

# the agassiz WHISTLER

December 1989

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### Notes from the November 15th council meeting Community Residence at 71 Hammond St...

Representatives from Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) and CASCAP, Inc. discussed their progress on opening a residence for 8 chronically mentally ill adults at 71 Hammond St.

The architect, Americo Andrade, was on hand to present the drawings to the council. It will be a three story, four bedroom home with living space and an office on the first floor and bedrooms on the upper floors. There was some discussion on fire safety, and the housing authority has agreed to work toward installing sprinklers as requested by the neighbors. However, it may take additional fund raising since sprinklers are not required by code, and unlikely to be funded as part of the building.

CHA representatives discussed the recent change in the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance which removed the Special Permit requirement, so they will need no approval from the zoning board to go ahead with the project.

The final concern voiced by the council members was the security felt about their proposed program given the fiscal uncertainty of the state. The agencies feel that funding will be available because programs like these take people out of hospitals and save the state money. CASCAP could only say that they would not run a residence that was understaffed, and that if the money was not available by the time the building was ready, they would have to use the building in another way. The council urged the agencies to contact the council so that the neighborhood could be part of that decision process.

Harvard Expansion Committee The council discussed a meeting of Joel Bard, Chairperson and Ken Basler, Vice Chairman, ANC, with Kathy Spiegelman and Marilyn O'Connell from Harvard. They met in order to format future meetings between the neighborhood and Harvard regarding 1). recent acquisition of Bence Pharmacy block and Quality Inn on Mass. Ave., and 2). long term plans of Harvard in terms of real estate development and acquisition in the neighborhood.

They decided to meet about the two issues separately. There will be an immediate meeting to discuss the recent acquisitions with some follow up meetings, but there will be another group

### next council meeting ...

#### December Council Meeting

**Wednesday December 13** at 7:30 p.m.

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

20 Sacramento St. (call 498-9056 for information)

7:30 p.m. General Business

Oxford St. Traffic Committee update

8:00 p.m. Kathy Spiegelman, Director, Harvard Planning, and Harvard Law School reps. will discuss plans for the recently acquired Quality Inn and Bence Pharmacy block on Mass. Ave.

interested in a long term commitment to work on long range Harvard-Agassiz planning.

It was decided to invite Kathy Spiegelman, Director of Harvard Planning, to the regular December meeting of the neighborhood council. She will bring some Harvard representatives, from Harvard Law School, who will discuss their plans for the 2 sites recently purchased on Mass. Ave. (see below for the December 13th meeting details).

### Other Neighborhood Updates.....

#### Oxford St. Traffic

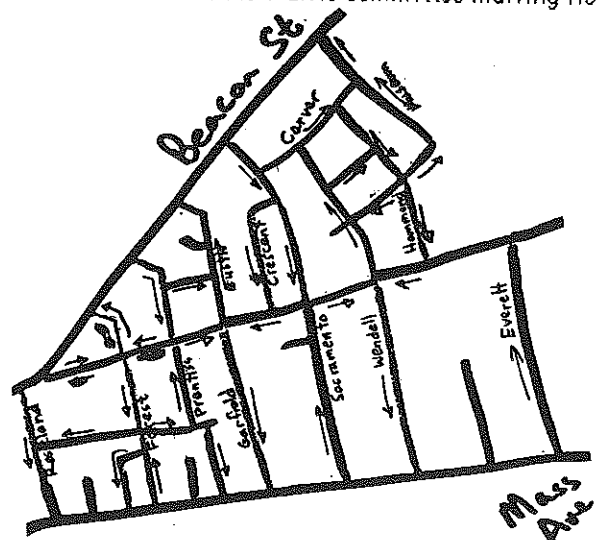
The newly formed traffic committee had its first meeting, and there is energy, enthusiasm and work coming out of it. There will be an update of the 11/29 meeting at the December council meeting to discuss what George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking has in mind to help keep Oxford St. the residential street that it is now.

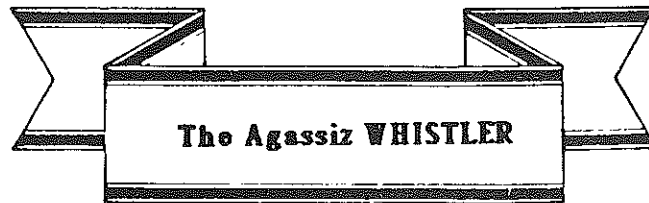
The committee has suggested many possibilities so far including a new traffic light, better signage around the Agassiz School, a ban on truck traffic, more police presence for parking and speeding violations, and a different plan for traffic flow through the neighborhood (see map).

