

June 1991

# The WHISTLER

The Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

## Council Meeting Notes

**Pat Byrne, Assistant to the President for Public Affairs at Lesley College**, was our guest at the May 14th neighborhood council meeting. She discussed the plans Lesley has to renovate the two dorms, Bisbee and Sacramento Halls, located at the Mass. Ave. end of Sacramento St. Lesley would like to rent out Sacramento Hall to another college as dormitory space. The plan for Bisbee Hall is to convert it to dormitory space to serve Lesley's Threshold Program, a program for learning disabled students. These students currently live in a dorm on Wendell St., and they will be moved into Bisbee Hall this fall after renovations.

Neighborhood representatives again stressed the need for Lesley to keep track of the dorms not located directly "on campus". They are often last to receive maintenance and repair.

Lesley had considered but ultimately did not purchase an apartment building in mid Cambridge, and this was discussed. Neighbors stressed that this kind of purchase and use by an institution, given the rent control implications, would be of major concern to residents. Pat agreed to bring the concerns back to the Lesley administration.

## Neighborhood News

### **New Board to be elected at Annual Meeting June 4**

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council will elect a new Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting on June

4th. This year the board of directors has been expanded to include many new members, and they are Andrea Averill, Rich Curran, Chris Guerrero, Kathleen Manion, Jim O'Neill, and Zarayuzati Snell-Doyle.

Karen Zahn and Karen Vaters will be leaving the board, and we would like to thank them for their many years of service. Karen Zahn began as a parent representative, then took a few years off, and has served as treasurer for the past 2 years. Karen Vaters also began as a parent representative, and after seven years leaves us as the chairman, an office that she has held for two years. We do expect Karen and Karen to join us often and share their years of experience with our new board. Ken Basler will remain on the board, as will Elizabeth McMullan. JoAnn Hoffman will take leave for a year to live in England. Jody Garber has agreed to replace JoAnne for the upcoming year. Due to the increase in size of the board, it has been agreed to elect officers in the fall, at which time it will be reported in *The Whistler*.

In addition to business, the Annual Meeting will include an Open House honoring Harvard Real Estate Inc. for donating renovations to the Agassiz Community Center. Many representatives from Harvard University will join us to celebrate including many of the people who worked on the Quality Inn Negotiating Committee.

### **Harvard Receives Special Permit for Dorm Use**

The long sought special permit was granted to Harvard University by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) on May 9th. This special permit will give Harvard Law School the right to convert the Quality Inn to a dormitory.

The original agreement was first proposed to the BZA on March 21st, after a series of 6 meetings with representatives from the neighborhoods. It included a handicapped accessible community room, extensive landscaping, painting of the non brick section of the building, removal of the Wendell St. side parking lot, removal of the pool, and removal of the curb cut on Mass. Ave. Because of neighborhood opposition to some issues, the BZA felt that more work was needed on the agreement and requested that Harvard return on May 9th.

The new agreement was proposed at the May 9th meeting, after additional negotiations with neigh-

### Next Council Meeting

**ANNUAL MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE**  
JUNE 4TH 5:30-7:30 P.M.  
Agassiz Community Center  
20 Sacramento St.

See the community mural on display in  
the Sacramento St. Gallery.

## The Whistler June 1991

bors, some of whom had opposed the March 21 proposal. It additionally included a grant to the council for swimming trips to replace the loss of the pool, and reconsidered the traffic and parking. Major traffic and parking issues negotiated included fewer exits onto Mellen St., only temporary closing of the curb cut at Mass. Ave., a gate at access points and overnight parking for Mellen St. residents in the parking lot. Payment of taxes was covered by the Pilot Agreement that Harvard made with the city earlier this year, which will come into effect when Harvard is no longer billed for taxes on that property.

### Thank You to Harvard

Don't miss the Open House that will commence our annual meeting, on June 4th honoring Harvard between 5:30 and 7:30 P.M. The neighborhood will thank Harvard at that time for renovations done on the community center. The mural designed by community children and created by neighborhood resident and artist Wen-Ti Tsen will be on display in the Sacramento St. Gallery. All neighborhood residents are welcome to stop in and enjoy themselves.

### Principal of the Agassiz School Resigns

Katherine (Kaye) Cox has resigned as Agassiz School Principal after 20 years. Her career in education has spanned forty one years, first as a teacher, then as the principal of the Agassiz School.

