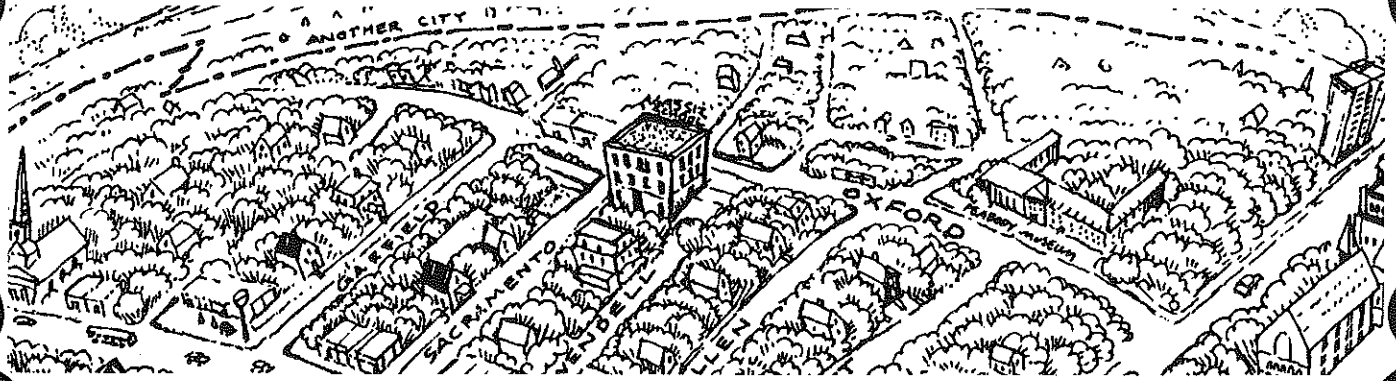


The Whistler

June 1998



Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

In this Issue

Porter Square Roadway Redesigned.	2
Help for the Elm Tree on the Tot Lot	2
Agassiz School News	3
Traffic Calming Plan - Final Draft	4
Lesley ~ Agassiz Clean-Up	7

❖ ANC News ❖

Notes from the May 19 ANC Meeting

KATHLEEN MANION was the honored guest at the Agassiz Neighborhood Council **ANNUAL MEETING**. Mayor **Frank Duehay** presented Kathleen with a resolution signed by all nine City Councillors. It expressed thanks to Kathleen for the many civic projects she has helped organize. Her leadership in founding the annual appeal, her work as chairperson during the new Agassiz School planning, her work with Mass. Ave. businesses and her care for the staff at the ANC has made her an outstanding Agassiz citizen.

The Board of Directors presented Kathleen with a corsage of roses, and later Kathleen received an engraved Revere bowl from the Agassiz Neighborhood Council.

ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS

Prior to the celebration in honor of Kathleen Manion, **Janet Rustow**, Chairperson, conducted the election. The slate of officers was voted in, each director for a two year term. Newcomers were Helen Lambert from Sacramento St. and Bernadette Manning, parent representative, from Eliot St. who has two children attending the Agassiz Afterschool program. Returning directors included: **Sal Sagarese, Janet Rustow, Fred Levy, Fred Willey** and **Joan Squeri**. Directors whose terms will be over next May include **Paul Lenart, Sue Bergin, and Allen Counter**

Please Note

The Whistler is not printed during the summer months of July and August, nor are regular ANC meetings held. Meetings are scheduled if the need arises, and bulletins will be sent if any timely issues of neighborhood concern arise.

ANC offices are open all summer, and you can call 349-6287 with regular business.

Look for notice of a meeting with Steve White on the Sewer Reconstruction on **September 22**.

Terry DeLancey, ANC Director

Next ANC Meeting June 16

Cambridge Police

Police will hold a quarterly meeting with the neighborhood to update the community on issues and to hear any neighborhood concerns

Traffic Issues

This is an opportunity for residents to get their traffic issues on the neighborhood agenda. Comments on the final draft for traffic calming will be collected.

❖ Neighborhood News ❖

Harvard Hikes Rent

A block of small businesses on Mass. Ave -Central Barbershop, Three Aces Pizza, Crimson Cleaners, and Looks-have received rent increases from their landlord, Harvard. They contacted the ANC to help keep affordable rents.

