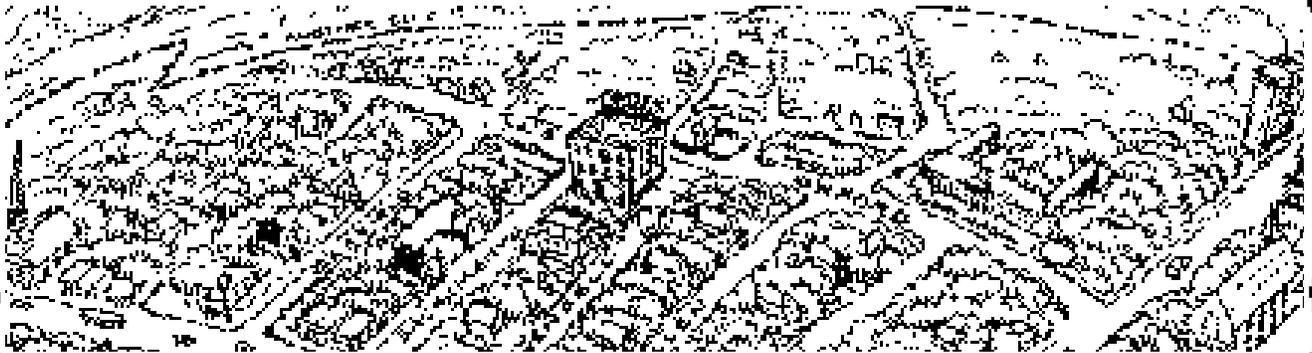


The Whistler

September 2000



Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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walk policy: bricks will be replaced with brick, concrete with concrete. Those residents who wish to replace concrete with brick must pay an additional fee. This policy is one that some residents and pedestrian activists feel should change, and the Agassiz neighborhood was willing to provide a forum for a discussion around this issue, since so many Agassiz sidewalks must be replaced. We have been informed that the DPW will adhere to the City's policy.]

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a special September 20 meeting in the dining hall at the Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St. for a complete update, and a time for residents to ask questions and provide input.

∨ ANC News ∨

Notes from the June 20 ANC Meeting

Vice Chair **Helen Lambert** introduced **Steve White** from the DPW. He introduced most the important contact people for the upcoming summer sewer work: From SEA were **David Knowlton**, Engineer; **Judy Kavanagh**, Public Relations; **Bill Ross**, Engineer; and **Tony Loftus**. From the DPW were **Katherine Woodbury** and **Owen O'Reardon**, City Engineer.

Steve White provided the neighborhood with a long range time line, and gave the neighborhood an update on the progress of the sewer project and an idea of what would be happening during the summer months. (See box below for information on the next update, September 20)

There was a discussion on the merits and disadvantages of brick or concrete when used as sidewalk materials. [Since that meeting, the City has reiterated their old side-

∨ Neighborhood News ∨

Agassiz Study Group

Group Will Present at October 17 ANC Meeting

The ongoing Agassiz Study Group, organized by the Community Development Department with members appointed by the City Manager, will begin fall meetings on September 12 in the Agassiz School at 7:30 p.m., when there will be a zoning presentation by Lester Barber, the City's Zoning Director.

The group has been in session since last spring, and a presentation on their work will be made in October at the

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 19

7:30 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall

28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:

Harvard University presents development plans for Oxford/Hammond Street property (see story page 4)

Please Note:

On Wednesday, September 20 there will be a SEWER UPDATE meeting (see story page 3) 7:30 p.m. Agassiz School Dining Hall See pictures of the Agassiz Big Dig page 3

SEWER CONSTRUCTION - CONTACTS

Construction Issues	Earl Ross	661-7403
Field Office	Eric Reed	661-7403
Community Relations	Judy Kavanagh	498-4710
Block Captains		
Helen Lambert	Sacramento St.	661-0690
Ellen Friedman	Mellen St.	491-4290
Kate Frank	Crescent St.	547-5175
Claudia Goldin	Scott St.	588-0356
Jane Thomas	Holden St.	876-4401
Jenny Glaeser	Hammond St.	491-4454
Amy Barad	Eustis St.	492-6640

DPW 24 hour emergency service 349-4860

Check the kiosk at Agassiz or DPW Web Site for updates:
<http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks/>

regular ANC meeting. Look for more information on that meeting next month. For more information on the public meetings, contact Venita Mathias at Cambridge Community Development, 349-4603 or email <VMathias@CI.Cambridge.MA.US>.

