



The Whistler

November 1990

Neighborhood Council Notes

Curbside Recycling meetings were scheduled throughout Cambridge by the DPW to inform residents of the project which is set to begin this spring. The Department of Health and Hospitals is looking for both professionals and non professionals to serve on their board. (Anyone interested should contact Anne Gardner at 498-1518.) The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority will be holding public meetings on November 14th and 15th to reveal their final plans for the combined sewer overflow project which will run through Cambridge in an underground tunnel by the Charles. (Anyone who would like additional information should contact the council at 498-9056.) Harvard does not own the house which recently closed the passageway between Sacramento Place and Garfield St. It was sold to a private owner several years ago by Harvard. The council will ask Harvard if they can provide a passage between the two streets on another site. The traffic light at Forest and Oxford Streets has worked well slowing down traffic and providing a safe place to cross Oxford since it has been upgraded from a caution light to a full traffic light. The council has agreed to work harder to solve those same problems in the area of Everett and Wendell Streets. Vice Mayor Kenneth Reeves responded to our request for better enforcement of traffic regulations with an order in city council. He has written us to find out if his efforts have been successful. (Contact the council at 498-9056 if you can provide us with any input.)

Pat Byrn, Executive Assistant to the President of Lesley College, visited our meeting at the council's request. The council was interested in the future of Lesley properties in the neighborhood and was responding to neighborhood concerns about noise and trash from Lesley buildings.

In response to queries about property, Ms. Byrn said the college is currently studying the feasibility of expanding, and they expect that if they do expand it will not be in Cambridge. At this time they anticipate their current size to remain stable in Cambridge in the future..

Next Neighborhood Council Meeting

Tuesday November 13th

7:30 P.M.

Agassiz Community Center 20 Sacramento St.

2nd floor meeting room

Agenda:

7:30 P.M. General Business (neighbors are encouraged to bring issues to council)

8:00 P.M. Police Lt. Donovan will discuss the past year in terms of break ins and traffic accidents throughout the Agassiz Neighborhood. If possible we will schedule a representative from the D.A.'s office to discuss what information they need to prosecute these crimes.

The concerns from neighbors regarding lack of maintenance and noise in the late evening and early morning were taken seriously by Ms. Byrn. The college now has a policy for residents to call security (547-2297) after regular college hours. Residents responded that they received no satisfaction or follow up on their problems with this route. Pat Byrn suggested we contact her at 868-9600x456 if not satisfied with security's response to a problem. Resident assistants at each dormitory should contact abutters to introduce themselves and to explain the fire drill procedure. Specific problems with dormitories should be addressed to Nancy Galvin at 868-9600x107.

Ms. Byrn agreed to bring the problems back to Lesley for solutions. All agreed that better communication was the key and essential for both of us to be good neighbors. Terry DeLancey, Neighborhood Coordinator, stressed the effort Lesley had made to make their resources available to the neighborhood, and she agreed to act as liaison (through *The Whistler* and various neighborhood meetings) to Lesley for the neighborhood.

Other Neighborhood News

Neighborhood Floods Again

On Saturday October 13th many Agassiz neighbors experienced flooding. If your home or car flooded and you did not receive a questionnaire, please call the council at 498-9056 to receive one. The council keeps documentation of all flooding and has done so since 1985. We hope to have city council plan a public hearing on the flooding, and we will need all documentation possible to do this.

If you have received a questionnaire, please be sure to return it if you experienced flooding: Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138

Sewer update

Commissioner Sommers from the Department of Public Works has provided us with an update of the sewer separation project phase VI which should provide some relief from the neighborhood flooding when it is completed. (in 4-5 years) He advised us that money was found in the state for this project and the loan was approved on principal. The engineering was completed including the MBTA approval, and pending approval of the state money, construction is scheduled to begin when a contractor is found. He warned however, that if CLT becomes a reality, state funds will likely be lost, and the project could take up to 10 years to reach our neighborhood..

Commissioner Sommers will be leaving the DPW in December. He has been a responsive commissioner and one who has provided information and attended meetings willingly.



Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20th
6-8 P.M. IN BALDWIN HALL AT AGASSIZ SCHOOL**

All community members and friends are invited to attend. We will provide the turkey, you bring the side dishes (salads, vegetables, drinks, desserts). Ethnic dishes most welcome! Just bring a dish enough for your family plus. If you volunteer to cook a turkey, it will be purchased by us and delivered to your door on 11/19. Call Terry DeLancey at 498-9056 to volunteer to cook a turkey.

There will be videos for children in the library. Please for the enjoyment and safety of all, do not send your children unaccompanied by an adult.

Graffiti Meetings

There have been various complaints over the past months regarding an upsurge of graffiti in the Agassiz neighborhood. It has been found on walls of houses and businesses, mailboxes and signs. City councillor Wm. Walsh put an order into city council requesting that various city departments work toward solutions. We have been contacted by Community Development Department and will attend a meeting to see what can be done.

Agassiz School renovations

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council will keep you up to date on the school renovation process by publishing their reports from time to time. If you wish to respond to the report or be more active in the process, contact Terry DeLancey, who is the neighborhood liaison to the committee and can be reached at 498-9056.

The following has been taken from a report submitted to the School Improvement Committee on the 10/10/90 meeting by the committee (which is called "Agassiz in the 21st Century "):

Attendance and Participation

Attendance was lower than a number of Spring meetings. It is important for members of our school community to attend and get involved. The work we do here is not for some far-off future when physical renovations are done. We are actively involved in educational reform and initiative, and much of this work can improve our school right now . . .

Architect Selection for Feasibility Study

. . . We will have proposals on hand in the office once they are submitted. (by 10/19) co-chairpersons of the Architectural Committee (Bill Simmers and David Carlson), as well as other 21 Century members and other interested Agassiz people, will look these over. At the next 21st Century meeting on October 30 we will discuss our recommendations. These will be transmitted via Bill Simmers to the central office interviewing team on which he will sit. This will result in a short list of applicants to be interviewed in November.

Discussion of Continuing K-8

Based on discussions at several meetings last school year, we are proceeding on the assumption that we remain a K-8 school. We will be actively examining other schools and school systems to get more ideas on working with a small school. . .

Community Input and Relations

We met with representatives of the Agassiz Community Council in September. They are supportive of the renovation efforts. At the same time, they want to ensure that the Community School gets adequate space in a renovated Agassiz. We will be putting such considerations as a top priority. The Council will begin speaking with abutters to provide pro active support for necessary zoning variances. . .

Other areas the report covers include getting students involved, guest speakers on educational reform, and surveys to provide necessary information.

Anti Catholic leaflets in neighborhood

Leaflets entitled "New Important Update Fugitive Pope" were circulated in the Agassiz neighborhood in October. The material was anti Catholic Church, and it implicated the Pope, Ronald Reagan, and George Bush as co-conspirators. The neighborhood council mailed a copy of one to the Anti Defamation League who sent us a report on the responsible group known as the Tony and Susan Alamo Christian Foundation.

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News of Interest

Harvard Forum

The Agassiz Neighborhood was one of several neighborhood and city wide organizations to sponsor a forum entitled "Harvard Expansion. and the Future of Cambridge" Other sponsoring organizations included Cambridge Citizens for Liveable Neighborhoods, Harvard Defense Fund, Mid Cambridge Association, Neighborhood 9 Association and Neighborhood 10 Association.

Expansion or development in the past few years has included the Quality Inn and the Bence Pharmacy site in the Agassiz Neighborhood. In Harvard Square it has also included the former Gulf Station at the east entrance to Harvard Square, and office buildings at 4-12 Brattle St. (the Architects Collaborative) and 51 Brattle St. (the doctors building)

The forum's program answered the question "why a neighborhood forum?" The sponsors say:

The City of Cambridge will be struggling over the next few years with the problems that beset our state and country.

No one can deny that Harvard has played a major role in the economic well-being of this city. At the same time there have been serious questions raised about development projects that only focus on the goals of the university. Equally serious questions have been raised about Harvard's role as a leading proponent of pro-development policies in Cambridge with little or no regard to the impact of these developments and policies on Cambridge residents and their neighborhoods. With this in mind we are attempting to present tonight the broader perspective of Harvard's role - past, present and future - from the neighborhood's point of view.