Rent affordability for these tenants has been of concern to the ANC since Harvard purchased that property, then known as the Bence Pharmacy block, approximately ten years ago. The ANC then stressed the need for first floor retail and continued services like the ones provided by these tenants to encourage vibrant and safe street life, especially at night, and to provide neighborhood services.

The property will eventually be developed by Harvard Law School, although at present no plans have been announced for the property. Harvard has agreed that when the property is developed, the community will be involved in the planning.

A petition campaign has begun, requesting Harvard to work with the businesses to keep rents affordable so the businesses can remain.

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 16

7:30 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:

Cambridge Police Quarterly Visit

Miscellaneous Neighborhood Traffic Issues

❖ DONORS ❖

Donations from residents, businesses and friends have begun rolling in to our **ANNUAL FUND DRIVE for 1998.**

All donations are tax deductible, and they support the many programs and public services the ANC provides including *this newsletter, cultural activities, a fund to finance volunteer projects and program scholarships in our neighborhood.*

These are just a few of the many services provided to Agassiz community members. You may send donations to the **Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA, 02138.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !

Tree Walk Helps to Save Elm Tree

Arborist Larry Acosta took neighbors on a tree walk this April, and one tree that was identified as needing some special care was an elm. This elm is located at the Alden Tot Lot at the corner of Oxford and Sacramento Streets.

Arborist Acosta recommended that the elm receive cables and removal of blacktop around the base of the tree to relieve the root system. These measures will help to prevent the tree from contracting Dutch elm disease.

At the May Annual meeting it was agreed to contact the DPW about this tree and ask them to provide this maintenance on the tree for the benefit of the neighborhood.

Committee to Remember Carol Hantman

A committee is currently being formed to remember Carol Hantman, former Director of the Agassiz Afterschool Players, with a suitable memorial in the Agassiz School. All interested friends of Carol's are welcome to contact the ANC for more information. Call Terry DeLancey at 349-6287.

Housing Issues

Garfield Place wins Award for Architects

The firm Eisen Architects, formerly Neprud Eisen Associates, has advised the ANC that they have received an award for their housing design at Garfield Place, located at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Garfield St.

The 1998 housing award was presented to the Boston Society of Architects, making it the second award received for that property. Last year Garfield Place was named Project of the Year by the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation.

Garfield to Receive Landscaping

In early June a cluster of lovely large planters will be placed along Garfield St. near the Gulf Station. Planters like these will be placed throughout the city as part of the DPW's Adopt-A-Pot program which is funded through a state grant awarded to the city of Cambridge for having an excellent recycling program. The potting mixture used in the planters will be predominantly comprised of compost made from recycled yard waste.

This project is a public/citizen/business partnership. The city will provide the planters complete with drainage stones and planting medium and the owner of the Gulf Station has agreed to keep the planters watered. We are asking neighbors to help in three ways:

- * to make small contributions to cover the cost of flowers
- * to help plant the flowers
- * to maintain the flowers by dead-heading as necessary throughout the season

For further information contact Clarinda Spinelli at 349-4800.

Porter Square

Redesign of Porter Square Roadway System

The Porter Square Citizen's Advisory Committee has been working over the past year with City of Cambridge staff and traffic and urban design consultants to redesign the Porter Square roadway system. The plan's benefits include additional crosswalks and longer pedestrian crossing times, bike lanes, a left turn from the Porter Square Shopping Center allowing cars to head south on Mass. Avenue, a landscaped plaza, and other aesthetic improvements.

"The committee members came to complete consensus on the features of this plan," noted PSNA President Paul Myers. (From the Porter Square Neighborhood Association)

Finnegan's Wake to become Elephant Walk

The restaurant Finnegan's Wake will soon become the Elephant Walk. The original Elephant Walk is still located in Union Square, Somerville. It will be housed in the Henderson Carriage Building, just north of Porter Square. This restaurant, with a Vietnamese and French cuisine, originally hoped to lease property in the building that formerly housed Cappuccino's Restaurant, Oxford Court.



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Agassiz Community School Programs

Outback Summer Day Camp

Spaces are filling up fast now in the Outback Summer Camp, available to kids who are entering first grade through sixth grade. The camp is located in the large backyard at the Agassiz Community Center. It provides interesting activities for kids in arts, drama, sports, nature and more at the Center and in Sacramento Field, Agassiz School and other neighborhood parks. There are bus trips every week to local beaches or recreation areas.