Kaye says that she leaves as the school enters into several new ventures. Agassiz is a possible site for a Lesley College professional school in which Agassiz staff will become adjunct Lesley faculty, and Lesley will take an active roll developing programs in partnership with the school.

The Agassiz School is scheduled to soon be renovated, and there is much to do in preparation for that. Kaye hopes to help with these ventures, but after 41 years, she feels it is a natural time for someone else to take over the leadership of the Agassiz School.

### 6 Prentiss St. Variance is reconsidered by BZA

The May 9th Board of Zoning Appeals heard more testimony regarding a variance for 6 Prentiss St. to be converted from use as a nursing home into a bed and breakfast with 18 rooms. At the last meeting it was agreed that the applicant would meet with neighborhood representatives and try and compromise on various issues.

The neighborhood issues included traffic, parking, and the construction phase of the renovation. The applicants and neighbors agreed to the following list that will become a part of the variance: 1). The variance will list the use as a lodging house/bed and breakfast. In that way, any future use other than bed and breakfast will have to receive another variance. 2). Construction and all outside work will be between 7:30 A.M. and 4 P.M. 3). Construction should not block

Prentiss St. unless prior 48 hour notice is given. 4). No check-ins to the bed and breakfast should occur after 9 P.M., and this should be mentioned in all advertising literature. 5). The parking space in the front left of the site should be reserved for trucks, service delivery vehicles, and taxi use, not guest or staff parking. 6). No guest or staff parking should be on Prentiss or Frost St. 7). There will be a minimum of 11 parking spaces on site.

The project will still need approval from the traffic and parking department on their parking plan, since it is unclear if these new parking spaces will be permitted under the Cambridge parking freeze. It will also be necessary to receive a license.

### Toxics behind Bence Pharmacy Site to be cleaned

Harvard Real Estate, Inc. has notified us that the chemical used in dry cleaning, tetrachloroethylene, was found in the ground behind the buildings know as the Bence Pharmacy Site. This is currently the home of Central Barbershop, Three Aces Pizza, Looks, and a cleaners.

Harvard does intend to clean it up, and there will be a meeting to discuss this matter on **June 11 at 7:30 P.M. in the Agassiz Community Center**, 20 Sacramento St. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. For more information call the council at 349-6287.

## ☆☆☆ Council Programs ☆☆☆

### Community School Barbecue

The Annual Community School Barbecue will be held on **Tuesday June 11th behind the Agassiz Community Center from 6-8 P.M.** We will supply drinks, watermelon and hot dogs, you bring the rest! Call Dawn Greene for more information. Everyone in the community is invited.

### Afterschool Programs

There are a few full time spaces still available for children in grades K-4 in our afterschool programs. Please call as soon as possible if you are interested, because space is limited. If you are interested in attending afterschool 3 days or less, we will put you on our mailing list, and information will be mailed in August. Registration for full time programs is ongoing but registration for part time afterschool is by mail in August or in person the first two days of school. Afterschool begins the Monday after Labor Day. Scholarships are available for all programs.

### Preschool

The Sacramento St. Preschool is still accepting applications for the fall. This is a five day per week, three hour per day preschool for children ages 2 years 9 months through 4 years.. Call Dawn Greene for more information. Scholarships are available.

**Summer Camp**

Outback Summer Camp begins July 1. This camp runs 8:30 A.M. with an option until 5:30 P.M. There are some spaces still available, so call Dawn Greene for registration information. Scholarships are available.

◆◆◆**Cultural Happenings**◆◆◆

**Agassiz Afterschool Players Perform June 8th**

This term due to the popularity of our drama program, the younger Afterschool Players were divided in two, and there will be two plays produced. The first will be "Post Office", a farce in one act. The cast will include Hagar Weiss, Ming Wang, Michael Sullivan, Bushra Makiya, Rebecca Ennen, Maggie Bennett, Kate Silver-Heilman, Margaret Levy, and Aaron Novod. The second play is "Strange Day at Camp Olympus". That cast will include Emily Bennett, Julia Shetekoff, Sarah Parsons, Mia Klumpenhower, Joanna Levy, Sara Hall-Nourse, Matt Mezzacappa, Carrie Kindleberger, Daria Antic, and Akiva Leffert.

