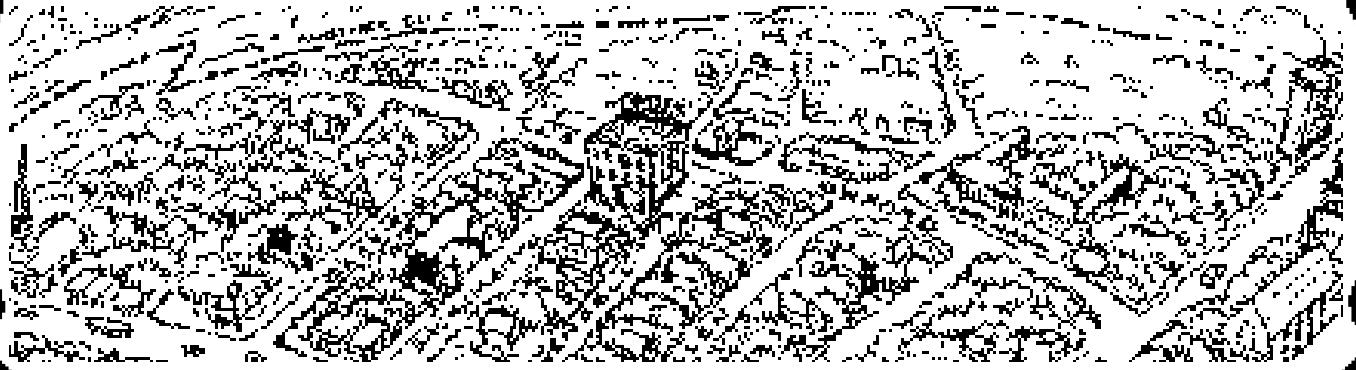


The Whistler

October 2000



Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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∨ ANC News ∨

Notes from the September 19th ANC Meeting

Chairperson **Joan Squeri** welcomed **Mary Power**, Senior Director of Public Relations at Harvard. She introduced the new Director of Community Relations, **Travis McCready**. See page 4 for a story on Travis.

Travis introduced a wide variety of people including landscape architects, architects, members of Harvard Planning and Real Estate who provided a design presentation for a new building at the corner of Hammond and Oxford Streets (where the parking lot now stands). Harvard wants to create a contemporary design at that site, and the architects discussed the difficulty creating a design that embraced the wide variety of institutional and residential styles located around it. The landscape architect discussed the open space that exists around Harvard buildings, and the hope to unite this design using the open, outdoor space. He suggested large and mature trees to develop a canopy effect down Oxford St.

The current drawings show the exterior materials to be predominantly limestone and glass. This design is the second one to be presented to the community. Members of the committee that worked to develop transitional zoning with Harvard along the Agassiz/Harvard border at Hammond and Museum Streets were the first to see the design in early summer. They were pleased that some suggestions for improvements (including removal of a mechanical penthouse from the roof) had been incorporated into the most recent design.

Harvard wants to develop a contemporary design, but many participants felt that this design provided too sharp an angle at the corner, and many felt it looked more like a hospital or medical building than a Harvard building. It was also recommended that this building might in some way suggest a gateway to the university, since it will be the first Harvard building encountered when going south on Oxford St.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ANC HAS A WEBSITE?

Look for ANC at www.agassiz.org, and you will instantly have information on ANC programs including Afterschool and Preschool, the Sacramento St. Gallery, ANC Board and Staff, *The Whistler* and links to many sites of interest to Cambridge citizens.

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE WHISTLER !

If you have Adobe Acrobat Reader (and it comes with newer versions of Netscape and Explorer) you can simply download *The Whistler* onto your computer each month.

* www.agassiz.org

Aside from the design issues, residents' concerns included mechanical noise, which has been a problem to residents from neighboring Lesley University buildings. Parking was another area of serious concern, since the building will be developed on the current parking lot. Promises of having employees use the T or other transit did not satisfy residents fears who understand that in practice people drive.

Harvard did say that they are at the preliminary stages of developing underground parking, but there was no planning link with this to the new building.