You can call 349-6287 for more information or to register your child for one to eight weeks of summer fun.

Agassiz Afterschool

You can register now for Afterschool this fall. Call Dawn Greene in the a.m. at 349-6287 or Mike Brown in the p.m. at 497-4284. They can send you a brochure, provide you with a tour of the program or answer any questions you may have.

Sacramento St. Preschool

Registration for the fall is now under way in the preschool, serving children from 2 years, nine months of age through kindergarten. Diane DiMaina is the Teacher/Director, and she can send you brochures, answer questions, provide tours and take your registration. She can be reached at 547-1062.

Join the Camp on a Trip

Community members are welcome to join the Outback Camp on our beach trips. There is a trip every week, and most trips are free, but you must preregister. Families are welcome, but all kids must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call 349-6287.

Community School Barbecue

Wednesday, JUNE 17 - 6-8 p.m.

Kids must be accompanied by an adult.



Everyone is Welcome

We provide hot dogs and hamburgers, you bring the side dishes and desserts.

Agassiz Community Center Backyard
20 Sacramento Street

The Garden Cafe
at
The Mary Prentiss Inn
Sit among our beautiful flower garden
and
Eat Alfresco Style

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Take-out and Catering available

Grand Opening June 17th
Summer/Fall hours Wed-Sat 11:30am-3pm
6 Prentiss st., Camb. (617)661-2929

❖ Agassiz Public School ❖

ANC Thanks Neighbors for Noise Reports

The ANC has forwarded reports from neighbors of the Agassiz School who have been bothered by noise coming from the top of the school. This noise has been described as a roaring or vibration that intermittently sounds.

This noise was identified soon after the school was built, and architects corrections only softened the noise.

Thank you to the six different households that took the time to provide detailed information on the times sounds were heard. The information has been forwarded to the school department for action. Stay tuned for a solution.

Search for new Principal Begins

Bobbie D'Alessandro, Superintendent of Schools, visited the Agassiz School just after Miss Peggy Averitte resigned as principal effective July 30. She came to listen to parents regarding characteristics they would like to see in a new principal. Feelings ran very high, and she acknowledged that there were many issues that would need to be discussed prior to the hiring of a new principal. However, issues were only listed, and their discussion was promised for another time.

The superintendent would like to see a new principal in place by the end of summer.

❖ City Wide ❖

Car Smart Helps You Buy or Lease a Car

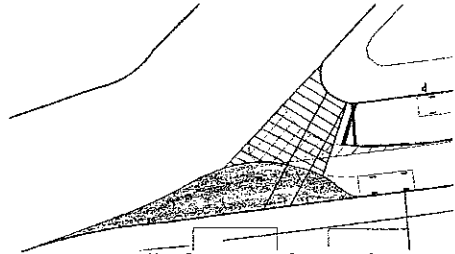
Car Smart, produced by the Massachusetts Consumers' Coalition, provides you with a consumer's guide to buying, leasing and repairing a car in Massachusetts.

This is a fat, fact filled handbook with tips on the choices to consider when purchasing, making the deal, the lemon law, used vehicle warranty law, and more. It includes auto related internet sites, specific information on leasing and other resources.

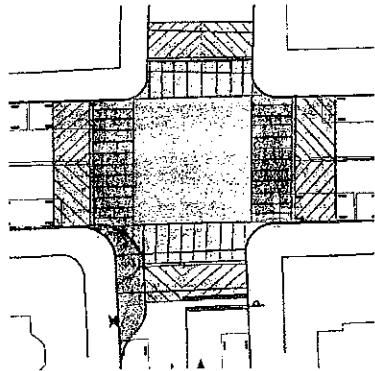
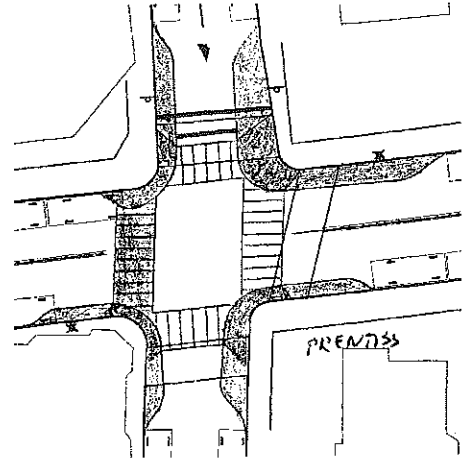
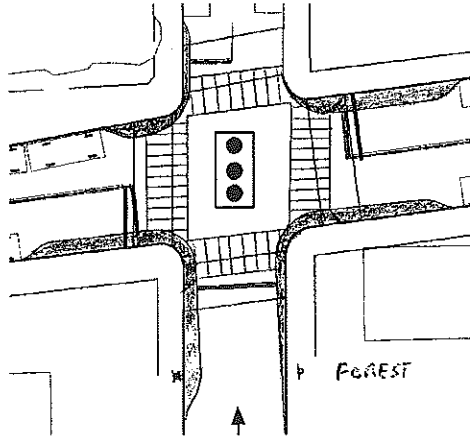
Call the ANC at 349-6287 for a copy of this guide.