Moderator John Pitkin introduced the speakers. Philip Dowds from Cambridge Citizens for Liveable Neighborhoods discussed the demographic trends in Cambridge Charles Sullivan from the Cambridge Historical Commission discussed the evolution of Harvard Square and the benefit people have derived from the mixture of businesses and services. Gladys Gifford Harvard Square Defense Fund, discussed Harvard as an educational institution, as a business and as a landbanker. Charles Sage, of Sage's Food Store, discussed the climate for business in Harvard Square and their share of the tax burden, while Jim Stockard from the Cambridge Housing Author-

ity, discussed Harvard as a landlord.. The last speaker, James Maloney, Treasurer for the City of Cambridge discussed the devastating financial implications if Harvard were to convert large parcels of land to non taxable (academic) use.

Neighborhood representatives summed up and proposed several suggestions for Harvard. They included a six month moratorium on expansion, a planning group that would work as full partners with one committee representing all neighborhoods of Cambridge, and new ground rules for expansion. They urged the city to immediately re negotiate their in lieu of taxes agreement with Harvard, to take a city wide approach to Harvard's decisions about planning and to seek legislative action to give the city veto power over Harvard's ability to turn taxable buildings into non tax, academic use.

Harvard's response from the *Cambridge Chronicle* (10/25/90) is as follows:

There was immediate response to one thing; The university rejected the idea of a moratorium on new acquisitions. The idea has been suggested on other occasions by neighborhood representatives who see it as a way to forestall surprises while working toward a new cooperative relationship with the university. . . [Marilyn] O'Connell said the university welcomes the challenge to work more closely with the city and the neighborhoods, though she believes that the neighborhood by neighborhood meetings begun last winter already achieve some of that. Kathy Spiegelman of the Harvard Planning Office agreed. "We are anxious to meet the challenge they have proposed," she said. "I don't think it's a substitute. We still need to have a neighborhood by neighborhood process so that we can respond to the needs of each area."

Spiegelman argued that contrary to perceptions, "Harvard has been more active in creating taxable properties rather than removing them:

And she said there was no danger that the city would suddenly lose a large amount of revenue because of wholesale removal of properties from the tax rolls. "It wouldn't be in the university's interest to convert everything to academic use," she said. . . "If you don't look at the last 10-15 years but look at the past five or six years, there has been a marked change." the planning office is working on a report called "Project 2000" which will survey faculty at each



of the colleges to update the university's demographic statistics and projections . . . she hopes it is completed by spring.

For additional information on the forum call the council office at 498-9056.

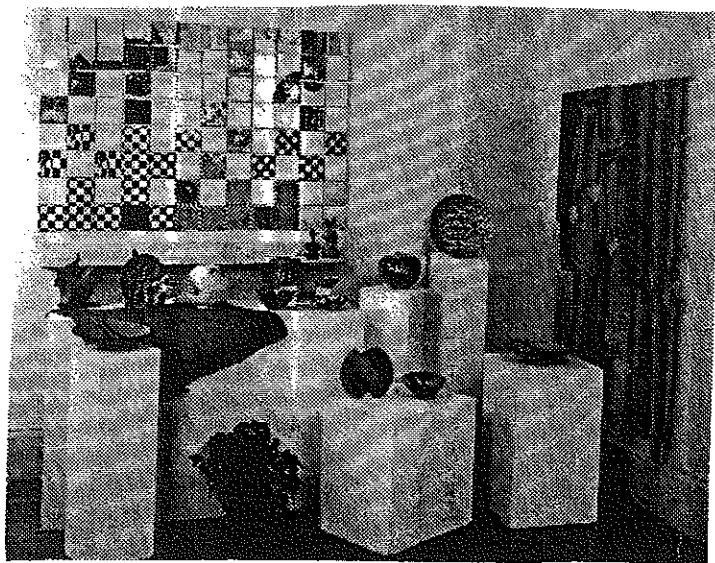
Cultural News

Holiday Crafts Sale

The Annual Holiday Crafts Sale will open on November 30 and run through December 9th. Hours are 4-6 P.M. on weekdays and 12-5 P.M. on weekends. Join us at the Sacramento St. Gallery for the opening between 5-7 P.M., located in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. There will be crafts to see, and all are for sale at prices for every budget.