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 17

7:30 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall

28 Sacramento Street Entrance, downstairs

Agenda:

Agassiz Study Group presents an informational update to the community on their committee work to date. The committee is coordinated by Venita Mathias of the Community Development Department, and she will be organizing this meeting with the committee. You can read committee notes online : www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CDD/commplan/neighborplan/agassiz/agassiznsc.html

Travis ended the meeting with a call to interested neighbors to get involved in a planning committee that would meet separately and report back to the larger neighborhood on the design issues for this new building. Anyone who might be interested in this committee should call Terry DeLancey at the ANC, 349-6287 or Travis McCready at Harvard 495-4955.

v Neighborhood News v

Transportation and Parking

Traffic Calming Postponed

The letter below, dated September 20, 2000, was sent to the ANC for insertion in this newsletter.

Dear Resident:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all of the residents of the Agassiz neighborhood for the many hours that you spent working with the city to develop the Oxford Street traffic calming plan. This comprehensive redesign of the Oxford Street sidewalks and roadway will result in safety improvements and will improve the level of comfort for all users of the street. The city is committed to this project and believes it will greatly benefit the community.

As you know, the traffic calming project on Oxford Street began when residents and city staff identified the upcoming sewer separation project as an opportunity to redesign Oxford Street to improve it for people walking, biking and driving.

Sewer Separation Schedule

The sewer separation work for the Agassiz neighbor-

hood is proposed for construction in distinct phases spread out over the next thirteen years. As work progresses, needs may arise due to fiscal or design issues which may require revisions to this schedule. The proposed construction phasing is necessary to minimize disruption to the neighborhood.

The Department of Public Works will hold a meeting this fall to update residents on the Agassiz sewer separation and storm water management project schedule. Notices regarding this meeting will appear in the Agassiz Neighborhood Council's newsletter, The Whistler. If you would like to be added to their mailing list, please contact them at tdelancey@agassiz.org or 617-349-6287.

The sewer work on Oxford Street was originally scheduled to be constructed in the next two years. However, due to the increased scope of the sewer separation and storm water management project throughout the Agassiz neighborhood, sewer separation on Oxford Street has been delayed. Sewer separation work for the Oxford Street area is proposed to be constructed over three separate phases, with the first phase not proposed to begin prior to 2005.

Traffic Calming Project Schedule

The traffic calming plan for Oxford Street was designed to be constructed with the sewer separation and storm water management project. Due to the extensive nature of the traffic calming plan and the existing condition of the road and sidewalk, it is not feasible to implement the traffic calming plan independent of the sewer work. Therefore, the traffic calming improvements on Oxford Street will be implemented as each phase of the sewer separation and storm water work is completed.

We are all disappointed by the delay, however, for both financial and technical reasons and our interest in reducing the amount of disruption to the neighborhood, the traffic calming improvements will be constructed when all of the work can be constructed together - sanitary sewer, storm main, roadway, sidewalk and traffic calming.

The City greatly appreciates all of your efforts in developing the traffic calming plan for Oxford Street and is committed to implementing the improvements. As each phase of the Oxford Street sewer separation work is near completion, we will meet with the community to discuss implementation of the traffic calming elements.

Oxford Street Closure

As you know, Oxford Street has been closed for the last month between Kirkland Street and Mellon Street. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has recently completed



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an investigation of the combined sewer line in the area and has determined that extensive repairs are required. DPW's consultants are presently preparing a remedial design package and expect to begin the repair of this line by October/November of this year. This reconstruction effort is a temporary solution to ensure the continued functioning of this system until we begin the sewer separation and storm water management work in this area.

If you have any questions regarding the traffic calming project, please call Katherine Watkins at 349-4655 or email her at kwatkins@ci.cambridge.ma.us. If you have any questions on the closure of Oxford Street or on the sewer separation and storm water management project, please call Owen O'Riordan, City Engineer, at 349-4845 or email him at ooriordan@ci.cambridge.ma.us.

Sincerely,
Owen O'Riordan, City Engineer
Katherine F. Watkins, Traffic Calming Project Manager

Crime Watch

(The following was taken from the Cambridge Police website: www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CPD/crime/)

Hot Targets for the New Millennium

Easy to Steal, Easy to Sell

A large portion of the decline in burglaries over the past 20 years can be credited to the parallel decline of "fences" where stolen property is sold. The organized fencing operation—in which many criminals cart truckloads of stolen goods to a single operation, which then resells them—is either extinct or very nearly so.

Today, a burglar who steals a VCR may have to invest hours in the process of getting rid of it—he may resort to selling it for only a few dollars; he may try to "fence" it to passers-by on the street. In such a poor criminal economy, no property is more popular than cash, credit cards, and hard-to-trace-but-valuable property such as jewelry.