Traffic Calming Plan for Oxford St. ~ Final Draft

For **Forest and Prentiss St.** intersections, the plan calls for curb extensions with four crosswalks.

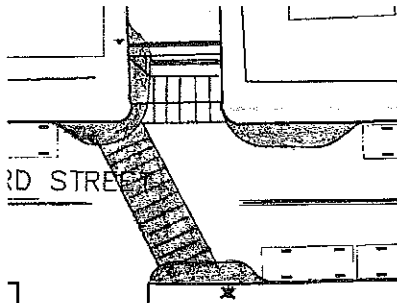


The plan calls for an enhanced crosswalk with a curb extension at Beacon, forcing a sharp turn onto Oxford and providing a shorter crosswalk.

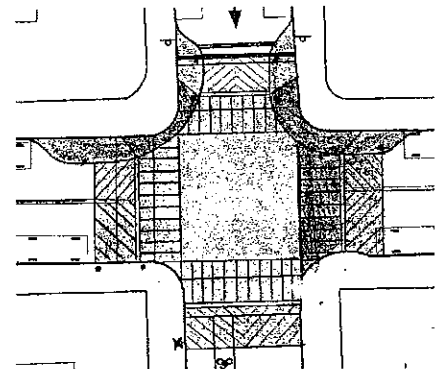
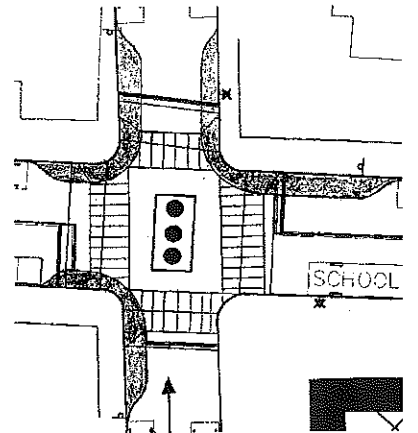


At **Eustis and Garfield**, a raised intersection is proposed. A curb extension on the north side of Garfield St. is being evaluated.

Crescent Street will have a new diagonal crosswalk. There will be small curb extensions at Crescent St. and another on Oxford St. at the crosswalk, just south of the school parking lot driveway. A new loading zone at the crosswalk will replace the current loading zone, located at the Sacramento St. corner.



Sacramento St. will have curb extensions on all corners but at the Agassiz School where the school busses must stop.



Wendell St. will have curb extensions on the approach to Oxford St. and it will be a raised intersection with four crosswalks.

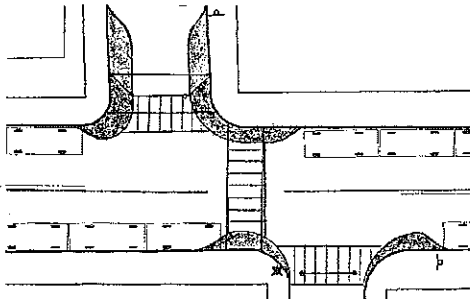


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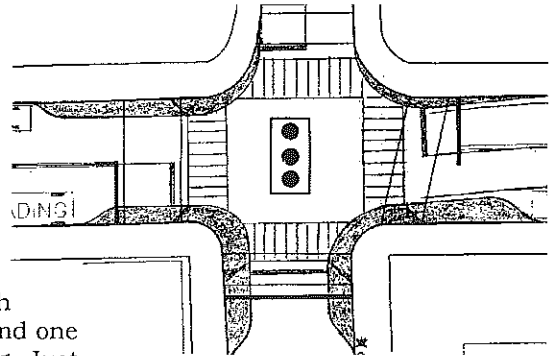
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Traffic Calming Plan continued . . .