There will be porcelain bowls, candle holders, and plant holders by Anne Hyland; woven scarves from Sarah Kaufman and silk scarves by Catherine Weller; jewelry from Mickey Sequenzia; painted shirts and pins by Nancy Ostrovsky, candles, Chinese paper cuttings and more.

The proceeds will support our ongoing cultural programs for children and adults. You can easily find several small gifts (and maybe large ones) at our sale, so shop with us. Get high quality, original work for the price you would pay in a store, while you keep our programs alive.



Holiday Crafts Sale Sacramento St. Gallery

Agassiz Afterschool Players perform November 17th

The Agassiz Afterschool Players, under the direction of Carol E. Hantman, meet twice weekly for 10 weeks to write, then plan and rehearse their production. The focus varies from term to term and includes acting lessons, makeup and costuming as well as writing. The Players have expanded this year to include two separate age groups, K-4 and 5th grade and up

Each group will perform a one act play on November 17th at 7:30 P.M. in Baldwin Hall at Agassiz School.

The first one act play will be "A Night at the Fair" written and performed by 1st-4th graders, and the cast includes:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Maggie Bennett | Aaron Novod |
| Rebecca Ennen | Daniel Piper |
| Gio Gaynor | Sean Ragon |
| Nate Gundy | Zach Roberts |
| Carrie Kindleberger | Peter Rosa |
| Margaret Levy | Kate Silver-Heilman |
| Akiva Leffert | Rafi Soifer |
| Alex Lucas | Mako Takahashi |
| Bushra Makiya | Henry Towsner |
| Jonathan McMullen | |

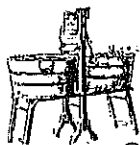
The second one act play presented by the grade 5th and older group will be "Time After Time" written and performed by 5-6th graders will feature:

- Maya Antic
- Rachel Applebaum
- Melina Avery
- Ned Colby
- Caleb Epps
- Sarah Groff
- Ben Leff
- Tamar Leffert
- Evan Zeisel

Donations will be accepted at the door. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information contact the council office at 498-9056.

Childrens' Chorus to perform at Childrens' Museum

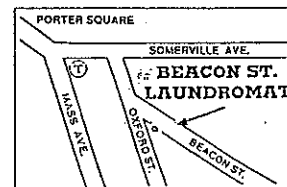
The Agassiz Neighborhood Youth Chorus, under the direction of Ada Snider, will join forces with the Kids' Earth Chorus, Directed



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by Jill Stein for a performance at the Children's Museum, 100 Congress St. Boston on the day after Thanksgiving, Friday November 23. Shows will be at 1 and 2 P.M. and the music will be around winter celebrations. For detail contact Ada Snider at 661-2961.

Art Show at Oxford St. Realty

There will be an unusual mixture of illustrations by Martha Guilbert and arts and crafts including bead work, jewelry star quilts, high quality head dresses from Crow and Sioux Reservations in North Dakota. at Oxford St. Realty located at 35 Sacramento St.. Opening on Friday November 23 from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., the show will run through December

The proceeds from the sale will go to benefit projects on the reservations. For more information call 354-3535.

Chekhov Theatre Returns from USSR

The Chekhov Theatre and Film Company has just returned from a two week tour of Leningrad, U.S.S.R. This trip was the realization of the first half of the cultural exchange program designed last season. At the present time, we are continuing to work on the second portion - hosting the Soviet troupe of Leningrad Theater of Leninskiy Komsomol here in Boston. The troupe will be here for two weeks, January 13-27, 1991. Robsham Theater of Boston College and the Cambridge Multi-Cultural Art Center graciously offered their stages and technical assistance for the performances of Leningrad Theater and artistic forum.

In order to provide the necessary support to make this whole venture a truly successful public event, our company is looking for community members and organizations to help with this project. Individuals and representatives of interested parties are invited to attend the initial meeting on November 15. The meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. at the Cambridge Multi-Cultural Arts Center located in 41 Second St., E. Cambridge MA 02141 and will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. RSVP by November 11 with Juliet Blau at 577-1400.



