COMMUNITY EVENTS
AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, Weds., Nov. 8, 8:00 P.M. in the school library.

NOVEMBER RELEASE DAY
Wed., Nov. 8 - School closes at 12:30.
No Community Schools.

FIRST CUB SCOUT MEETING, PACK #2, Thurs., Nov. 16, 7:00 P.M. at the North Congregational Church.

ANNUAL AGASSIZ POT-LUCK THANKSGIVING
Tues., Nov. 21, 6:30-8:30 in the Agassiz Gym.

FREE CONCERT by the Little Orchestra, Mon., Nov. 27, 8:00 P.M. in the Agassiz Gym.

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THANKSGIVING FEAST
On Tuesday, Nov. 21, we will have our annual pot-luck Thanksgiving feast in the Agassiz gym. Feel free to bring family and friends. Bring a dish large enough to feed your group plus four more.
(Salads, vegetables, breads, desserts are all welcome. Bring your specialty!)
If you're interested in cooking a turkey, we will provide it and deliver it to your door on Monday. Call Julie at 876-9998 to sign up for a turkey.
Also, please bring serving utensils, including carving knives, and anything besides coffee or cider you might like to drink.
See you all there! Tuesday, Nov. 21st in the Agassiz Gym.

ADULT SELF-DEFENSE
A class for adults in basic self-defense taught by John Wooten. John is a black belt instructor currently teaching a class for us for ages 8-14.
The class will be held on Tuesday from 7:30-9:00 P.M. at the Agassiz School Gym. Registration will be on Monday, November 6 and 13 from 7:00-9:00 P.M. and Tuesday, November 14, 6:00-7:00 or any day from 2:30-5:30 at the school.
The class will start Nov. 21. Cost $20.00 for ten sessions.

CONCERT BY THE LITTLE ORCHESTRA.
The Little Orchestra is an adult amateur orchestra which plays a wide range of classical pieces. Bring friends and family to their annual winter (free) concert (8:00 p.m. in the school gym).

NOTICE TO WOMEN!
There have been two reported rapes in this neighborhood during the past 6 weeks. Both women were walking alone after 9:00 P.M.

AGENDA FOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
1. Mellen St. Down-zoning - an update
2. Harvard's new directions
3. Sacramento Field Update
4. New business

Mellen St. Downzoning Update
The ongoing effort to downzone the Wendell/Mellen/Everett St. blocks has taken a new and ominous turn. Prior to the Ordinance Committee hearing on Oct. 17th, Lesley College had threatened to cut off its in-lieu-of-tax payments and cease its program of scholarships to Cambridge women if the proposed compromise petition (C-1/C-2A) were passed at the Ordinance Committee hearing. Councilor Velucci introduced his own "compromise" petition which extends C-2A zoning to the entire two blocks, eliminating any residential area and creating a city-endorsed institutional district for expansion by Lesley and F. "yard. Lesley in return is to agree to divest itself, eventually, of specific properties outside these two blocks and would refrain from purchasing (nothing said about leasing) outside this zone. Lesley would further continue to support Cambridge women and continue its new program of in-lieu-of-tax payments ($15,500 this year). Harvard has offered the city nothing.

For the neighborhood, this means the official sanctioning by the city of eventual destruction of two whole blocks in return for which Lesley would divest itself of 7 buildings in the Agassiz area and 2 on Avon Hill. The neighborhood would experience a net loss of frame structures and 9 apartment buildings for a total of 112 apartment units. The coordinators of this downzoning fight are asking the community to oppose the Velucci proposal for two main reasons:
1) We cannot accept the loss of M and Wendell St. as part of our neighborhood.
2) Compromise, no matter how well intended, must be negotiated directly between Lesley College and the neighborhood, not engineered through back room deals.

We urge continued support of the compromise proposal that was devised during the six meetings held in the spring between the neighborhood, Lesley College and the city's community department.
The Velucci proposal will be heard by the Planning Board on Nov. 14th in the City Council Chambers. It will subsequently move to city council where it will catch up with the C-1/C-2A original compromise proposal we favor. After the Nov. 14th hearing we will be seeking the community's support in letter writing and phone calling to key councillors especially Velucci.

Harvard University and the Neighborhood

While the confrontation between Lesley College and the neighborhood take center stage Harvard University has been quietly instituting a number of major changes in there Real Estate Department that may lead to some very serious consequences for this neighborhood's future. The Sacramento Field issue reported in last month's Whistler has not changed. A meeting with Harvard has not materialized and residents will soon start a concerted push to come to some closure. The city is waiting for the neighborhoods reaction to Harvard's plans to swap Sacramento field for the property adjacent to the school on Sacramento St. (20, 22, 24, 26 Sacramento St.) before moving ahead with the original proposal to take the field by eminent domain for a city owned and maintained playground. The new issue that has surfaced concerns the ongoing plans by the Harvard Real Estate office to assume management of all their residential property that was in the past managed by the Hunneman Co. It is already apparent that this move will result in the 65 residential properties (over 200 apartments) being leased to only Harvard affiliates although Harvard officials said that this would not be the case it has already started to happen and reports in the Harvard Crimson and from non-Harvard affiliate residents trying to get access to the housing list bear this out. What does this mean to the Agassiz neighborhood?

1. The current move to convert apartments to condominiums has created a serious apartment shortage. If Harvard removes over 200 apartments in this neighborhood alone from the open market the crunch gets much worse. (Couple this with the Lesley/Velucci proposal which will remove another 100 apartments).

2. For the past 8 years residents and homeowners have worked to turn around the transient nature of this neighborhood. Harvard's new plan will put us back to square one.

Harvard and the Neighborhood (Cont'd)

3. As long term tenants move out short term graduates or even undergraduates will be given first choice. The strength within this neighborhood has the commitment of so many to stay and create a neighborhood. Can we expect that same commitment from someone here for only a year or two.

4. Many of the apartments are large 2-3 bedroom spaces ideal for families. Already we are seeing apartments once rented to families now being rented to 2-3 single adults.

We will discuss the above issues at the Community School Council meeting Wed., November 8th at 8:00 p.m. in the library. Please come and share your views.