

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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[At the time of this meeting, the Harvard proposal for purchase had not been approved. At this time, the proposal has been approved and the sale is pending. The ANC is planning another housing meeting in October. [Look in The Whistler for upcoming meetings.]

Notes from the June 11 ANC Meeting

At the last ANC council meeting **Roger Herzog, Housing Director for Cambridge Community Development** joined the neighborhood to discuss the pending acquisition of 100 housing units to be purchased from Harvard by the City of Cambridge. They would be used as affordable housing stock for Cambridge. The target income level for this housing would be 50-80% of the median income, and the City hopes to place tenants with a mix of income ranges.

The buildings would be owned by a community housing non profit, and new rents would eventually be determined by costs that have not yet been established. For now all Harvard leases will be honored, and no one will be forced to leave. Apartments will be available as tenants vacate.

Neighbors requested that the City consider the possibility that this property be available for purchase by the tenants. Roger stressed that the need in Cambridge was for apartments.

Roger agreed to return to the neighborhood and have further discussions once the proposal is accepted. The transfer of property and closing should take from 6-9 months.

Below are listed the units that will be purchased by Cambridge from Harvard. Agassiz has 48 units :

Agassiz Property	
• 64 Oxford Street	(17 units)
• 9-19 Sacramento St.-odd side	(19 units)
• 23 Wendell Street	(3 units)
• 25 Wendell Street	(3 units)
• <u>84 Wendell Street</u>	<u>(6 units)</u>
Total Agassiz Units	48
Riverside and Mid Cambridge Property	
• 50-52 Trowbridge St.	(35 units)
• 22-24 Flagg St.	(5 units)
• 23-25 Athens St.	(6 units)
• <u>27-29 Athens St.</u>	<u>(6 units)</u>
Total non Agassiz Units	52

Information on Next Meeting

The next ANC meeting will be held on September 17, Tuesday in the Agassiz School at 7:30 p.m. At that time guests will be Assistant City Manager for Community Development Susan Schlesinger and Deputy Director Liz Epstein. They will be on hand to discuss the community development department in general, to discuss projects that will effect the neighborhood, and to help the council with resources to develop a position document for planning on the Agassiz border of Mass. Ave.

In the second half of the meeting there will be an update on Sacramento St. Sewer construction, which should be in full swing by then.

Special Note

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council will be planting a sweet gum tree in honor of JoAnn Hoffman this fall on Sacramento Field. Check upcoming editions of The Whistler for more information.

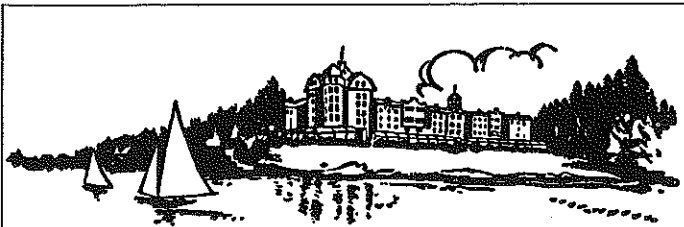
Upcoming Council Meetings

7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 17, Tuesday
AGASSIZ SCHOOL Dining Hall
28 Sacramento St. Entrance

Agenda:

- 1). Susan Schlesinger and Liz Epstein from Community Development will discuss planning.
- 2). Steve White from Cambridge Department of Public Works will discuss Sacramento St. sewer work.



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Sacramento St. Sewer Construction

There was a meeting on August 13 to discuss the impending sewer work that will be done on Sacramento St. Between Oxford and Mass. Ave. and Sacramento Place. Steve White, Assistant Commissioner at the Department of Public Works (DPW) was on hand to discuss the issues. He introduced us to a representative from D'Allesandro Construction who will be the contractor for this \$900,000 project, as well as Louis Kustwan, who will be the on site engineer for the project.

Preliminary work has already begun. This project will completely replace the sewer pipe under Sacramento St. and Place. Roads and sidewalks will also be resurfaced and replaced. The construction will continue into the winter, and there will be times of street closing, no parking in areas and water cut offs. The DPW has agreed to let residents know in advance if any of these things will be necessary. The DPW urges all people who have special medical requirements or needs to contact them immediately so they can plan with the community. They plan to have the street open each night, and the construction covered with plates. All residents will have access in and out 24 hours a day.

