will both contain the wording above. The dollar amount filled in on Question 1 will be $5.1 million, which is half the cut otherwise required under Prop. 2½; a simple majority of those voting thereon must vote YES for this question to pass. Question 2 will state a dollar amount of $10.2 million, the full cut otherwise required by Prop. 2½; two thirds of those voting thereon must vote YES for this question to pass. The "$10 million question" (Question 2) must be approved by two thirds of the voters if next year's funding is to be kept level with this year's.

If the voters approve both questions, only the $10 million, which eliminates fully a further reduction, will take effect. The two questions would not be added together to produce an increase in taxes or funding over this year; there will still be a ceiling on taxes, duplicating this year's level.

Keep in mind the backdrop in which these budget questions arise: even if the City is allowed by the voters to level-tax/fund next year, there will be significant cuts in federal funding next year plus inflation at the rate of 9% to contend with, so some cuts in services will still have to be made even if the $10 million question passes.

Anyone who is not registered to vote must do so by March 24 to be eligible to vote in this referendum election. The Election Commission is located at the corner of Green St. and Western Ave. (upstairs in the Police Station); their phone is 498-9087.

There will be a special AGASSIZ COMMUNITY MEETING on the subject of 2½ and the Slowdown Referendum on TUESDAY, MARCH 23, at 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge. Former Mayor Frank Duehay will be among the speakers.

PEOPLE WHO WANT FURTHER INFORMATION OR WHO WISH TO HELP WITH THE CAMPAIGN EFFORT SHOULD CONTACT THE COALITION FOR CAMBRIDGE at 497-6229 or 354-4390.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

The next meeting of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council will be on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, at 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz School Library.

Items on the Agenda will include:

1. POLICE CHIEF PAOLILLO will be at the meeting to discuss the Tot Lot and related issues.

2. Update on the Prop. 2½ situation.

3. Neighborhood beautification: new trees for our community?

4. Community feedback on program ideas for teens.

ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN THE QUALITY OF TOT LOT LIFE!!: Spring and warm weather is fast approaching, and if we want to create a pleasant and safe atmosphere in the Tot Lot for everyone who uses it, we have to start planning now. If you have concerns, please come to the March 10th Council meeting. Thanks!

Minutes from the February 10th Council meeting: Joel Bard reported to the Council on the city-wide meeting for proposed budget of the Department of Human Service Programs. At this time, the budget proposed by the city administration is fairly...
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS, CONT.

close to what has been suggested by the neighborhood councils. The proposed budget will be submitted to the City Manager as the next step.

There was some discussion of the function of the city-wide coordinating committee of neighborhood councils. There was also the suggestion of having neighborhood councils, either individually or on a city-wide basis, incorporate as non-profit organizations. More discussion of this topic was proposed for a future meeting at which the Agassiz neighborhood budget will be reviewed and the need for non-profit organizational status will be determined.

Rena Leib, chairperson of the Coalition for Cambridge, spoke about the most recent developments in relation to Prop. 2 ½. She stressed the need for Cambridge voters to understand the implications of the referendum questions and the need for voter education. There was discussion, as well, about the role of the Neighborhood Council in regard to the referendum. It was decided that an information night would be planned for Tuesday, March 23 at the Community Center, and that the Whistler would provide additional information. Rena also stressed the fact that the Coalition for Cambridge needs funds and volunteers. She feels that people can be helpful in a variety of ways and should call her if they want to be involved.

Julie Osherson distributed interview forms (ed. neighborhood surveys) to those present in order to gather information about citizen knowledge of and participation in Department of Human Service Programs.

A list of neighborhood committees was distributed. It was suggested that a neighborhood planning committee might be formed to deal with issues particularly involving open space and the planning issues relevant to the neighborhood.

Scientists Goldberg

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

*****MUTUAL AID PROGRAM******

I'LL FIX YOUR TOASTER, IF YOU'LL DRIVE ME TO MARKET!

A Mutual Aid Group, sponsored by the Council on Aging, is starting up in the Agassiz-Peabody area to assist older residents in swapping services with each other. Often, professionals are paid to do things neighbors could easily do for one another on a trade basis. The lists of what can be exchanged is endless, depending on the resources and needs found in the Mutual Aid Group...

If you.... change my sink washer
pick up my groceries
rewire my lamp
drive me to the clinic

I can ... cook a meal for you
cut your hair
type a letter for you
water your garden

Helene Corry, your Mutual Aid Coordinator, will be contacting every person over 60 in the target area soon to discuss the project and set a date for the first meeting. The area included is presently small, to make exchanges between neighbors easy. To help us speed up our contacts, if you are interested in Mutual Aid and you live on Wendell, Roseland, Frost, Exeter, Prentiss, Garfield, Sacramento, Bowdoin, Hurlbut, or any part of Mass. Ave. or Linmean St. that borders those streets, please call Lisa Dittrich, Project Director, 498-9076. It is an exciting new way of saving money and restoring some oldtime neighborliness to our area.

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SACRAMENTO STREET GALLERY TO HOLD DOUBLE CELEBRATION! On Friday, March 5, from 8-10 pm, the Gallery will present an unusual show of video and photography. This show marks the Gallery's FIRST BIRTHDAY! Since March of 1981, the Gallery has presented 10 shows, sharing the
SACRAMENTO STREET GALLERY, CONT.

works and "favorite things" of almost 60 area residents. In recognition, the Cambridge "City Arts" Program has awarded the Gallery a $1650.00 development grant.

Your attendance and support were the keys to the Gallery's first year of life, and to its future! So please come and celebrate your success!

See you at the March 5th opening!

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CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!

Celebrate Spring at the Harvard Tenants' Union Benefit Dance on Saturday, March 20th, 8:00 p.m. at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. $3.00 donation. Tickets available at the door or by mail (make checks payable to Harvard Tenants' Union), Room 307, Box 108, 1430 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Ma. 02138.

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AGASSIZ COMMUNITY GARDENS

Spring must be coming fairly soon, so it is beginning to be time to think about seeds and shovels and flowers and flats of lettuce! All to go in the Community Gardens on Sacramento Street. All those people who had gardens and plan to garden this year are entitled to keep their gardens. Gardens which are relinquished due to moving, a change of heart or schedule, or to a desire to try for another plot are put together and names are drawn for these gardens. If you wish to be included in the lottery for free gardens, you must fill out the form below and mail it to Julie Osherson at the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, Ma. 02138. The lottery and subsequent first garden meeting will be in early April.

_____YES, I want my name to be included in the lottery for available gardens on Sacramento Street for the 1982 season.

NAME_________________________________ Home Phone_____________________

ADDRESS__________________________________________________________ZIP_________________ Work Phone______________________________

PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL THIS FORM OUT AND MAIL IT TO 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, Ma. 02138 attn: Julie Osherson BY MARCH 26th AT THE ABSOLUTE LATEST!!! Thank you.

7th GRADE AND UP, CONT.

Community Center, and it is open every Wednesday night from 7-9 p.m. Ann Marie Masiello, who works with teens and pre-teens out of the Department of Human Service Programs will be there to provide games, music, special ideas for projects or special events, or just fun company. COME TRY IT OUT! EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING, 7-9 PM, FREE!

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AGASSIZ KIDS - 7th GRADE AND UP!

You have a new drop-in space! It is in the basement of the Agassiz