Nevertheless, a select collection of merchandise suffers from increasing popularity among thieves and burglars, each for a different reason. Together, the five items listed below account for 34% of all the larceny incidents in the city of Cambridge. The demand for these highly desired items will drive the larceny rate, and, consequently, the overall crime rate over the next few years:

1. Laptop Computers
2. Cellular Telephones

3. Construction Equipment and Tools
4. CDs and Cassette Tapes
5. Bicycles

For more information on this, visit the Cambridge Police at their website or call the ANC at 349-6287 for a paper copy of the complete report.

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/>

Sewer Construction

Sewer Meeting Report from September 20

A progress report was mailed to Agassiz residents prior to this meeting. If you did not receive, a copy, call the ANC at 349-6287, and we will send it out to you. The information below is a summary.

What's Been Done Between May and August 2000

Supports for the excavation of the pump station were installed on **Crescent Street**. A 36 inch storm drain and water mains were installed on Irving Street. A pump station, new water lines and piles prior to excavation for the storm water storage tank were installed on **Francis Avenue**. On **Francis Avenue, Howland, Carver, and Sacramento Streets**, trees were pruned to provide access for construction equipment and removed if they were unhealthy. New trees will replace those removed after construction. A 36 inch drain pipe was installed under the walkway at **Francis and Museum Streets**.

What's Going On Now

A new 8 inch water main and 30 and 36 inch storm drains with new catch basins are being installed on **Carver Street**. The new water main on **Sacramento Street** will be connected to the existing line on **Oxford Street**. An 8 inch main is being installed on **Museum Street**, and a new drain line is being installed from **Museum to Crescent Street**.

Francis Avenue will soon have the installation of a water holding tank, and this will take 2.5 months approximately. **Eustis Street** will have its lead water services replaced, sidewalks replaced and roadway regraded and repaved. **Crescent** will get a pump station. **Museum** will have supports for the excavation of a pumping station installed.

SPECIAL PARKING DURING SEWER CONSTRUCTION Harvard Lot at 38 Oxford St. (Everett entrance)

This lot may be used if you are affected by construction, and it will be available between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. You MUST go to the Harvard University Parking Office located at 29 Garden St. (corner of Chauncy) with your license and registration.

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Star (Shaw) Market Parking Lot on Beacon St.

The lot will be available between 10 p.m. and 3 p.m. the following day. There will be 15 permits issued, and they should be returned by residents as they are no longer needed so other affected residents may use the spaces. To sign up you must call Eric Reed at 354-8216, and schedule a time to sign up for a parking space.

For a detailed parking information sheet, call 349-6287, and ANC will send you information on all procedures.

Harvard Square**Harvard Square Study Group Meets**

October meetings for the Harvard Square Neighborhood Conservation District Study Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 11 and Wednesday, October 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fleet Bank (formerly BankBoston, 1414 Mass. Ave., 5th floor. See the receptionist if doors are locked. For more information call the Cambridge Historical Commission at 349-4683.

v City Wide v**RECYCLE THOSE COMPUTERS**

It is no longer legal to dispose computer or television screens in the trash. They contain an average of 5 pounds of lead that is harmless when intact, but if they are incinerated or crushed up in a landfill, they become a health hazard.

As of last spring Cambridge has been picking up these components (one per household per week), and they will either be given to Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries, or they will be recycled for the glass, plastic and other metals.

For monitors and tv's with a diagonal screen length of 20 inches or less, put them at the curb with the trash. For larger screens, call 349-4800 to purchase a sticker (\$15, \$10 seniors) and schedule a pick up before putting the screen at the curb.

v Lesley University v**Lesley Gets Name Change**

As of September 5, Lesley College became Lesley University. The name change reflects the growth of the institution from a small women's college for teachers to a co-ed, multi-site university ranked among the 10 largest master's degree-granting institutions in the United States.

The official name change follows approval last month from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education.


Although it's been called a "college" for decades, Lesley has in fact become a university. The six schools that comprise Lesley University enroll more than 8,000 students in bachelor's master's and doctoral degree programs through out the country. The new name better describes Lesley to prospective students and other constituencies.