The DPW will be contacting all home owners on the street regarding replacement of individual water and sewer hookups. It will be the owners choice to replace in most cases. This will be a good time to have the work done since low costs will be in effect while the street is dug up. For more information on individual costs, residents can call Steve White's office at 349-4810.

It was agreed that residents need as much information as possible. The ANC will resurrect the **Hot Line 497-4388** where you can report concerns. Emergencies will be handled by the DPW. Call them at 349-4800. This line is answered 24 hours a day every day. Bulletins will be posted outside 20 Sacramento St..

There will be bulletins posted on the front door of the Community Center at 20 Sacramento St., so look for them. The one posted first advised residents that any "no parking" will be posted 24 hours prior to construction.

Traffic will be detoured around Garfield St. from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday although residents will have access 24 hours a day, as will emergency, delivery and rubbish collection. Concerns can be called into Louis Kustwan at 349-4848.

Agassiz Sewer Construction

Public Works has given us an update on the overall sewer project. They remind us that final schedules are predicted on:

- * Contract 1 of the sewer separation project completed in fall /winter 95
- * Contract 2 of the sewer separation project scheduled to begin in late August and must be completed to connect the Agassiz Neighborhood sewer and storm drain systems. The Contract 2 part of the project is scheduled to take 18-24 months. However, we expect to get construction for Contract 3 for the Agassiz Neighborhood started in the summer or fall of 1997.
- * Due to the condition of the sewers on Sacramento St. and Place from Massachusetts Ave. to Oxford St., this section of Contract 3 was moved up for construction.

Further general information:

- * Contract 3 Agassiz Neighborhood Sewer and Storm Water Separation project estimated cost is \$19,612,804.
- * Present estimated eligible State Revolving Loan Fund loan amount is \$15,046,006 based on 86% of the estimated eligible construction cost of \$17,495,355.
- * Present funds allocated by DEP for Contract 3 are \$7,500,000. It is expected that the remaining funding will be made available.
- * The authorization of the projects by the City is a requirement of the DEP
- * Continued political and resident interest to complete the project is important to the process.

For a copy of this report in its entirety, call the Council office at 349-6287.

Lesley College Seeks Zoning Relief

Lesley College has been working with the Agassiz neighborhood to resolve issues around their request to change use of a residential house to office space at 13

**GET OUT AND VOTE
IN THE PRIMARY**

SEPTEMBER 17, TUESDAY

WARD 7 PRECINCTS 1 AND 2 VOTE
AT AGASSIZ SCHOOL

Mellen and add parking to that yard and the yard of 16 Wendell St. At the last neighborhood meeting, members of the committee agreed not to oppose the petition if the parking behind the building could be reconfigured and reduced, and if the shuttle bus trips that run from Mellen St. to Porter Square could be reduced by half. It was understood by members of the committee that Lesley's intentions were sincere in regard to replacing the housing removed in the Agassiz neighborhood, most likely with housing Lesley would like to divest on Sacramento St. It was the expectation of the committee that this would be affordable housing.

Since then additional concern has been raised. City Councillor Kathy Born, speaking for Neighborhood 9, has voiced concern over the parking that will be transferred from Avon Hill property to Mellen Street. This was done with no input from the Neighborhood 9 residents. She was further concerned that this change would take tax revenue away from the City. Frank Duchay voiced his concern to the Board of Zoning Appeals in a letter which addressed the lack of specific replacement housing and the lack of a plan for the bus.

The last August Board of Zoning Appeals hearing was continued until October 17. There will be a neighborhood meeting regarding these issues after Labor Day. For more information, call the ANC at 349-6287.

Garfield Street Event and Time Capsule

On June 8th residents of Garfield Street celebrated the beginning of new housing construction by saying good-bye to their vacant lot at the corner of Mass. Ave. They held a recycling fair and tag sale. "What Goes Around Comes Around" was its name, and this was an event that drew many residents as sellers and buyers. Kids also enjoyed recycling arts, and information on recycling was provided.