There is some hope that Oxford Street is eligible for a truck ban. We have received some correspondence in answer to an order in City Council by Alice Wolf regarding the possibility of a truck ban on Upland Rd. and Oxford St. It is dated 11/6 to Robert Healy from Lauren Preston, Deputy Traffic Director.

The Oxford St. count . . . showed over twice the percentage (5.2%NB & 3.8%SB) of heavy trucks as were found on Upland Road. A full engineering study will be conducted on Oxford St. and will be submitted to the MDPW requesting approval of a restriction on heavy commercial vehicles.

(Call 498-9056 to be on the traffic committee mailing list)





Neighborhood Flooding.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) was true to its word, and members of the DPW visited several homes that have been hit hard by flooding. They conducted an a.m. tour on 11/21 and a p.m. tour on 11/28 to help residents find individual solutions to their flooding problems. For more information on this project, call the council office at 498-9056.

Trees for the neighborhood

This year the Agassiz Neighborhood Council will be helping plant trees with residents on Prentiss St., Hammond St. and with Lesley College on the corner of Oxford and Mellen Sts.

Look for the new trees in early spring!

Garfield St. at Mass. Ave.

We have heard from Cambridge Community Development, Cambridge Housing Authority and Rep. Alvin Thompson's office that discussions are now taking place between the city and the MBTA concerning use of the vacant lot owned by the MBTA at the corner of Garfield St. and Mass. Ave. for affordable housing.

The MBTA could lease the property to CHA who may develop 6-10 units on the site. The neighborhood has not yet been included in any discussion on this site.

Community Mural Project Fund Drive

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council would like to thank everyone who has donated so far to create a neighborhood mural at our newly renovated tot lot.

We would like to make special note of one donation that was given by neighbors in memory of Brinton Roberts, a Gorham St. resident who died in July.

Business donors include:

- Averoff Restaurant
- Cambridge Trust
- Central Barbershop
- Harvard University
- Lotus Development
- Oxford St. Realty
- Porter Arcade
- Rosie's Restaurant
- Tags Hardware
- Three Aces Pizza

Resident donors include:

- Joel and Betsy Bard
- Ken and Kitty Basler
- Valerie J. Bradley and Lewis Sargentich
- Cristina Callan
- Amelia Rachel Cohn
- Dr. Roberta B. Cohen
- Mary Connolly
- Sylvia Cowan
- Tom, Ellie and Deidre Deegan
- Mary Donaldson
- James C. DiNunzio
- Jeanne M. Fong

Fujiwara-Vakili

- Dean and Lauren Gallant
- Jody Garber and Frederick Levy
- Daniel Gilden
- Ruth Goodman and Rebecca Ennen
- Deb Gould
- Margaret Hutoff
- Mary Jane Kornacki
- Jim and Tamar Leffert
- Clare, David Eric and Anna Leslie
- Howard and Mameve Medwed
- D. Meltzer and E. Semonoff
- John Shattuck
- Miss Gertrude Shaw
- Henry Shawah
- Vaughn and Arthur Sills
- Mariana and Richard Silver
- Sue and Jim Stockard
- Anne Strong
- Walter J. Sullivan
- Representative Alvin E. Thompson
- Mary Tiseo
- Leona Vogt
- Larry Weinstein
- B. and P. Welanetz
- Sarah Wells
- Bob Young

For more information on the mural project or to donate contact the Agassiz Neighborhood Council at 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge 02138 or 498-9056. Your contributions are tax deductible, and everyone who donates \$25 or more will receive a free copy of "The Cambridge Kids Calendar" a 1990 calendar with historic photos of the Agassiz neighborhood, kids drawings, the Cambridge school calendar at a glance and important city phone numbers.

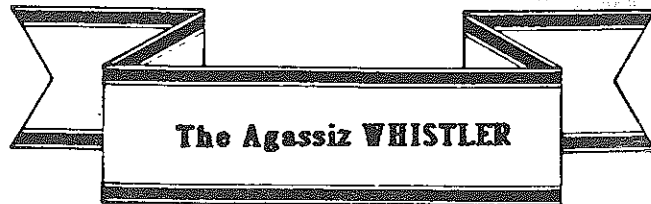
Of interest to the Neighborhood

\*\*\*CHRISTMAS TREE SALE to benefit scholarship fund of the AGASSIZ PRESCHOOL\*\*\*  
 Three weekends: Saturday and Sunday Dec. 2-3, 9-10, + 16-17  
 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturdays and 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sundays  
 1803 Mass. Av. (No. Congregational Church-next Conrans)  
 Christmas trees, decorated and undecorated wreathes, food and goodies and maybe Santa! Children welcome to use playground.

HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Your family can host an English-speaking high school student from another country and make a lifetime friendship as you "Share America with the world." High school students from Brazil and Italy are looking for January placement as part of the American Institute for Foreign Study AYA Program.

For details on hosting a foreign student in Cambridge, call our local coordinator Andrea Kadomiya at 492-0248.



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Family Companion

- Live in Boston, New York, Atlanta, San Francisco, Miami, Philadelphia, or other metropolitan areas
- Join a carefully screened and interviewed family and take care of their children (plus light housekeeping).
- Earn a minimum of \$125 per week plus room, board, health insurance and paid vacations
- Enjoy a free trip to Europe or a \$750 bonus
- Rely on our community counselor for advice and support
- Social and cultural activities and get togethers
- Take college courses - host family pays up to \$250 in tuition

To qualify you must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma and drivers license and make a one year commitment. Sponsored by American Institute for Foreign Study 102 Greenwich Ave. Greenwich, Ct. 06830. For more information call Andrea Kadomiya at 492-0248

Special Cultural Programs

BUY UNUSUAL GIFTS AND SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS

December is the month for holiday gift buying for kids and adults, and this year everyone can shop for very special gifts and support both scholarships and arts programs sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council.

The **Holiday Crafts Sale** will open with a reception Friday December 8th from 6-8 p.m. On sale will be jewelry, porcelain, quilts, earrings, scarves, kaleidoscopes, candles, leather bags, baskets and lucky dolls. Most crafts are one of a kind items, and many items are priced at under \$20. The sale will continue through 12/17, weekend hours from 12-5 p.m. and weekday hours 4-6 p.m. at the Sacramento St. Gallery, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge, MA 02138. Call 498-9056 for more information.

The **KIDS ONLY SALE** will begin on Saturday, December 16th from 12-5 p.m. Weekend hours will be 12-5 p.m. and weekdays will be 3-6 p.m. Most items cost \$1.-5. and are appropriate to give to family members, teachers and friends. It will be run by staff from the Agassiz Community School and neighborhood council who can help your children with their purchases. For more information contact the council at 498-9056.

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council would like to thank Joie de Vivre and Bradlees for their generous contributions to this sale.

Remember - Kids only !

Chekhov Theatre Co. at Agassiz

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council has a new program at the Agassiz School. The Chekhov Theatre Company, established in July of this year under the direction of Alexander Chirkov, is now rehearsing in the library of the school on weekday evenings. Their first performances are scheduled for January in the Agassiz School.

The Chekhov Theatre Co. does not feel confined to a Russian repertoire although their first two plays will be Chekhov. Their goal in forming this company is to provide an affordable, first rate, and culturally accessible venue for the exploration of theatrical masterpieces selected from authors spanning both the globe and two milleniums. They wish to shed new light on often misunderstood and seemingly intimidating works of dramatic fiction which have suffered from translations done by people whose background tends more toward the academic than theatrical.

The Chekhov Theatre Co. will soon be holding a fundraising event. For more information on their fundraiser or this exciting company, call the council office at 498-9056.

Letters to the Whistler

(note: Publication of this letter was delayed due to our Special Election Edition in November)

Dear Editor:

In the October issue, The Whistler reported that "complaints were discussed regarding the heavy equipment" on property I own at 105 Oxford Street. I assume the complaints were because the equipment was unsightly, and in a residential as opposed to a commercial zone.

I was not consulted about the discussion, even though my property at 105 Oxford and at 80 Garfield makes me a kind of shareholder in the neighborhood. A decision was made without regard for my point of view. The equipment, worth more than \$90,000, makes employment possible for a number of people. Quite a few Hispanic people, in fact live at 105 Oxford who might otherwise be starving and homeless.

I have been a good neighbor, I feel. I have not had numerous cars parked on my land at 105 Oxford towed away. I have only parked useful equipment there on my own property. Since the Neighborhood Council does not seem concerned with my feelings, I may not allow the neighborhood to continue to use the land as a free parking lot.