Unlike most states, Massachusetts imposes specific requirements for institutions wishing to call themselves universities. Until this year, Lesley satisfied all of those conditions except one: A university must have at least two programs leading to doctoral degrees. Lesley, which established a doctoral program in education nearly 20 years ago, this fall began offering its second doctoral program, in expressive therapies.

v Harvard University v**Harvard Has a New Director of Public Relations**

In the months ahead, many Agassiz residents will become acquainted with Travis McCready who recently joined the team at Harvard's community affairs office as Director of Community Relations, Cambridge. He is new to both Cambridge and Harvard, having most recently worked in Minneapolis as a lawyer with the firm of Fredrikson & Byron where he especially enjoyed working with non profit organizations. Before attending law school at the University of Iowa, Travis taught 5th grade for several years in the Bronx. As Harvard's representative on the Agassiz Study Committee created by the City, he will be actively involved with the Agassiz community. Travis, and his wife Tanya, have settled in Cambridge with their young daughter Kaija and can frequently be seen running along the Charles training for long distance races and triathlons. Travis can be reached at 495-4955, or email <travis_mccready@harvard.edu>.

Mary Power remains in the public relations office, and she is now Senior Director of Public Relations at Harvard.



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Agassiz Community School Programs

Fall Programs

Grades K-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. Limited space is available, but you may be placed on a waiting list to be called when spaces open.

Sacramento Street Preschool:

The Preschool is currently filled. To be placed on the waiting list, call Diane DiMaina at 349-6287. Children must be two years and nine months of age to enter, and they may be on the waiting list before that time.

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, but some are provided at no charge. Call 349-6287 for a brochure or more information. Program begins October 2. (Tuition may be prorated if students began class late.)



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

✓ Agassiz Public School ✓

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER

Check with Seija Halva, Agassiz School Parent Liaison, for the date of the open house. She is available to give parents information on all the events in the Agassiz School, and she can help with any questions they may have about Agassiz. She can be reached at 349-6525 x 105.

Congratulations to Principal Sybil Knight on Her Recent Marriage !

**CITY YEAR
WORK A THON**
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento St.
**Join in and help keep our
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BABY and TODDLER GROUPS



Join the parents (and other caretakers) and their babies at groups sponsored by the ANC located in North Hall at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell St. This is a friendly place for very small children from birth through 2 years, nine months of age and the adults who come to meet other folks with young children.

The space has been closed for renovations, but it is due to open up in October. This year ANC will have staff support for the groups that meet both mornings and afternoons most week days. In the past groups have been organized around interest areas and baby ages. Some groups are filled, so call Vicky Ragsdale Boulrice at 349-6287 for information on the group that is best for you and your child.

THE WHISTLER OCTOBER 2000
 v Cultural Happenings v

Sacramento Street Gallery



Patricia Tillman "Sculpture" through October 13
 Opening October 30: Jody Gresham "Cambridge-Paintings"

20 Sacramento Street Open Weekdays 9-5

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, Tillman's 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.

Seventh Season

Introducing Art:

A Performance Series
 for Children Presents



October 17 Event TB A

CALL US FOR THE DETAILS 349-6287

2:00 p.m. Agassiz School Sta ge

Admission \$1.00 Groups Welcome For information call 349-6287



Agassiz Neighborhood Council has received an operating support grant from the MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL again this year to support the cultural programming provided through the Sacramento St. Gallery, Introducing Art: Performance Series for Children and arts instruction afterschool.

FUNDING PROVIDED IN PART BY



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

FRESH POND BALLET

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Register Now

FALL INTO DANCE AT THE DANCE COMPLEX

The season is full of exciting workshops and performances by local artist. All events take place at the Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave. Central Square. Call 547-9363 for more information of any events.

African Dance Performance

October 14th 8:00 p.m. \$10 Mohammed Camara

Contact Improvisation Workshop with Patrick Crowley

October 28 1:30-5 p.m. \$50/\$35 if preregistered

Shared Choreographers' Concert

October 28 and 29 8:00 p.m. \$12
 Emerging local artists present new works in dance

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

SANDERS THEATER for OCTOBER

Oct 4 Wed. 8:00 pm-Armistad Maupin Selected readings

Oct 5 Thur. 7:30 pm The 10th Annual Ig Nobel Prize- achievements that "cannot or should not be reproduced."