Some of the residents are interested in creating a time capsule that can be buried during housing construction. If you are interested in that call the council at 349-6287.

This event was sponsored in part through a grant from the Agassiz Community Fund which encourages volunteers to create events and activities in the neighborhood by paying for supplies. Additional funding was provided by the Cambridge Housing Authority,

Special thanks to **THE HALF SHELL RESTAURANT** and **CAMBRIDGE COMMON RESTAURANT** for donations of food.

Construction of housing at the corner of Garfield St. and Mass. Ave. was originally scheduled for July. Cambridge Housing Authority has advised us that work is now scheduled to begin in September.

Traffic and Transportation

The Traffic Committee completed a report on the traffic survey done in the Agassiz Neighborhood last spring. It was submitted to the City in June. The committee is working toward providing traffic calming solutions to Oxford Street when the sewer work is completed and the roads and sidewalks are resurfaced.

For a copy of the report, or if you are interested in this issue, please call the council at 349-6287

Livable Communities Workshop

On October 4th at the Cambridge Marriott, there will be a workshop from 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. sponsored by the US Department of Transportation that will deal with building livable communities through transportation. It will include:

Safety from speeding traffic and crime

Green Space

Freedom to walk or bike to the store or library

Historic preservation

Revitalized commercial districts

More an better ways to get to work

Less traffic noise

For information call the Conservation Law Foundation at 350-0990.

City Wide

Graffiti Task Force

The City of Cambridge had a Task Force look at the issues of Graffiti last spring. Recommendations were made to the City Manager, and here is a list of recommendations that were made:

- 1). The City should make a continuing commitment to prevent graffiti through a variety of efforts including educating young people about the damage it causes.
- 2). In the short term, the City's efforts should be oriented towards
 - a). enforcement, and the apprehension of perpetrators;
 - b). prevention through education of youth and business owners who sell paint and indelible markers, and raising public awareness through educational materials, the graffiti hot line, and enforcement efforts; and
 - c). the swift removal of the "tags," and other graffiti, and the provision of technical assistance to property owners who have been victimized by graffiti
- 3). A graffiti hot line 349-INFO for a rapid response
- 4). Graffiti should be identified as a quality of life issue and be treated by police as a priority.
- 5). The courts should vigorously prosecute offenders
- 6). A city employee should be identified as the graffiti coordinator to coordinate efforts.
- 7). The city should remove graffiti on its property as soon as possible and act as a model
- 8). The city should encourage other agencies to keep their buildings graffiti free
- 9). Technical assistance to property owners should be a high priority- to help with graffiti removal
- 10). Citizens should be recognized for anti-graffiti efforts

For a complete copy of the report, call the council at 349-6287. To have graffiti removed, you can also call Tom Burdulis at 876-0620 in the Central Square Post Office.

PLEASE NOTE

ANC has a new EMAIL address:

Agassiz@concentric.net

Agassiz Community School Programs

Afterschool Programs

Agassiz Afterschool programs will open on Monday, September 9. There are many activities from sports to drama to cooking to karate to illustration to dance to chess to do each day after school. For more information, a schedule of activities, a brochure or to visit call 349-6287.

Sacramento St. Preschool

Sacramento Street Preschool will open on Monday, September 9. This is a half day preschool for children ages two years nine months through four which has many flexible options for part time scheduling. For more information, a brochure, a schedule of activities or to visit call 349-6287.

Evening Programs

Basketball for teens, basketball for adults, yoga and more will begin later this month. For more information on start dates and specifics, call Jody Garber at 349-6287.

Agassiz Public School

Agassiz Principal Hiring

The hiring process for a new principal (to replace retiring Eva Paddock) was interrupted last school year. Participants in the process felt that the pool of candidates was not wide enough, and the use of a search firm was approved. As The Whistler goes to press, two search firms have become finalists, and one should soon be hired to help with the hiring of a new principal for the Agassiz School.

Eva Paddock finished her duties as of August 31, and Fran Foley will continue as the temporary principal until a new one is selected.

ARTS Activities

The arts at Agassiz School are growing with the help of teachers, school department personnel, parents and the community. Below a few initiatives for this year are highlighted.

Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children will continue with a special performance each month, most scheduled on school release days. This program is provided through a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and produced by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. See page six for a fall calendar.

Everett Dance Theatre is an innovative and highly acclaimed group that combines principals of science into their dance performances. This year, with help from the Dance Umbrella, Agassiz will have the Everett Dance Theatre for two performances on September 17, one during school for Agassiz, the other after school for the community. (For more information this performance, see page six.) They will also provide a series of ten workshops in the Agassiz School and in the Agassiz Afterschool that will culminate in an early February performance at Boston University's Tsai Performance Center. Students

who have participated in the workshops will perform with them. All Agassiz students will have an opportunity to attend this performance.

Gallery on the Go is a program of the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln that brings visual art into the school. This spring, Agassiz will take part in that program, thanks to the work of an arts committee that has a good parent, teacher and community mix. With the art will come staff who will work with teachers. There will also be a visit for all Agassiz students to the DeCordova's excellent Sculpture Garden.

From Aztecs to Adams: Bringing History to Life is the name of the residency that will be in the eighth grade this year. The Massachusetts Cultural Council provided a grant in the dramatic arts for the fall

Many exciting things are happening in the arts, and more are sure to come with such an enthusiastic and competent group working on these projects.


Harvard University

Happy Green Leaves Harvard

Happy Green, Director of Community Relations, left Harvard for a new position at the Boston Community Loan Fund. As of June, many of her duties were taken over by Kevin McClusky at the Office of Government and Community Affairs on Garden St. in Cambridge. No replacement has been made so far.

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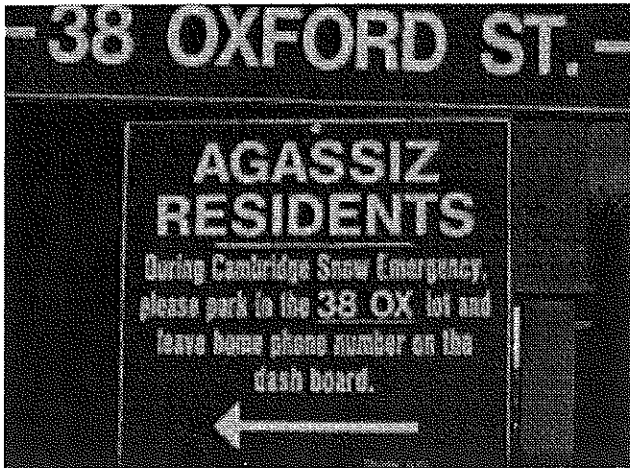


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Announcements

Community Fund Gives \$100 for Event

The Agassiz Community Fund was put to good use last June when a group of residents came up with the idea of having an event at the corner of Garfield and Mass. Ave. to use the vacant lot one last time. The Community Fund provided \$100 to the neighbors for table and tent rentals, and a recycling fair and tag sale was held. Cambridge Common and The Half Shell Restaurants both contributed food for the event, and Cambridge Housing Authority provided additional funds.

If you have an event, public service or activity in mind, and you would like the ANC to help pay for the supplies, the Community Fund may be just what you need. Call 349-6287 for more information and a very simple application form.

Sexuality Discussion Group

This series will consist of lecture, question and answer and open discussion. Topics will include health concerns, body perception, sexual function and sexual idiosyncrasy, compulsivity and sexual abuse and its impact on the above. We will attempt to diminish feelings of shame, isolation and loneliness. Saturdays from 3-5 p.m. October 5 and 19th, November 2nd and 16th-\$150 for the series. Call Marcie Mitler M.Ed. 497-5283

NOTARY AVAILABLE

The ANC has a notary available for community members convenience. Kelly Tyler is in the office from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call for an appointment.

COHOUSING IN CAMBRIDGE

We are a group of people of diverse ages, backgrounds, abilities, professions and lifestyles. We are committed to creating a neighborly and cooperative community in which we know and care about one another. Our dream is becoming reality on a quiet, tree shaded 1.5 acre site, a ten minute walk from Porter Square.