Carol Hantman directs the Agassiz Afterschool Players. These plays both have a student assistant, Claire Singer, and the assistant to the director is Julie Grimmer.

The Advanced Drama Workshop, also directed by Carol Hantman, will be performing scenes from adult plays featuring children. They include: "Our Town", "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown", "The Teddy Bear Habit", "A Trail of Orchids", "Me, Candido", and "The Diary of Anne Frank". Players are Rafi Soifer, Luc Schuster, Maya Antic, Emily Griffin, Rachel Applebaum, Melina Avery, Henry Towsner, and Tamar Leffert.

If it is available by June 8th, we will preview a musical video made this spring from last term's performance of "In A Nice Neighborhood Like Ours". The video cast includes the advanced drama workshop and James DeLancey Ned Colby, Jonathan McMullen and Jonah Larkins-Ford. Carol Hantman is director, Robin Winter is videographer and Ada Snider is musical director.

The **June 8th performance will be held at Agassiz School in Baldwin Hall at 7:30 P.M.** Donations are gratefully accepted at the door. For more information call 349-6287.

**Mural Completed**

The community mural, designed by community children and created by artist Wen-Ti Tsen, is completed. It will be on display in the gallery during the Agassiz Neighborhood Council's Open House June 4th between 5:30-7:30 P.M.

❁❁ **Lesley College News** ❁❁

**AHANA Reception hosts Agassiz Chorus**

The AHANA Senior Students Reception on May 1 at Lesley College was entertained by a chorus made up of Agassiz School students, directed by Ada Snider and sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. AHANA is an undergraduate group of African Hispanic, Asian and Native American students., and this reception honored the graduating seniors. The Agassiz Chorus sang two songs and received a rose each.

**Pat Byrne visits the council in May**

Pat Byrne, Assistant to the President of Lesley for Community Affairs, visited the May Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting. See "Council Notes" for a detailed account of that meeting.

📣 **Ads and Announcements** 📣

**Work Wanted by 12 year old boy**

•Running errands•Car washing•Mowing lawns and yard work•Baby-sitting•etc. Call Zach Johnson, 73 Prentiss St., 492-6644.

**ANC needs A Macintosh Computer**

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council needs a Macintosh computer for the office. This would be a tax deductible contribution. If you don't have one but can give the council a lead on this, it would be welcome. Please call 349-6287.

🍎🍎 **Seniors News** 🍎🍎

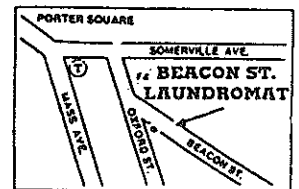
**Council to begin Seniors Drama Troupe**

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council would like to begin a drama program for seniors starting this fall. We are now in the planning stages, and if you are interested, please call Terry DeLancey at 349-6287 with your ideas or we will place you on our mailing list.



**BEACON ST. LAUNDROMAT**

358 Beacon Street  
Somerville/Cambridge Line  
**864-8654**



## June Community Calendar

June 4 Tuesday	5:30-7:30 P.M.	Agassiz Neighborhood Council Annual Meeting/Open House 20 Sacramento St.
June 8 Saturday	7:30 P.M.	Agassiz Afterschool Players Performances- See article
June 11 Tuesday	6-8 P.M.	Community School Barbecue Backyard 20 Sacramento St.
June 11 Tuesday	7:30 P.M.	Toxics Clean Up behind Bence Site -Community Meeting (see article)
June 12 Wednesday	7:00 P.M.	Graduation Agassiz School 8th Grade
June 19 Wednesday		Last day of school
July 1 Monday		Outback Summer Camp Opens

30



### The Whistler

June 1991

**Agassiz Neighborhood Council**  
**20 Sacramento St.**  
**Cambridge, MA 02138 349-6287**

**DO NOT FORWARD**

**Do you know what to do each month to  
 make your financial dreams come true?  
 Receive a free financial planning consultation with this ad.**



**PETER G. MEYERSON**  
 Registered Representative

**FINANCIAL  
 SERVICES**

800 West Cummings Park  
 Suite 5600  
 Woburn, MA 01801  
 617/933-2067  
 (Personal Office)  
 48 Sacramento Street  
 Cambridge, MA 02138  
 617/661-3080

A Torchmark Company

- Retirement and education planning**
- Life, health and disability insurance**
- Mutual funds and limited partnerships**
- Small business insurance and retirement plans**