

# the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

NOVEMBER

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

1984

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**\*\*NOVEMBER MEETING\*\***  
AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY 11/14 7:30 PM  
AGASSIZ SCHOOL LIBRARY  
AGENDA ITEMS BELOW

-ANNUAL AGASSIZ THANKSGIVING  
FEAST, Tuesday November 20  
6-8 PM, Agassiz Gym, (details  
below)

-AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOLS JOINT  
PARENT STEERING COMMITTEE will  
meet on Wednesday November 28,  
Agassiz Community Center, snacks  
and childcare provided

## LESLEY COLLEGE PUBLIC EVENTS

-Under The Influence-Jean Kil-  
bourne, Slide lecture about ad-  
vertizing and alcohol. Welch  
Auditorium, 7 PM, \$1. fee

-Movies: Footloose 11/16  
M.A.S.H. 11/30  
Welch Auditorium, \$1.50

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND HALF DAYS

-Monday 11/12 Veterans Day  
No school or afterschool  
-Wednesday 11/14 Release day  
12:45 Agassiz School dismissed  
-Thursday and Friday 11/22, 11/23  
Thanksgiving Recess, No school  
or afterschool

## SENIORS TRIPS

-Thursday 11/15, Tour of Cran-  
berry World and Plymouth Planta-  
tion and Lunch  
-Thursday 12/6, Marshall's 1700  
Christmas House Tour and Lunch  
(Registration details below)

## AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

Terry DeLancey has been hired as  
the Neighborhood Coordinator for  
the Agassiz Neighborhood. She  
will begin working full time when  
the Afterschool Childcare Program  
has hired a new Head Teacher.

Speaking for the Neighborhood  
Council's Board, Joel Bard,  
Council Chairperson, said, "We  
are thrilled to have Terry as  
our new Coordinator. The Agassiz  
Community will benefit from her  
experience, skills and commit-  
ment to the neighborhood. Com-  
munity members and Cambridge  
Officials have been very positive  
in response to the news."

## COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA 11/14

-A representative from Common-  
wealth Electric will describe  
their proposal to install an  
electric cable through the neigh-  
borhood (article follows).  
-Police Chief Paolillo will add-  
ress the recent concerns of res-  
idents over certain disruptive  
persons in the neighborhood. He  
will describe the department's  
way of handling requests for  
assistance and answer questions  
from Agassiz residents.  
-Lauren Preston from the Traffic  
and Parking Bureau will discuss  
the possibility of Oxford Street  
becoming one way (article follows)  
-A proposal to buy a tree for  
the Agassiz Neighborhood will be  
discussed. Suggestions for lo-  
cation will be considered.

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP-REZONING OF MASS AVE.

Two members of the Agassiz Community Planning Group have been meeting this fall with a more city-wide group in order to consider and develop a rezoning proposal for Mass Ave. from Exeter St. to the Arlington line. This larger group is chaired by Fred Levy and has representation from North Cambridge and from the City Council (Frank Duehay and Alice Wolf). It extends the efforts initiated by our own Agassiz Planning Group in this area over the last few years. The main thrust of the proposals made thus far, as they impact the stretch of Mass Ave. contiguous to our neighborhood, is to relieve the threat of construction of high rise 35 foot condominium buildings. Such structures are allowed by present zoning, and are a distinct possibility with the impetus supplied by the RedLine extension. A uniform height limit of 35 feet, in the context of other zoning requirements, is definitely a central part of the most recent proposals adopted.

This rezoning project is on a much larger scale compared to past efforts in our neighborhood. It may bring us into conflict with concerns wishing to profit from the Red Line construction, possibly at the expense of the "village" life of our neighborhood. In order to succeed we will require extensive support at all levels: small committee, local community, and city wide. If anyone reading this wishes to join our efforts, please call Haim at 547-8429, or Joel at 547-3210, or Fred Levy at 876-7862.

Haim Goldberg

OXFORD STREET ONE WAY ?

The City's Traffic and Parking Department has resurrected the idea of making part of Oxford St. one way. Specifically, they are proposing that the section from Harvard's Memorial Hall to Wendell Street be one way travelling north to Porter Square. Traffic going down Oxford St. from Somerville and Porter Square would be forced to turn right onto Wendell St. and then onto Mass Ave.

This change was actually implemented several years ago, but was quickly abandoned in response to Agassiz criticism. This time, two factors are different. First the city is soliciting our views before the fact. Second the one-way portion of Oxford Street would have only one lane. The other would be blocked to traffic.

Lauren Preston from the Traffic and Parking Department will attend the 11/14 Council meeting to discuss this proposal. This idea, along with others, has arisen out of complaints from residents of Irving St. and Roberts Road who are concerned with the high volume of traffic on their streets.