Transportation and Parking

Oxford Street Closed Until Further Notice

As most residents have noticed, Oxford Street has been closed from Everett St. to the south end continuing on Kirkland St to Quincy since early August.

This closing is in response to sewer deterioration and safety concerns. The DPW fears that continued traffic vibrations may seriously worsen the condition of the pipes by causing a major failure. A collapsed pipe may create a large void in the street that could disrupt sewer line flows, create back-ups and disrupt service.

The closing will be for an indefinite, extended period. The city has coordinated with all emergency services, and there will be no interruptions of regular services. If you require further information check the City Web Site at <http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us> or call DPW Engineering at 349-4826 or Judy Kavanagh, of SEA, at 498-4710.

ZIPCARS COME TO CAMBRIDGE

ANC gets \$15 for new members who mention us!

Zipcar is a new service which will set you up with wheels when you want them, and only then. The company rents new cars to its members for as little as \$4.50 an hour. Gas and parking are included: no insurance or maintenance. They are parked in neighborhoods, and the closest ones to Agassiz are

in Porter and Harvard Squares, but they hope to add spaces in the neighborhood, too.

You can find them at www.zipcar.com where complete information is available or call 491-9900.

REMEMBER to mention Agassiz Neighborhood Council on the membership application in the box that asks where you heard about them, and we will get \$15 each time!

Meeting on September 13 at 5:30 p.m.

A public meeting of the Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee has been scheduled by Chair **Henrietta Davis** for 9/13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber of City Hall, 795 Mass. Ave.

The agenda will include an update on the shuttle, progress on signage at bus stops and regional truck study. Call 349-4260 for more information.

Crime Watch

The following report was taken from the July 2000 online crime report provided by Cambridge Police (<http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CPD/crime/>).

Rape still being low is the best news to come out of July 2000. Most of the rest is bad—almost everything was up. It was a tough month for street robbery, house breaks, larcenies from persons, and bicycle theft. The first two were down for the year at the end of June, but are now up for the year at the end of July. Larcenies from persons and bicycle theft were already on an increase and July just made them worse. We could have used a break with auto theft, but an Area 4 pattern kept it higher than last year. The only major crimes still down are aggravated assault and larcenies from motor vehicles—and LMVs are only down because July 1999 was so high.

Looking ahead: August of 1999 wasn't a peak month for anything except larcenies from motor vehicles. Many crimes dropped considerably between July and August 1999. If this doesn't happen this year—if July 2000 trends keep up for the next few weeks—then we will be looking at a 5-10% increase in the yearly target crime total by the end of this month. We are currently seeing patterns of house breaks, street robbery, commercial breaks, and larcenies that will make for a rough August if not curtailed.



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This is the kind of construction going on all day around the neighborhood between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. . By evening, holes are covered by steel plates. Photo courtesy of Fred Willey

Sewer Construction In Full Swing

Come to Sewer Meeting on September 20th

This summer has been one of shaking, digging, dirt flying and machines banging for residents in the vicinity of Irving, Museum, Carver, Crescent and Sacramento Sts. Folks have been making the best of it, since it will help end the regular cycle of flooding that plagues the neighborhood. DPW efforts to advise residents regarding interruptions, parking restrictions and other issues have been comprehensive. The ANC has had few complaints from residents who have not been informed regarding specific inconveniences.

Tank work will continue on Francis St., where many parking restrictions are in force. In late August work proceeds to Museum St. where parking restrictions will be in place for approximately two weeks. All residents who will be inconvenienced by the construction will be informed by flyer prior to any major parking restriction or water shut down. Please note that there are no scheduled closings before 7 a.m. or after 4 p.m. If you need access during they day for medical or other emergency issues, please call the numbers posted on page one, and all efforts will be made to work with individuals.

