January 1989

General Business

Yerevan - The council was advised that a telethon would take place on December 20th, and an informational sheet was passed out (see article- "Help Cambridge help Yerevan" for more information).

Voting Places - There is a great deal of interest among residents to return the voting for Ward 7 precinct 1/2 back to the Agassiz School. The last two sites (Harvard's Rockefeller Hall and the Church at 1803 Mass. Ave.) were considered by many to be unacceptable alternatives. Many people want to return the voting to Agassiz School for the educational benefits to the children.

- The reason for the change is the lack of access for persons with physical handicaps at the Agassiz School. Some suggestions were:
  - Explore the possibilities of renting a lift at voting times.
  - Bring the problem to the School Improvement Committee for consideration in light of any renovation plan.
  - If we can find an architect who will volunteer some time to help solve the problem.
  - Invite someone from the Election Commission to a council meeting so we can discuss the various possibilities (this will be done in February).

Slide Talk "Social History of Agassiz"

Charles Sullivan, Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, gave the neighborhood council a slide presentation of the social development of the Agassiz neighborhood. As always, Mr. Sullivan provided us with an interesting glimpse into the past.

Visitor Parking Permits - Use and Abuse

A Frost St. resident was concerned about the use of visitor parking permits. It seems that some people are abusing these permits, and residents are unable to park. It was agreed to contact the Traffic and Parking Department to discuss the rules regarding these permits (We will know by the first week in January if a representative will be at our 1/11 council meeting. Call 498-9056 for information).

Other Neighborhood Updates

Community Residence at Hammond St.

The Cambridge Housing Authority is in the process of purchasing an eight bedroom rooming house at 71 Hammond St. They are planning to renovate it into an eight bedroom community residence for adults with mental illness. The Cambridge Somerville Mental Health Center will provide a professionally staffed, 24 hour a day program for the residence. Both organizations will attend the January 11 Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting to describe the proposal, distribute information and to answer questions. They will show slides of similar facilities in Cambridge and Somerville.

Porter Square Development

PORTER ARCADE has given us an update on their project (located on Somerville Ave. at White St., next to the Porter Square Shopping Center and behind Porter Exchange).

They advised us that they were as of last month 70% rented, and expect to open around March 1. A current list of tenants includes: Pier One, AT&T Telephone Store, Boston Chicken, Pizzaria Uno, Bed and Bath, Jennifer Convertibles, an optician's office.

Whistler deadline for February is January 23rd. Please call in or send us any newsworth information.

A BIG THANKS TO JOIE DE VIVRE located at 1792 Mass. Ave. for their generous donation of goods for our "Kids Only Sale."
Of interest to the neighborhood...

Help Cambridge help Yerevan

Cambridge efforts to aid the victims of the Dec. 7 earthquake in Soviet Armenia will continue for some time. A special effort is being made here because Yerevan, the capital of Soviet Armenia and the city to which many of the injured survivors have been taken, has been Cambridge's Soviet "Sister City" since May 1987.

On Dec. 20, the Cambridge Public Library was the site of a 6-hour earthquake relief fund-raising telethon hosted by City Councillor Frank Duscheck and televised on cable stations in Cambridge, Somerville and Arlington. That the goal of $10,000 was reached in 6 hours is a testimonial to the dedication and hard work of dozens of volunteers and many contributors.

If you would like to donate to this city-wide relief effort, you can make your tax deductible check out to "Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City-Armenian Relief" and send it to City Hall, 795 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139. The money will be used to purchase medical supplies here which are in short supply in the USSR.

For more information call 498-9094.

Focus on Black Portraits

A photo contest for children and young adults will be held, and winners will be honored at the Martin Luther King School family night on February 10th in celebration of Black History Month.

Any Cambridge youth is eligible, but pictures should be of black people in arts and culture, human services, sports, business, science or at home. Pictures should be 5x7, black and white, and they must be titled (a caption is optional). There will be three categories: 5 years old and younger, 10-13 years old, and 14-19 years old. All pictures should be submitted by January 20th with the child's name, address, telephone, school and grade on the back.

The contest is sponsored by the Cambridge Department of Human Services, and all entries should be addressed to Judy Babbins, DHS, 51 Inman St. Cambridge MA 02139. For more information call 498-9072.

Police Review and Advisory Board

The Police Review and Advisory Board was created by city ordinance to provide timely, fair, and impartial investigations of complaints brought by individuals against police officers, or by employees of the police department. The Executive Director is William Golon, and the board also provides for citizen participation in reviewing police department policies, practices and procedures.