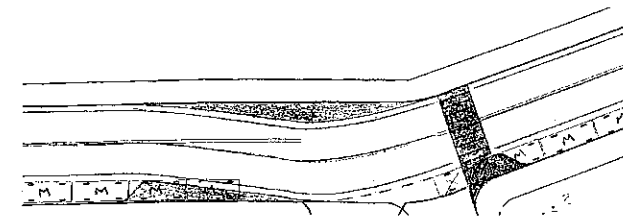
Hammond St. and Mellen St. will each have two curb extensions and crosswalks. A crosswalk will connect the south



At **Everett St.** there will be four curb extensions and four crosswalks.

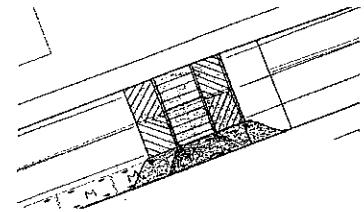


Oxford south from Everett is faced with Harvard buildings and one side metered parking. Just before the **Bend**, two chicanes (built up curves that extend into the street)

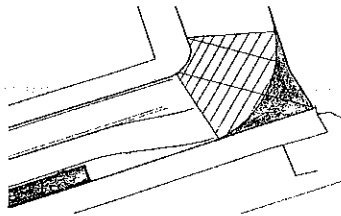


are planned to exaggerate the curve in order to slow down traffic. There will be two metered parking spaces lost here. At the bend, a curb will be moved slightly and a crosswalk and curb extension will be placed.

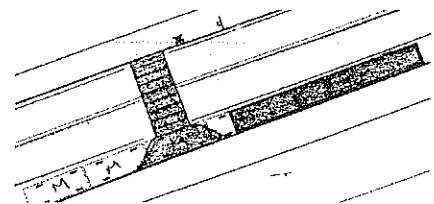
At the **Arch** building, there will be a new raised crosswalk.



At Kirkland, The bus stop will be moved away from the corner, and a larger, improved crosswalk with a smoothed corner on the Harvard Yard side will be created. In this area, where there is only one side parking, there will be a white end of lane stripe to clearly define the street.



In front of the **Science Center**, there will be a new crosswalk.



A Note on Curb Extensions and Parking

* Curb Extensions physically enforce parking regulations. State law prohibits parking within 20 feet of an intersection to improve the visibility when pulling out of side streets and to enable emergency vehicle access

* Curb Extensions shorten the crossings for pedestrians.

Curb extensions in this plan are created to extend no more than 20 feet and will not remove legal parking



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❖ Cultural Happenings ❖

Sacramento Street Gallery 20 Sacramento Street
Cortney Skinner "Time Out Of Mind: Reflections on Past, Present and Future"
Illustrations, Paintings and Drawings
Open Weekdays 9-5 JUNE 12 - JULY 11
Opening Reception - June 12 from 5-7 p.m.



Cortney Skinner is our own Afterschool artist who directs the Agassiz Illustrators Studio for 6-8th grade students and who teaches art classes in the Afterschool for children in grades 1-5. This is a unique chance for the community, including Cortney's students, to see his professional work.

Cortney's work can be very detailed and realistic, yet his subjects are often extremely fantastic and colorful.

Professionally, Cortney's work is varied. He designs magazine covers and logos, he illustrates strategy game cards and book covers. He has created many T-shirt designs, brochure designs and he once created a coin depicting a Cambridge Mayor.

Cortney has created many designs for the ANC including our logo and the map on the masthead of *The Whistler*.



Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

Boston Children's Opera June 5-7

The Emperor's New Clothes by David Budgell will be presented at the first Congregational Church, 471 Trapelo Road, Belmont. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

There is a summer arts program for children that runs for four sessions of two weeks each. For more information, call 628-0063