Cohousing is happening now in Cambridge. This concept has existed in Europe for over twenty years.

Recently, cohousing has crossed the Atlantic and as many as 150 cohousing communities have been built or are being planned in the US, including five in Massachusetts. If you miss things once expected from a neighborhood - extended family, community, a sense of belonging - cohousing may be for you. Cohousing communities are planned and run by residents who make decisions together, usually by consensus. A balance of common areas and private housing is designed to encourage social interaction while respecting privacy. Shared meals are available in the common house 3-5 times a week. Each household lives in its own fully equipped house or apartment.

For more information call Oaktree at 491-9100

Composting Machines Available

For \$16 you can get a composting machine from the City of Cambridge, thanks to a grant from the Mass. Dept. Of Environmental Protection. This 33 inch machine turns vegetable and plant waste into fertilized soil-no mess-no odor. For information call Robert Winters at 661-9230.

Porter Square Neighbors Association

Join Porter Square neighbors as they work on issues that effect Porter Square including shopping center renovations, traffic and pedestrian safety. All interested citizens who care about Porter Square are welcome. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7-9 p.m. in the Metro Baptist Church at the corner of Beech and Orchard Streets. For more information call Paul Myers at 576-3542.

Cambridge Celebrates 150 Years

Join in on the big celebration that will be held throughout the month of September to honor Cambridge in its 150th year. There will be a big kick off parade on Saturday September 7th starting in East Cambridge and marching through Central Square and Harvard Square to a Grande finale at the Cambridge River Festival on Memorial Drive.

There will be a golf tournament on September 13 and a giant block dance in front of City Hall on September 20 from 6-10 p.m. A field day will be held on September 28 at Danehy Park with sack races, sports clinics, demonstrations and music.

Check out *The Cambridge Chronicle* for events, or call the Arts Council at 349-4380.

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Cultural Happenings for September

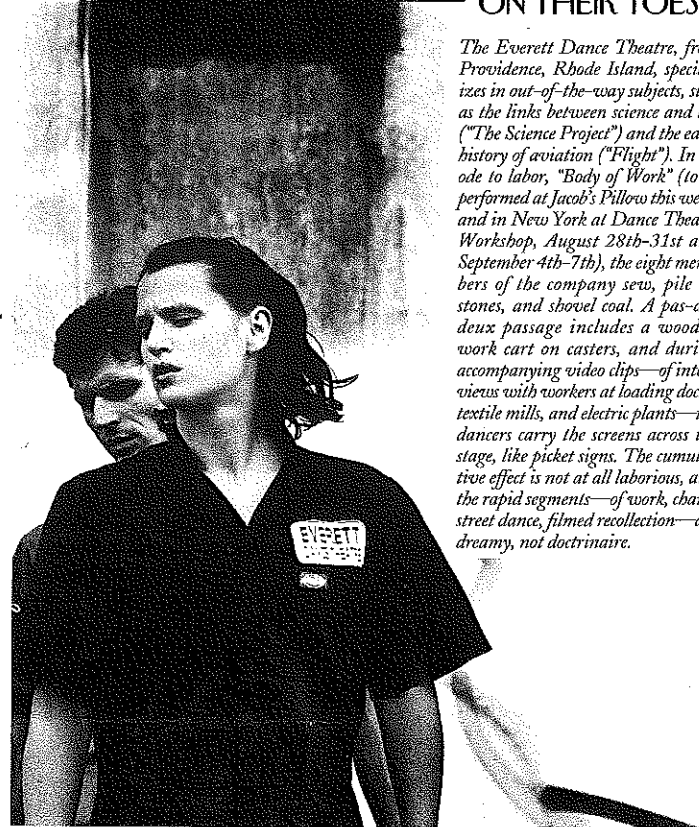
Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street

The Sacramento Street Gallery is proud to announce a new exhibition of drawings by local artist Barry Bent, entitled FACE TO FACE. The show runs from September 9 -30 and gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be an opening reception on Saturday September 28 from 4-7 p.m. FACE TO FACE features portraits which go beyond a literal likeness and incorporate the feelings and actual semblance of the artist himself. Bent calls the "conceptual portraits" and his vision is sculptural in felling. The drawings are oil stick graphite on Strathmore paper, and they cut space as they spill over paper which is ripped and then glued together in many layers.