The Cambridge Council on Aging Volunteer Visitor Program enables elders to maintain more independent and interesting lives within their community. The Council is seeking volunteers to serve as weekly visitors to the home bound elderly. It's an opportunity to offer friendship and companionship to an elderly person and enrich their lives and yours. Please call Sandra Kahn at 498-9039 if you would like more information about the Volunteer Visitor Program in Cambridge.

Boy Scout Troop Seeks New Members

Daniel Beck, Scout Master for Troop #2 located at the North Prospect Congregational Church at 1803 Mass. Ave. in Cambridge (next to Porter Exchange). Boys must be 11 years of age or older, and the meetings are held on Monday nights from 7-8:30 P.M. For more information call Daniel Beck at 730-8487.

Shintaïdo Comes to the Agassiz School

Eastern forms of movement typically focus on control and concentration, to the exclusion of imagination and spontaneity. But now you can study Shintaïdo ("shin TIE doe"), a modern Japanese body movement that combines the wisdom contained in traditional forms with creativity, companionship, and a sense of humor.

Beginning level classes will be held Mondays from 6-7 P.M. at the Agassiz School in Baldwin Hall. Call 864-5873 for more information.

Kindergarten Meetings

If you have a child who will be 5 before April 1, 1990, read this notice. Don't make the mistake of assuming your child will simply attend the closest school, because it doesn't work that way. The Cambridge Public School System has an open enrollment policy, and that means your child can go to any school you choose in the system. In order to make an informed choice of schools, you must learn what each school has to offer. There are a series of kindergarten meetings you can attend on November 1, (7:30 P.M. at the Fitzgerald School), November 5 (7:30 P.M. at the Fletcher School), or November 7 (at City Hall) to learn more about your choices. For more information on kindergarten call the Parent Information Center at 349-6550 or 349-6482.

THANK YOU CITY YEAR

In 1989 City Year sponsored its first annual "City Year for a Day", in which more than 500 volunteers gathered to perform public service projects throughout the Boston area. The volunteers worked at 43 sites with 23 non profit organizations. The Agassiz Neighborhood Council received volunteer effort from City Year in 1989 and again on October 27, 1990.

This year volunteers from City Year came to paint the gallery, repair children's playground equipment, and repair sections of the community center's play deck. The volunteers also raked leaves, removed large trash items and helped to organize community school space.

We thank City Year for their assistance. Anyone who would like to volunteer or learn more about City Year can call their office at 451-0699.

Community Calendar November 1990

- November 6 Tuesday..... Election Day. Schools open
- November 12 Monday..... Veterans Day No School No After school
- November 13 Tuesday..... Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting 20 Sacramento St.
7:30 P.M. (see agenda page one)
- November 14 Wednesday..... Agassiz School Early Release 12:45 P.M. After school opens 12:45 P.M.
- November 17 Saturday..... Agassiz Afterschool Players Performance 7:30 P.M.
Baldwin Hall Agassiz School
- November 19 Monday..... Agassiz School Improvement Committee 3:15 P.M.
Resource Room Agassiz School
- November 20 Tuesday..... Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck 6-8 P.M. Baldwin Hall Agassiz School
Hosted by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council
- November 21 Wednesday..... Agassiz School Early Release 12:45 P.M. After school opens 12:45 P.M.
- November 22 Thursday..... Thanksgiving Day No School No Afterschool
- November 23 Friday..... Thanksgiving Recess No School No Afterschool
- November 23 Friday..... Chorus Performance at Children's Museum 1 and 2 P.M.
(See Cultural News for details)
- November 23 Friday..... Art Show at Oxford St. Realty 35 Sacramento St.
10 A.M.-6 P.M. (see Cultural News for details)
- November 30 Friday..... Holiday Crafts Sale Opening 5-7 P.M. (through 12/9)
Sacramento St. Gallery 20 Sacramento St.

OCTOBER 1990

THE Whistler

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St. Cambridge MA 02138 498-9056

COME TO THE
THANKSGIVING POT LUCK DINNER
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20 at Agassiz School
6-7:30 P.M.