

# the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

December

The Newsletter of the Agassiz Community School

1982

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

8th GRADE BAKE SALE, Saturday, Dec. 4th, 10-3, at the Beacon Street Star Market.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING, Weds., Dec. 8th, 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz library.

MEETING FOR 11-13 YEAR-OLDS TO MEET PAULETTE JOHNSON, The new Youth Worker for Agassiz; Mon. Dec. 13th, 3-5 p.m., in the Agassiz Community Center.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP MEETING, Weds., Dec. 15, 8:00 p.m., in the Agassiz Community Center.

MEETING/GET-TOGETHER FOR 14-18 YEAR-OLDS TO MEET PAULETTE JOHNSON, The new Youth Worker for Agassiz, Thurs., Dec. 16th, 7:00 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center.

DECEMBER RELEASE DAY, Tuesday, Dec. 7th. Half-day of school; no 4th-8th grade courses after school.

CHRISTMAS VACATION, Thurs., Dec. 23rd (at noon)- Fri., Dec. 31. (Vacation activities to be announced.)

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## AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

The Agassiz neighborhood has a new Youth Specialist, who will be in charge of programming activities and services for 11-18 year-olds in our community. Her name is Paulette Johnson. She has scheduled two times to meet teens and talk with

## COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS, Cont.

them about what they'd like to see happen in the future:

SKI TRIPS?  
SPECIAL EVENTS?  
CLUBS?  
DROP-IN NIGHTS?  
JOB TRAINING?

If you're a parent of a teen, PLEASE pass this information along and encourage your child and his/her friends to come to one of the December get-togethers:

11-13 YEAR-OLDS - COME MEET PAULETTE on Monday, December 13, 3-5 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center.

14-19 YEAR-OLDS - COME MEET PAULETTE on Thursday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center.

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## AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

Minutes from the Nov. 10th meeting of the Neighborhood Council:

At the Nov. 10th meeting, the first item of business discussed was the question of a raise for the ning person at the Agassiz Community Center. It was decided to vote on this issue at the next meeting of the Council Executive Committee.

A letter of appreciation from the Neighborhood Council for the city-wide planning of Halloween parties, siting cooperation between all City services and agencies, and addressed to Mayor Vellucci and other members of the City Council, was read and approved by the Council (and was mailed following the meeting).

Cont.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, Cont.

Ned Casey came from the City of Cambridge Cable T.V. Office and gave an informative presentation on the possible development of a municipally owned and operated Cable T.V. system in Cambridge. A short film was shown and brochures passed out.

Next, the topic of traffic safety on Oxford Street was discussed. The major "dangerous areas" seem to be the end of Oxford Street at Beacon Street, the intersection of Oxford and Forest Sts., and the stretch of Oxford Street in front of the school. The ideal solutions to these problems would be greater enforcement of speed limits and parking regulations at intersections as well as blinking slow-down lights and signs in the vicinity of the school. Donna Treece agreed to contact the Traffic and Police Departments about these problems and report back to the Council at the December meeting.

Jennifer Page, from Lesley College, then brought up the amendment, being proposed by David Sullivan (of the Cambridge City Council), to close the "loophole" in the Institutional Expansion Ordinance which allows colleges and universities to own "affiliate housing" in neighborhood areas outside the institutional expansion limits required by the Ordinance. (Affiliate housing is housing for faculty or other university employees.) The Council decided not to take a stand either in favor or not in favor of this amendment.

A representative from the Senior Citizens' Mutual Aid Group at the North Congregational Church announced that there would be a hearing with the MBTA on Sunday, Nov. 21 at the church to seek better bus service along Mass. Ave. between Harvard Square and the Arlington line. (Results of the hearing will be reported on at the December Council Meeting).

COUNCIL , Cont.

THE NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8th AT 8:00 P.M. IN THE AGASSIZ SCHOOL LIBRARY. Items on the agenda will include:

1. Council review of Julie Osherson's (Agassiz Coordinator) proposal for a maternity leave and redesign of her position upon return.
2. Introduction of Paulette Johnson, new Youth Specialist in the Agassiz neighborhood.
3. A review of Council by-laws and preparation for upcoming elections.
4. A discussion of possible neighborhood involvement in the future of the MTA site on the corner of Garfield St. and Mass. Ave. (see article)
5. Updates: CCC Budget Meetings on the budget of the Department of Human Service Programs; street safety, Mass. Ave. MTA service.

AND MORE! Please make an effort to attend this meeting. We have a full agenda and need as much community input as possible!