From the July 29th New Yorker

ON THEIR TOES



The Everett Dance Theatre, from Providence, Rhode Island, specializes in out-of-the-way subjects, such as the links between science and art ("The Science Project") and the early history of aviation ("Flight"). In an ode to labor, "Body of Work" (to be performed at Jacob's Pillow this week, and in New York at Dance Theatre Workshop, August 28th-31st and September 4th-7th), the eight members of the company sew, pile up stones, and shovel coal. A pas-de-deux passage includes a wooden work cart on casters, and during accompanying video clips—of interviews with workers at loading docks, textile mills, and electric plants—the dancers carry the screens across the stage, like picket signs. The cumulative effect is not at all laborious, and the rapid segments—of work, chant, street dance, filmed recollection—are dreamy, not doctrinaire.

EVERETT DANCE THEATRE AT THE AGASSIZ SCHOOL
Early release day performance
SEPTEMBER 17th at 2:00 p.m.
Admission \$1.00 Public is welcome

Upcoming Cultural Events Fall 1996

Sacramento Street Gallery
Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento Street

September
"Face to Face"-Conceptual Portraits by Barry Bent-

October
"Private Markings" by Elaine Gifford
and Jacqueline Fitzwater

November
Photography by Ron Morris

December
Sacramento Street Gallery Crafts Show Returns

The Gallery is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. Each show will have a reception. To receive specific information or to be on the mailing list, call the Council at 349-6287.

Introduction to Art:
A Performance Series for Children
Agassiz School Stage 28 Sacramento Street

September 17, Tuesday
EVERETT DANCE THEATRE-The Marriage of Art and Science

October 23, Wednesday
SOL Y CANTO-Music of South and Central America

November 21, Thursday
BEAU JEST MOVING THEATER - The Prince and the Pauper

December 10, Thursday
VALERIE STEPHENS - African American Folk Stories

All fall shows will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Cambridge Public School early release days. Admission is \$1.00. For more information or to be on the mailing list, call the Council at 349-6287.

The Whistler September 1996

Agassiz Salutes Donors to the 1996 Annual Fund Drive

Janet Axelrod
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 Kathy Spiegelman and Rob Zverina
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ARTSPACE

Carolyn Boriss Krinsky, artist, registered art therapist and director of ARTSPACE, is teaching children's art classes in her neighborhood studio during after school hours. Classes are also held for adolescents and adults. For more information or an ARTSPACE brochure, call 547-8444.

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SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1996

September 2 Monday		Labor Day
September 9, Monday		Agassiz Afterschool Program Opens Sacramento St. Preschool Opens
September 9-30	9 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Weekdays	Sacramento St. Gallery 20 Sacramento St. FACE TO FACE-Barry Bent Reception September 28, Saturday 4-7 p.m.
September 14, Saturday		Rosh Hashanah
September 17, Tuesday	7:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.	Primary Election Agassiz School VOTE !!!!
September 17, Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	EVERETT DANCE THEATRE - School Release Day Performance - Agassiz School Stage 28 Sacramento St. Entrance - \$1.00 Admission
September 17, Tuesday	6:30 - 7:30 p.m. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	ANC Board Meeting (Open to Public) ANC Monthly Meeting Agassiz School - Dining Hall 28 Sacramento St. Entrance
September 23, Monday		Yom Kippur

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Neighborhood residents may be added to the mailing list by calling 349-6287. Items of interest to the Agassiz neighborhood may be submitted for consideration to address below, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

THE WHISTLER ~ Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council
~ FREE ~



SEPTEMBER 1996

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA 02138 349-6287
Hot Line and Fax: 497-4388
EMail: Agassiz@concentric.net

DO NOT FORWARD

This edition of *The Whistler* is being hand delivered in the Agassiz neighborhood. Call us at 349-6287 to be on the mailing list in the future.

**Sacramento St. and Place sewer construction begins this month.
Call the Hot Line at 497-4388 with your concerns.**

The Whistler is printed on 100% recycled and recyclable paper.