Oct. 6 Fri. 8:00 pm Holly Near & Cris Williamson- pioneers of women's music

Oct. 7 Sat. 7:30 pm An Evening at Club 47 with Tom Rush who will sing and host 7 other artists- to benefit Club Passim

Oct. 12 Thur. 7:30 pm An Evening with Sir George Martin: "The Making of Sgt. Pepper" A Benefit for Revels, Inc.

Oct. 13 Fri. 8:00 pm The Herbie Hancock Wayne Shorter Duo

Oct. 14 Sat. 8:00 pm WOFA, Drum and Dance of Guinea West African drum and dance

Oct. 15 Sunday 3:00 pm Boston Philharmonic Schoenberg Mahler Beethoven

Oct. 15 Sunday 7:30 pm Boston Chamber Music Society Mozart, Bernstein Taneyev

Oct. 20 Fri. 8:00 pm Inca Son- music, dance of the Andes

Oct. 21 Sat. 8:00 pm Life According to Four Bitchin' Babes A glorious musical ride through the heart

Oct. 22 Sun. 4:00 pm Jazz on a Fall Afternoon Community Works' Third Annual Benefit Concert

Oct. 23 Monday 4:00 pm Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison Lecture - author of:

An Unquiet Mind & Night Falls: Understanding Suicide

Oct. 27 Friday 8:00 pm Harvard University Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band-

Copland, Weill and Harvard songs

Oct. 28 Saturday 8 pm The Radcliffe Choral Society and Collegium Musicum present

Stravinsky and Racmaninoff

Oct. 29 Sunday 5:00 pm Celtic Jazz Collective- A blend of Irish traditional music & jazz harmonies

Oct. 31 Tues 4:00 pm David Riesman Lecture on American Society

For more information call 496-2222 or go to their website at www.fas.harvard.edu/~memhall/season.html

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. The cars are parked in neighborhoods, and the closest ones to Agassiz are in Porter and Harvard Squares.

Zipcar management has been working hard to add locations in the AGASSIZ neighborhood. They hope to have spaces in **Harvard Law School's North Hall lot** at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Mellen by the end of the month. There will also be cars soon in Davis Square, Kendall Square and Peabody Terrace

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!

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CCTV NEWS and Agassiz School Classes

On Tuesday, **October 3rd** CCTV will provide a free orientation at 6:30 p.m. This event will explain what CCTV has to offer in terms of video and computer training and production facilities, and help residents understand how they can get involved in producing TV programs for Cambridge audiences and using CCTV's computer lab. They provide a wide variety of computer and video classes in their well furnished studio space at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Prospect St. in Central Square (675 Mass. Ave.)

The Agassiz School will also be host to computer classes provided by CCTV in the 4th floor computer lab that has power macintosh computers. So far the fall classes include:

Introduction to Computers

2 Tuesdays, October 17 and 24
7-9 p.m.

Introduction to Microsoft Excel

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 5 and 6
6:30-9 p.m.

Call **John Donovan** at CCTV at 661-6900 for more information on Agassiz classes or for a listing of their computer classes offered at their Central Square location. They include Photoshop, Dreamweaver, PowerPoint, Designing a Web Page, HTML classes and How to Buy a Computer.



the New School of Music

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Programs for Adults:
Private Lessons • Adult Community Orchestra • Women's Vocal Ensemble • Jazz & Classical Ensembles • Group Voice Class • Alexander Technique

Community Calendar October 2000

October 9, Monday		Yom Kippur (begins at sundown October 8)
October 9, Monday		Columbus Day Holiday - Schools Closed
October 17, Tuesday	6:30p.m. 7:30 p.m.	ANC Board Meeting- Open to the Public ANC Monthly Meeting - Agassiz Study Group Reports (See page one for details) Agassiz School Dining Hall 28 Sacramento Street Entrance, Downstairs
October 18, Wednesday	2 p.m.	Introducing Art Performance for Children Agassiz School Stage 28 Sacramento Street Entrance, Downstairs
October 28, Saturday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	City Year Work A Thon Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.
October 29, Sunday		Daylight Savings Time Ends
October 31, Tuesday		Halloween
November 3, Friday	5-7 p.m.	Jody Gresham "Cambridge Paintings Artist" 's Reception Sacramento St. Gallery, 20 Sacramento St. - Free

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 October 2000



AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 349-6287 Fax 497-4388
www.agassiz.org

DO NOT FOR WARD