The PRAB consists of 5 civilan residents from each of 5 geographic areas in the city, excluding city employees. All complaints are investigated, in some cases a full investigation is ordered, others are dismissed, but all complaints will receive a written response. The PRAB can also be called upon to answer questions about police policies and practices. Call the board for more information: 498-9000 x9489

Exploring Cultural Diversity-January Forum

The January offering from community forums is "The Black Community," and it will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25th at the Cambridge Community Center, 5 Callender St.

This is one of a series of forums devoted to bring together teachers, parents, policy makers, and community people to share information about cultural differences in order to strengthen our ability to build more supportive and educational environments for all children.

For more information call Shell Walters 498-9200 x9518 or Hap Tierney 623-5096.

Cambridge Dance Project

A performance of "Four Dances in January" will take place at 7:30 on Thursday, January 26th at the Kennedy School, 158 Spring St. Admission is $3 for adults, $1.50 for children.

This performance will include work by the first boy's class taught by CARLO RIZZI, as well as a dance about life on another planet performed by the advanced class and taught by Director Joan Green. For more information call Judy Babbins at 498-9072.

Greet the New Year with Purpose and Prosperity

Sam Zimmerman, Hammond St. resident and founder of Three Fields Prosperity Seminars, will lead a weekend workshop on Purpose and Prosperity at Northern Pines Health Resort in Raymond, Maine on January 20-22.

The weekend is designed to discover and clarify the purpose that is central to each of our lives, learn proven techniques for making plans and realizing goals, and enliven the fundamental principles of prosperity that are central to every field of endeavor -- personal, career, financial, spiritual, etc.

Northern Pines Health Resort is rustic and relaxed and the vegetarian cuisine is delicious. Imange hot tubs, hiking, music and massage -- all in the deeply restful pine forest of Maine.

By a special arrangement with Northern Pines, the cost for the weekend is only $175 per person/double occupancy ($195 single) for Friday and Saturday nights, all meals and the seminar. To register or for more information, call Sam Zimmerman at 664-6334.
Dear Agassiz Neighborhood Residents:

Please join us at the January 11, 1989 Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting, 7:30 pm in the Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street.

Over the past few years, the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) has sought to purchase and renovate housing on small scattered sites throughout the city – a difficult goal because of the high cost of real estate in Cambridge. We have found a very likely site at 71 Hammond Street, on the corner of Hammond and Howland Streets. As you may know, this building is a registered, eight bedroom rooming house.

We are proposing to renovate the building into an eight bedroom community residence. The community residence would house eight adults with mental illness who are in need of a supportive environment outside an institutional setting. The population would be evenly split between men and women. The residents will come from the Cambridge and Somerville mental health system and preference will be given to Cambridge residents.

The Cambridge-Somerville Mental Health Center, (CSMHC) will provide a full time supervised program for the community residence, including coordination of all services required by the residents. In addition, the residents selected to live in the building will be long term participants in the CSMHC program.

As you can understand, there is a drastic need for housing individuals with mental handicaps. The CSMHC program has been in operation in Cambridge for the past twenty years and has an excellent track record with neighbors and community groups in areas of the city where community residences have been established.

At the January meeting, we will discuss the purchase of the building and our proposal for the community residence. Together with CSMHC, we will distribute information, show slides of other community residences in Cambridge and answer questions.

We will be happy to arrange additional meetings for those who cannot attend on January 11th. In the meantime, please call Chris Weller or Terry Lurie at 497-6800 if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Wüenschel
Executive Director

DJW/vks
### KINDERGARTEN

**APPLICATION SCHEDULE**

1989-90 SCHOOL YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SITE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 3</td>
<td>8:30-11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Parent Information Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00- 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>(Harrington School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>850 Cambridge Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 4</td>
<td>8:30-11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>King School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00- 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>100 Putnam Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>8:30-11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Parent Information Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00- 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>(Harrington School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>850 Cambridge Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>8:30-11:00 a.m. (only)</td>
<td>Parent Information Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Harrington School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>850 Cambridge Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>8:30-11:00 a.m. (only)</td>
<td>Parent Information Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Harrington School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>850 Cambridge Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>8:30-11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tobin School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00- 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Vassal Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>8:30-11:00 a.m. (only)</td>
<td>Maynard School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>215 Windsor Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>8:30-11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Fitzgerald School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00- 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>70 Ridge Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 13</td>
<td>8:30-11:00 a.m. (only)</td>
<td>Parent Information Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Harrington School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>850 Cambridge Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING:**

"Bilingual, ESL and Native Language Immersion Programs in the Cambridge Public Schools"

- January 10
  - 7:00- 9:00 p.m.
  - Maynard School Cafeteria
  - 215 Windsor Street

---

**CRIMEWATCH**

This is a list of crime in the Agassiz Neighborhood

November 22 - December 15, 1988...