Traffic on Oxford St. has been a long standing concern of Agassiz residents. Please give this proposal some thought and come to the November 14th meeting prepared to discuss it. Here, to stimulate your thinking, is a brief (not necessarily comprehensive) list of advantages and disadvantages:

Advantages

- reduces the number of cars on Oxford St. by getting rid of drivers trying to avoid Harvard Square
- Allows creation of a bicycle path on the portion of Oxford

(cont.)

OXFORD STREET ONE WAY ? (cont.)

(Advantages cont.)

Street that would be closed to traffic

Disadvantages

- Creates inconvenience to Agassiz residents headed toward mid Cambridge
- Increases in traffic on portion of Wendell St. between Oxford and Mass Ave. (temporary until drivers get used to new patterns)
- Encourages higher speeds by drivers on one-way portion of Oxford St.

COMMONWEALTH ELECTRIC PLANS

Several representatives from Commonwealth Electric will attend the 11/14 Council meeting to describe their proposal to install an electric cable through a portion of Agassiz. From their description, it appears that the major impact will be the construction disruption.

A variety of alternative routes are being examined, and the one affecting Agassiz would be installed under Everett St. and then down Oxford St toward Harvard. The work consists of placing underground cables and is done in 400-500 foot sections. Each section involves around six weeks work. This project is scheduled for late 1985, early 1986.

AGASSIZ READING SERIES

The Agassiz Reading Series, which last year met in the Agassiz Community Center, will begin meeting in December. The program will take place on every other Wednesday. Persons interested in participating in the reading series should contact Sebastian Lockwood at 492-3857. Check the Whistler next month for details about the reading series, dates and topics.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

The exciting thing that has begun this year in community schools is the formulation of a Joint Parent Steering Committee which is the policy body for both the After-school Activities Program and the Afterschool Childcare Program.

Although the structure of the committee, including bylaws and officers, is just being formulated, we do currently have two parent representatives who will act as liaisons between the Neighborhood Council and Community Schools. The representatives are Karen Zahn and Karen Vaters.

If you are interested in becoming active on the committee, or if you have an issue that you would like the committee to address, please contact Karen Vaters at 376-8314.

SOME IDEAS ON GYMNASTICS

Anyone who has raced to gymnastics registration knows that something has to be done to make the process a fair one. Quite simply, the spaces available are not enough to allow all children who want gymnastics to be enrolled. In September all spaces were filled within 20 minutes. The Department of Recreation added a second teacher on Fridays, but we still maintain a waiting list.

The parent steering committee has come up with several suggestions. First we have asked the Recreation Department to reinstate Saturday classes, and they are working on it.

We would propose a lottery for first time registrants. Whoever does not make the lottery will be placed in order on a waiting list. Available spaces will be filled from the waiting list. Any other suggestions? Call Terry at 493-9050.

SENIORS TRIP NEWS

There will be a trip on 11/15, Thursday to Cranberry World and Plimouth Plantation, cost \$13., including lunch and other fees.

On Thursday December 6th the trip will be to Marshall's 1700 Christmas house, with lunch at Teels in North Abington. Cost is \$8.

For both trips a bus will leave The North Congregational Church, 1303 Mass Ave. at 9 AM. For further information regarding meals and to register, contact Terry DeLancey at 498-9056. Deadlines for the registration are 11/10 and 12/6.

MISCELLANEOUS SENIORS PROGRAMS

FLOOR HOCKEY-Cambridge is trying to organize a floor hockey league. The games will be at the Rindge Shelter on Wednesdays, and the

Floor Hockey cont.

cost will be \$2. If you know any interested participants aged 10-14 contact Terry at 498-9056.

HOYT TEEN CENTER

The Hoyt Teen Center located on Gilmore St. (off Western Ave. near Hoyt Field) is offering a variety of programs for both teens and pre teens (10-12).

For teens activities include operation of a teen council, outdoor Saturday trips with Harvard volunteers, breakers nights and more.

For preteens each Wednesday, special events are planned from 3:30-5:30, which include movies, free swim at Harvard, field and track day and a Christmas Party. For a brochure and details, contact Terry at 498-9056.

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
20 SACRAMENTO ST.  
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

THANKSGIVING POT LUCK FEAST  
NOVEMBER 20 TUESDAY  
6-8 PM AGASSIZ GYM

Please bring a dish that will feed your party and 6-7 more. We run out of salads, vegetables and beverages first. Please label utensils.

WE SUPPLY THE TURKEY, and if you would like to cook one and bring it that night, please call Terry DeLancey at 498-9056

THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS INVITED !!!