Musical Theatre Camp

For Children & Teens
July 6-17, July 20-31

Plus Suzuki Violin Camp- June 22 - 26
 Piano Camp- June 29-July 3

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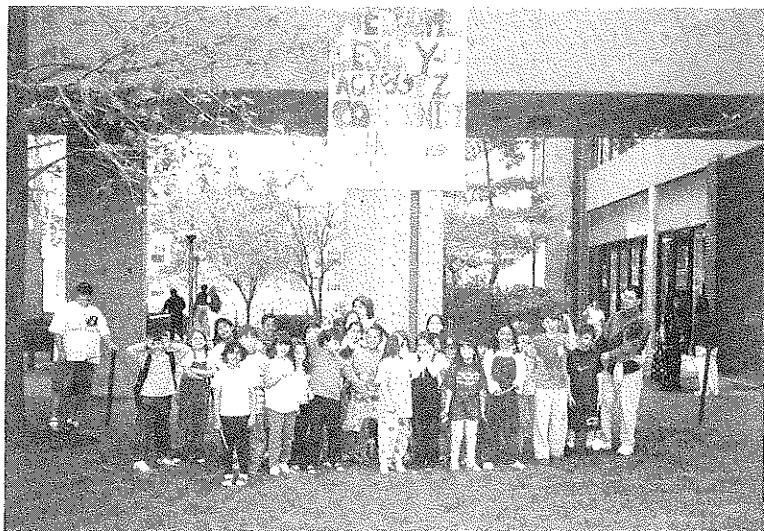


- Classical Ballet
- Pre-Ballet to pre-professional
- Adult Classes

Gallery 57 ~ 57 Inman Street
Celebrate Pride Week ~ Caroline Schneider
Drag Images ~ Polaroid image transfers
 Reception June 4 from 5-7 p.m. through July 30
 Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m - 5:00 p.m.
 For information call Sabrina Moyle, Gallery Director,
 Cambridge Arts Council - 349-4389.

❖ Lesley College ❖

Lesley Agassiz Neighborhood Clean Up April 29



Members of the Lesley College community joined with students from the Agassiz Afterschool program to clean up the neighborhood at the Annual Lesley-Agassiz Trash Clean-Up. Once the work was complete, everyone returned to Lesley for a discussion with Sam Turner, Special Assistant to the President, about trash and how it gets on the street. Finally everyone enjoyed make your own sundaes, courtesy of Lesley College.

George Hein Honored

George Hein, Agassiz resident and member of the Lesley College faculty, will be retiring this year. He has been granted the rank of Professor Emeritus. George will continue as a senior research associate with the Program Evaluation and Research Group.

❖ Announcements ❖

Parking Space Wanted in Neighborhood

Mary Vasta is looking for parking from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on public school days beginning in September through June 1999. Call (781)395-6819.

Hazardous Waste Day June 7, Sunday

During the hours of 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cambridge residents may bring hazardous items to Cambridgepark Drive for safe disposal:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Hobby, art supplies | Fiberglass resins |
| Car batteries | Oil based paint |
| Adhesives and glues | Solvents and varnishes |
| Wood preservatives | Kerosene, gasoline |
| Swimming Pool chemicals | Pesticides |
| Photo chemicals | Chemistry sets |
| Cleaners, spot removers | Antifreeze |
| Engine degreaser, brake fluid | |
| Poisons, insecticides, weed killers | |

*This will be the last drop off day until the fall.
For more information call the DPW at 349-4800.*

CCTV Offers Course for Parents and their Kids

Cambridge Community Television is starting up another TV production workshop just for kids and their parents /guardians/grandparents. Adults will work side by side with their kids to learn video production skills, engage in critical viewing exercises, and produce their own television programs at CCTV.

This summer's workshop is scheduled to meet on three consecutive Monday evenings beginning July 20 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. For more information call John Donovan at 661-6900.



photo by Andrew Brillant

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June 1998 Community Calendar

Sunday, June 7	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day Cambridgepark Drive
Friday, June 12	5-7 p.m.	Opening Reception to Meet the Artist Cortney Skinner - Illustrations, Paintings and Drawings "Time Out of Mind: Reflections on Past, Present and Future" Sacramento St. Gallery, Agassiz Community Center 20 Sacramento St.
Friday, June 12	1 p.m.	Agassiz School Eighth Grade Graduation Agassiz School Auditorium
Tuesday, June 16	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	ANC Board Meeting ~ Open to the Public ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda) Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance
Wednesday, June 17	6-8 p.m.	Community School Barbecue Agassiz Community Center Backyard 20 Sacramento St.
Wednesday, June 24		Last Day of School, Last Day of Agassiz Afterschool
Monday, June 29		First Day of Outback Summer Camp

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 June 1998



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617 349-6287
Fax and Hot Line 497-4388
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