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GARFIELD STREET/MASS. AVE. MTA LOT

If you've been in the Agassiz neighborhood for more than a couple of weeks, you've noticed that we are host to a sizeable MBTA construction-staging operation at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Garfield Street. If you've been in the neighborhood for a few years, you might remember that the original MBTA Red Line plans did not call for this kind of activity for that site. The MBTA had only anticipated using a corner of the lot for a vent shaft/emergency exit for the subway tunnel. Instead, the T took the lot and demolished the existing house in order to use the site for construction purposes.

Cont.

MBTA SITE, Cont.

The MBTA now owns that lot. Because this had not been part of their plans, it is reasonable to assume that they do not intend to keep it. Cambridge's Community Development Department (CDD) is operating under the same assumption. Given the above history, the views of the Agassiz neighborhood on the future of the lot could be very influential in determining what use should be made of it. The Cambridge CDD is encouraging Agassiz to play an active role in planning for this site.

At the next Council meeting, Weds., December 8th at 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz School library, we will begin to discuss this lot. This lot represents an important opportunity for Agassiz residents to be involved in a major decision affecting our neighborhood.

-Joel Bard, Council Chairperson

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CAMBRIDGE COUNCIL ON AGING EXPANDS OUTREACH SERVICES

The Council on Aging is the division of the Cambridge Department of Human Services which handles basic services for elderly residents of Cambridge and serves as official advocate for their needs. Among those services offered by the Council are: information about community services; help with jobs, housing and transportation; a monthly newsletter (NEWS-LINES); telephone reassurance; small neighborhood groups (Mutual Aid); and community outreach, including home visits.

The Council on Aging is now in the process of expanding its outreach services and is seeking volunteers who are interested in doing community outreach and home visiting

COUNCIL ON AGING, Cont.

in small Cambridge neighborhoods. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer position or if you would like to know more about the program in general, please contact Phyllis Kornfeld, Community Services Coordinator, 51 Inman St., 498-9076.

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP

The regular meeting of the Planning Group took place on Nov. 16. Bob Campbell from the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association gave an update on his community's progress in setting up a Neighborhood Conservation District. It was helpful to learn about the experience of a community in attempting to control development within its boundaries, and Bob's information and comments were much appreciated.

It was decided that the Planning Group should begin to direct itself to reviewing the existing situation on Mass. Ave. and possibilities for development there that would be consistent with community desires. Special attention will be focused on the MBTA site on Mass. Ave. and Garfield St. The next meeting will be on Weds., December 15 at 8:00 in the Community Center. Please plan to attend if you have concerns or suggestions about the future of Mass. Ave.

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AGASSIZ 8th GRADERS DO FUND-RAISING

Agassiz 8th graders are fund-raising for a possible class trip to Washington in March, their yearbook, and graduation ceremonies. Please support them whenever possible. They will be selling M&M Candy, having a gigantic raffle, and possibly a spaghetti dinner in January. On Dec. 4th, there will be a bake sale at the Beacon St. Star Market from 10-3.

RESIDENT PARKING STICKER INFO

Permits will be issued by neighborhood this year. The dates stickers will be issued to Agassiz School Area residents will be December 13-December 17. Other rules and schedules are:

1. You must have your Mass. registration with you to get a sticker.
2. Your Mass. Excise Tax must be paid.
3. If you are applying for visitor permits, you must have a current utility or telephone bill with you.
4. Office hours are Mon-Fri, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Department will also be open on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on Dec. 4, 11, and 18.
5. The cost of stickers and permits is \$3.00. There is no charge for people over 65 with an ID card.

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CAMBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
SERVICE PROGRAMS  
Agassiz Neighborhood Council  
20 Sacramento St.  
Cambridge, MA 02138

COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Shelves, shelves and more shelves! Three sets to choose from. to suit all of your or your child's needs. One set makes up a small desk. Wood and/or particle board. Cinder blocks included with one set. Bargain prices! Call Phyllis at 864-9081 for more details.

Do you have a spare room, attic, etc. in your house or apartment that you would like to rent as studio/office space? I am a sweater designer in need of a space for yarn storage, a desk and a drafting table. Willing to pay \$100-\$125 for a well-lighted space in the Agassiz area. Call Nan at 547-0909.

Home tutoring for both children and adults with learning and/or reading disabilities. Specializing in helping children and adults who are "dyslexic" but also tutor in writing, spelling, and math. Call Jo Ann at 776-3682 for more information.

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