Come to the meeting on Wednesday, September 20 in the Agassiz School Dining Hall at 7:30 p.m. where you can ask questions and learn about the upcoming work and the continuing schedule.

v City Wide v

Head of DPW Resigns

Cambridge City Manager Robert W. Healy announced on August 16th that he had accepted the resignation of Public Works Commissioner Ralph Dunphy. Mr. Dunphy has served as Commissioner since December of 1993. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Dunphy expressed concerns as to the toll that recent allegations in the Department of Public Works had taken upon him and his family.

Mr. Healy has announced the appointment of Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi as the Acting Public Works Commissioner, effective immediately. Mr. Rossi, who has served as Deputy City Manager since 1981, has twice previously served as Acting Public Works Commissioner while a permanent replacement was sought. City Manager Healy indicated that the search for a new Commissioner would begin immediately while the City reevaluates what reorganization of the department is appropriate. Interviews continue with employees in the department who have information they believe would be useful in the continuing investigation and assessment of the work environment and the evaluation of the organization.

Regarding allegations of misconduct (that include visits to sexually oriented web sites, both during and after work hours, and allegations of inappropriate comments of a sexual nature to employees), which have been under investigation since July 26, 2000, last week two employees were suspended without pay, one for 45 days and the other for 30 days. Another employee who initially was considered for a two-day suspension has instead been reprimanded. This action was taken because, according to Mr. Healy, "upon reflection, in light of the totality of the circumstances, a reprimand seems to be the appropriate level of punishment." In total, two employees were suspended without pay and two were reprimanded.

Cambridge Sprays for West Nile Virus Mosquitoes

Officials have decided to spray most areas of Cambridge to help prevent the spread of West Nile Virus, which is transmitted through mosquitoes. The decision was made following results from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health that six more birds had tested positive for West Nile Virus within a two-mile radius of Cambridge.

Truck-based spraying took place in Cambridge late at night and very early in the morning on Wednesday, August 16. The spraying scheduled for Friday, August 18, was cancelled. Below are the targeted areas:

- Mid-Cambridge
- Strawberry Hill/Coolidge Hill
- Area 4 (Inman-Kendall-Central Sq)
- Areas near Mount Auburn Street
- Cambridgeport
- Harvard Square
- Riverside
- Cambridge Cemetery

Any decision to spray other areas will be based on the discovery of additional birds or mosquitoes with WNV in close proximity to those Cambridge neighborhoods.

The pesticide that is used to control adult mosquitoes is Resmethrin. Spraying Resmethrin controls mosquitoes. The likelihood of any health effects from spraying is very low. We recommend that all individuals please take the following pre-

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cautions: If possible, people and pets should stay indoors during spraying and for one hour after spraying. People with asthma or other respiratory conditions are encouraged to stay inside during spraying. Avoid eye contact with spray if you are outdoors during spraying. Rinse your eyes with water or eye drops if you get spray in your eyes. Wash skin and clothes exposed to pesticide with soap and water. Remove or cover children's toys and outdoor furniture. Any items left outside can be washed with soap and water. Remember - Mosquitoes breed anywhere there is standing water! Make sure drains/gutters/etc. are not trapping water. Empty the water from old tires and other places where water is trapped. Change the water in kiddie pools and birdbaths weekly. If you are concerned about your health, call your doctor or your local hospital.

For more information about West Nile Virus contact the Cambridge Public Health Department at (617) 665-3801

v Harvard University v

Harvard Presents Plans at Next ANC Meeting Tuesday, September 19th (see page one for details)

Harvard University is proposing to develop a new building at the corner of Hammond and Oxford Street. It will be comprised of a new structure (along Oxford Street) and a relocated historic wood frame building, the Palfrey House (on Hammond Street). There will be a landscaped courtyard between the two buildings accommodating pedestrian access between the Agassiz neighborhood and the university. This project will conform to the Hammond-Gorham Transition Overlay District zoning guidelines developed by the City of Cambridge in cooperation with the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, Agassiz residents and the university.