- **Eustis St.** Disorderly person (11/29)
- **Forest St.** Break and entry (12/7); Attempted break and entry (12/14)
- **Francis Av.** Malicious destruction property (11/25)
- **Gorham St.** Malicious destruction property (11/25)
- **Hammond St.** Malicious destruction property (11/23; 11/24 at Gorham)
- **Holden St.** Malicious destruction property (11/23, 11/26)
- **Mass. Ave.** Car theft (11/28)
- **Prantiss St.** Break and entry (12/15)
- **Sacramento St.** Car theft (12/5)
- **Shady Hill Square** Malicious destruction property (11/26)

There was an outbreak of malicious destruction in the neighborhood in November 22-25, 1988, outside of Gorham, Hammond, and Holden. Much of this was broken car windshields and general damage to cars. This outbreak seems to have ended, but police tell us it is a recurring problem in many Cambridge neighborhoods. Please call police if you see any of this vandalism.

---

**Assistance with housing problems**

Just A Start Corp. (JAS) of Cambridge has joined the Cambridge Housing Services program to provide services to Cambridge residents. The program is designed to preserve and maintain affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income families in Cambridge. The program offers services for Cambridge tenants, homeowners, and landlords. Services include case management, and workshops on a variety of housing-related topics.

For landlord services including consultation and seminars on refinancing, property management, rehab and rental subsidy, call JAS at 494-0444 and ask for Sharon Anderson.

For tenant services including consultation on evictions, rent increases, rent control, code enforcement and budgeting, call CEAC at 866-2900 and ask for Steve Meacham.

For mediation services (to resolve disputes between tenants and landlords) call Gail Packer at 876-5376 at Cambridge Dispute Settlement Center.

---

**Family Folk Dancing at Agassiz**

There will be no January session of folk dancing. The next event is February 10th at 7:30 in the Agassiz Gym. Look for details in the next "Whistler".

---

*For Kindergarten Information Call 491-6200 or 498-9254.*

---

**FOR SENIORS**

The Voluntary Life program offered through Cambridge City Hospital helps those with critical health needs who may be unavailable in emergencies.

The Vial of Life is a form that contains personal needs and should be kept in a visible place along with all other personal health information. It is placed in a sealed container in a refrigerator, and can be retrieved by an emergency medical staff in case of an emergency, or can be brought anywhere to process medical paperwork.

Someone from the Cambridge Hospital will come out to the neighborhood to pass these vials out if there is interest in the program. Please contact the council office at 498-9056.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 1989

1/3 Tuesday .................................. School Reopens, After-school reopens
1/3 Tuesday .................................. First Day of Kindergarten Registration First Cycle
                                             Cambridge Public School (see article for more information)
1/5 Thursday .................................. Agassiz Room Parents Meeting 8:30 a.m.
                                             Agassiz School Library to discuss fundraising events
1/11 Wednesday .................................. Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
                                             7:30, 20 Sacramento St. (see agenda page 1)
1/16 Monday .................................. Martin Luther King Holiday - School/After-school closed
1/19 Thursday .................................. Release Day, After-school opens and school closes 12:45 p.m.
1/20 Friday .................................. Deadline Black History Children's Photo Contest (see article)
1/26 Thursday .................................. "Four Dances in January" from the Children's Dance Project
                                             7:30 p.m., Kennedy School, 158 Spring St. $3 adults $1.50
                                             children. For more information call 498-9072

HELP AVAILABLE HELP WANTED

Agassiz Neighborhood Kids wanted for snow shoveling in the neighborhood. If you want customers, call us at 498-9056. We will give you the names of people in need of shoveling.

Architect wanted by the neighborhood council to volunteer some time and help us find a solution for wheelchair and handicap access to the Agassiz School. Call 498-9056

Ads要帮助可用

Agassiz Neighborhood Kids wanted for snow shoveling in the neighborhood. If you want customers, call us at 498-9056. We will give you the names of people in need of shoveling.

Architect wanted by the neighborhood council to volunteer some time and help us find a solution for wheelchair and handicap access to the Agassiz School. Call 498-9056

January 1989

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

THE WHISTLER