I'd like this letter published in Whistler if that is possible, and I'd like the Council to ask the City Manager to reinstate my right to park my equipment at 105 Oxford. I would like to be invited to any meeting at which my property is discussed in any way. And I'd appreciate it if future meetings took up the real neighborhood problems. The badly designed curbstones near the Oxford-Garfield intersection have caused accidents with children, for example, and the missing traffic light at that intersection has caused numerous smash-ups you have not, for some reason, discussed. Where are your priorities ?

Joseph Chicarella  
Lexington

# December COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- 12/7 Thursday ..... Public school half day, afterschool opens 12:45 p.m.
- 12/9 Saturday..... Recycling at 147 Hampshire, Sherman St. behind St. Peters Field 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For info call 498-9078
- 12/8 Friday..... Opening **Holiday Craft Sale**  
Sacramento St. Gallery 20 Sacramento St. 6-8 p.m. through Sunday 12/17  
Weekends 12-5 p.m. Weekdays 4-6 p.m.
- 12/13 Wednesday... Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting 7:30 p.m. 20 Sacramento St. agenda pg 1
- 12/16 Saturday..... **KIDS ONLY SALE** 12-5 p.m. Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. through Friday 12/22  
Weekend 12-5 p.m. Weekdays 3-6 p.m.
- 12/22 Friday..... **HANUKKAH** (Sundown) Last school day before December Vacation.

## Babysitting Service Available

There is a babysitting service available at Lesley College. For \$40 per year, you can sign up, and the service will provide a sitter from Lesley for you when you need one in the evening. For more information, call Becky at 547-9743.

## Help the Needy

The Friends of Cambridge restore old clothing for the needy at their meeting house in Harvard Square. If you would like more information or to help with the mending and sewing of clothing on Tuesday or Friday between 9 and 3, call Kessa at 868-9600 x105.

## Responsible Shopping

The following information from the Christian Science Monitor(8/1/89) was submitted to us by a neighbor, and we pass it along:

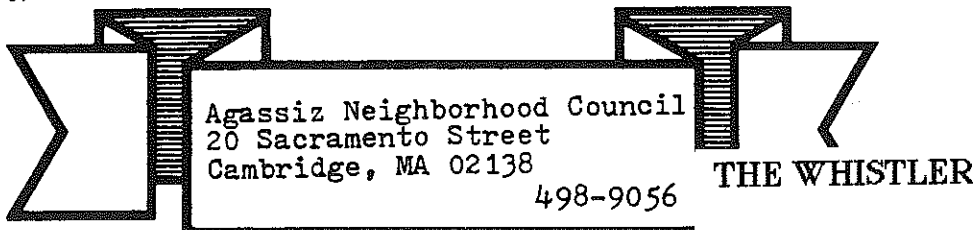
What the consumer can do to reduce waste:

- Buy recyclable and recycle
- Buy concentrates
- Buy reusable products and containers
- Buy in large sizes for frequently used products and only what you need for items you may not use again
- Avoid overpackaging: Buy in bulk; reuse bags
- Avoid anything labeled "disposable"
- Use washable napkins and towels rather than paper
- Use inexpensive, unbreakable, washable dishes and utensils for parties and picnics.
- Write to product manufacturers and tell them when you like or dislike their package or product. Companies need to hear that consumers care about waste and recyclability.

From: "Tips on How to Reduce Your Waste," by Ruth Lampi, Coalition for Recyclable Waste, P.O. Box 1091, Absecon, NJ 08201.

## REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS MONTH

Come to 147 Hampshire St. (DPW) or Sherman St. behind St. Peter's Field with your newspapers (no magazines, no junk mail), clean clear, brown and green glass with rings and caps removed, returnable cans and bottles, and aluminum cans on **December 9th between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information call 498-9078.**



## THE CAMBRIDGE KIDS CALENDARS ARE IN !!!!

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The calendars have arrived, and they are beautiful! Historic pictures of the neighborhood, children's art, important Cambridge phone numbers, and a Cambridge School Calendar at a glance. All this for only \$5.00.

Get one right away at the Oxford Spa, at the Agassiz Community Center, or you can order one through the mail today! There will be representatives from Agassiz Community School in the neighborhood soon to sell the calendar door to door. Sales of the calendar will raise money for our scholarship fund.

To order by mail, send the coupon plus \$6. (\$5 + \$1. postage) to Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge, 02138

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_