The Palfrey House will be moved from its current location (the center of a surface parking lot) to the neighborhood street edge. Harvard's Environmental Health and Safety offices currently occupy the Palfrey House and will reoccupy

the building upon completion of the project. The new building is intended to house the University Information Systems group currently residing at 1730 Cambridge Street. This group operates and manages the University's main computer networking data center. This building will provide them with a new data center and staff office space. The new building will also house faculty offices for the Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences (DEAS) and their computer labs.



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Agassiz Community School Programs

It's Girls for Staff

Emily Winston is the proud mother of **Lilly**, born in early June, and **Dawn and Mike Brown** are the proud parents of **Mary Jean** born at the end of June, all doing fine.

Dawn and Mike are Afterschool Co-Directors, and Emily will be returning this fall to run the baby groups.

Fall Afterschool

Sign Up Now - Space Filling Fast

Grades 1-5:

The Agassiz Afterschool program offers stimulating and enriching activities in a safe environment with experienced teachers and specialists in the arts. Children may sign up for 1, 2, 3, or 5 days of afterschool care. Space is limited and filling quickly. Monthly fees are \$279 for 5 days, \$156 for 3 days, \$104 for 2 days or \$52 for 1 day. Stop by our offices at 20 Sacramento Street to fill out an application form or call 349-6287 to have one mailed to you. Program begins September 7.

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten program spaces are very limited. Call 349-6287 for availability or to be placed on the waiting list. Program begins September 7.

Sacramento Street Preschool:

The Preschool is currently filled. To be placed on the waiting list, call Diane DiMaina at 349-6287. Program begins September 11.

Middle School:

A variety of classes are available for middle school students each day of the week for 10-week sessions. This fall, classes will be offered in cooking (Monday), drama workshop (Tuesday), computer workshop (Wednesday), video production (Thursday), and creative writing (Friday). Classes generally cost \$80. Call 349-6287 for a brochure or more information. Program begins October 2.

Come and Welcome Vicky Ragsdale Boulrice September 12 at 7:30 p.m.

ANC Welcomes our new Assistant to the Executive Director, Vicky Ragsdale Boulrice at a reception on September 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Dining Hall of the Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St entrance. Please come out and introduce yourself and welcome Vicky to our community.

Vicky, who most recently was the Community Liaison at the Cambridge Police Department, began at ANC in July. At the police department, Vicky worked with Agassiz and all other Cambridge neighborhoods to create solutions to many social service related problems directed to the police department including public drunkenness, teens at risk, and homelessness issues. She helped create a teen drama program in Riverside with community policing funds, drawing from an extensive background in arts administration.

Update on Carriage House Renovation

News on the new art center has been quiet, but don't take that to be inaction on our part! All summer volunteers have been working at various aspects of planning for our new Art Center. The building, a renovation of our carriage house behind the Community Center, will provide four separate studio spaces for children and other community members where they can take classes and create work in the visual arts disciplines.

Soon we will begin sessions with artists for their input on the rooms we have developed and for help with specific design issues. We hope to have news of this to you later this fall.

Many other exciting events and regular working sessions are being planned for this fall. You will hear more in upcoming issues of *The Whistler*, so look for our monthly announcements.

If you are interested in receiving specific notices or want to work on fund raising or planning, contact Terry DeLancey at the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge MA 02138, 349-6287 or email <tdelancy@agassiz.org>



AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD YOGA
 Sept. 12 - Dec. 5 (no class Nov. 21), Agassiz School
 Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm, \$120 series of 12 classes
 For information or to register call Instructor, Isa Mattei,
 at 661-6242 or Michael Brown at 497-4284

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BABY and TODDLER GROUPS



ANC sponsors babies groups located in North Hall at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell St. It is a friendly place for very small children from birth through 2 years, nine months of age.

Currently the program is closed while Harvard finishes renovations on the building.

Call Vicky Ragsdale Boulrice 349-6287 for information on the groups that are best for you and your child.



Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street
Open Weekdays 9-5

Sculpture by Patricia Tillman
September 1 - October 13
Reception Friday, September 1st 5-7 pm

The Sacramento St. Gallery is proud to present a show of sculpture by Patricia Tillman who says, "Life, death, attachment and separation are some key words that describe some of the content of her recent sculpture." Working in fabricated and cast bronze, as well as cast rubber, Tillmans long term interests have centered around fusing images from sources in her immediate environment as well as her imagination. In her recent work, she fuses architectural elements with figurative images making references to personal responses to environment, family and society. "I consider my work to be like 'landmarks' that commemorate experiences or sometimes simply s 'constructed responses to experiences."

Patricia Tillman is an Associate Professor of Art at Trinity College, and she lives in Hartford, Connecticut.



PATRICIA TILLMAN

FUNDING PROVIDED IN PART BY



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

Introducing Art:

A Performance Series for Children Presents



Tuesday, September 19th
Boston Dance Collective
"Falling for Dance"

2:00 p.m. Agassiz School Stage
28 Sacramento Street Admission \$1.00

Boston Dance Collective creates dances from falling, sports, sign language, laughter, newspapers and even getting tangled in phone cords! They offer an introduction to dance, dancers and choreography.

Four dancers provide explanations and demonstrations on how choreographers and dancers work together to make contemporary dances set to music. At the end of the performance, students learn that dance is irresistible when they get a chance to make on the spot dance out of natural everyday movements.

Seventh Season

For information call 349-6287.

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THE WHISTLER SEPTEMBER 2000

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

CCTV BBQ September 21

Take a trip to Central Square for CCTV's 3rd Annual Backyard Barbecue on September 21st beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome at the BBQ, and this is a feast not to be missed, with great food by local chefs and music by the Tarbox Ramblers! CCTV member Brother RA and Sarah Gallop from MIT will be honored. Call 661-6900 for more information.

Computer Classes from CCTV at Agassiz School

Computer classes will again be planned for adults in the evenings at Agassiz School. Call CCTV at 661-6900 and ask for John Donovan for more information.

Carol Harper New Director, Cultural Facilities Project

This spring the MCFP named Carol Harper as Director. MCFP provides not-for-profits cultural institutions with workshops, planning grants and below market rate loans for capital projects that advance their missions, foster growth and strengthen their financial health.

The Agassiz Community Center mortgage was funded by the Mass. Cultural Facilities Project.

ARTS COUNCIL Seeks Staff

Cambridge Arts Council is looking for a public art administrator and an administrative assistant. For more information on these positions, call 349-4380.

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Thank You to all donors who contributed to our Annual Fund 2000 in the spring. Donations support this newsletter and other services and programs provided by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, a private, non-profit charitable corporation. All donations are tax exempt. Send donations to ANC, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge, MA 02138. More information can be found online at www.agassiz.org or www.guidestar.org or call Terry DeLancey, Executive Director at 349-6287.

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Bonnie Solomon
Joan Squeri
Eve Sullivan
Gina Tangney
Wayne Tempelman
Temple Bar
Leona Vogt
May Waugh
Bernd Widdig & Nadine Berenguier

Community Calendar September 2000

Friday, September 1	5:00-7:00 p.m.	"Sculptures" by Patricia Tillman (see page 6 for details) Sacramento Street Gallery, Agassiz Community Center 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138
Monday, September 4		Labor Day Holiday
Tuesday, September 12	6:30 p.m.	ANC Board Meeting (Public Welcome)
	7:30 p.m.	<i>Reception to Welcome Vicky Ragsdale Boulrice</i> -All Welcome Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. entrance
Tuesday, September 19	2:00 p.m.	Dance Collective presents "Falling for Dance" 7th Season Kick Off - Introducing Art Series for Children Agassiz School Stage - See page 6 for details
Tuesday, September 19	7:30 p.m.	ANC Monthly Meeting - See box on page one for details Agassiz School Dining Room, 28 Sacramento St. entrance Harvard presents development plans for Oxford St.
Wednesday, September 20	7:30 p.m.	Agassiz Sewer Construction Update Meeting Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. entrance
Friday, September 29	Sundown	Rosh Hashana

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Call 349-6287 to be on the mailing list. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration to address below, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler September 2000



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