ANC Council Notes

From the November 16 ANC meeting

General Business

Chairperson Kathleen Manion opened the meeting with several announcements. She pointed out the new soft lighting that Harvard had installed in the Community Room. The council was reminded of the meeting scheduled for December 9 with Lesley College President Margaret McKenna in the Community Room at 7:30 p.m. (See information on page 2.)

Terry DeLancey said that there had been a response to the letter sent to Cumberland Farms regarding the rumor of a self-serve gas station and convenience store on the site of the Gulf Station at the corner of Mass. Ave. at Garfield. The letter stated that Cumberland Farms had been operating the station since July, and they intend to continue with no plans to change the site. They agreed to keep our letter on file in the event that their plans do change. Terry had also heard from Len Charney of the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA). This is the agency that will receive the land on the other corner of Garfield St. at Mass. Ave., from the MBTA and develop the land as low cost housing. Charney said that there would be some drilling and monitoring at the site during the next few weeks to develop an environmental assessment. No one expects that there is any contamination, but the assessment is a necessary requirement of the sale. There was concern over the number of units that would be built and the zoning requirements for them. Terry agreed to advise CHA that the neighborhood would like to meet soon to discuss the issues.

Terry also reported on the Cambridge Historical Commission's hearing on the demolition of the Oxford Garage located on Eustis St. They will not grant permission for demolition until they receive a financial plan and construction drawings. There was no major objection to the demolition from the Historical Commission.

Ken Wexler, Representative to the Agassiz School Building Committee, provided a written report on the status of school demolition and construction. There was discussion on how the neighborhood would handle problems and issues resulting from construction. The second half of the council meeting is reserved for this. In order to provide a swift response when needed, Terry agreed to send a letter to Oversight Committee members soliciting volunteers to meet on an emergency basis between monthly meetings if necessary. (For details on school construction issues see page 3.)

Agassiz Neighborhood Council as neighborhood association

There was a lively discussion on the issues that had been addressed in the November Whistler, but the only resolution was to refer issues regarding the structure of the ANC to the Long Range Planning Committee for further discussion. Anyone interested in pursuing those issues is urged to join the Long Range Planning Committee by calling 349-6287.
Information on Next Meeting

Thursday December 9
7:30 p.m.
Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
Community Room at 1651 Mass. Ave.
(cornor of Wendell St.)

Agenda to Include:
Margaret McKenna, Lesley College President
will address the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. Other guests from Lesley will include various representatives from departments that residents may need to contact from time to time. There will be time for questions from the participants. At the end of the discussion Lesley staff will be available to work on individual issues that may have specific solutions.

General Business, Updates, Future meetings
Ongoing Agassiz School Construction and Demolitions Issues

City Wide News and Information

New Officials
Cambridge will have a new city council on January 1st. They will be:
Kathleen Born
Frank DuChay
Jonathan Meyers
Ken Reeves
Sheila Russell
Michael Sullivan
Tim Toomey
Katherine Triantafillou
Bill Walsh

The new school committee will be:
Henrietta Davis
Fred Fantini
Joe Grassi
Robin Harris
David Maher
Denise Simmons

Liquor Policy Now in Effect
There has been continuing discussion at the Cambridge License Commission regarding beer and wine licenses, and on October 28 the License Commission voted the following policy:
The Commission has voted 3-0 to keep the cap policy in place as it now stands [our neighborhood is under a cap, which does not allow any additional liquor, beer or wine licenses, but does permit license transfers]. The Commission has made it clear that the policy, as it now stands, provides for exceptions to the policy. The commission will not in the future, deny applications strictly because there is a cap. They will use the exception rule where applicable, on a case by case basis. An applicant must show a need for another license in that area, overwhelming neighborhood support plus a lack of harm to the common good in the area: no additional noise, traffic or pedestrian problems. Overwhelming neighborhood support shall mean complete support by the immediate neighborhood with no opposition. If in the Harvard Square cap, you must have a City Council vote of recommended approval.

Your Neighborhood Realtor

For All Your Real Estate Needs
ELIZABETH BROWNING
864-4430 BUSINESS
497-4511 RESIDENCE

HUNNEMAN AND COMPANY COLDWELL BANKER
1730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE MA 02138
Cigarette Vending Machines May Go

The City Ordinance Committee, Chaired by Alice Wolf, will have a second reading of an new ordinance that will ban cigarette vending machines in the City any place where the public is served. The meeting is scheduled for the middle of this month.

Agassiz Community School News

December Vacation Child Care

Agassiz Afterschool Programs will be open for December Vacation Child Care from December 28-31 all day (8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). Children must be pre registered. For more information, speak to your child’s after school teacher or call the office at 349-6287.

Tae Kwon Do Class Opens

Tae Kwon Do classes meet on Monday afternoons, from 3:45-4:45 p.m. at the Harvard Epworth church, 1555 Massachusetts Ave. The teacher is Robin Reck, a 3rd degree Black Belt with 15 years experience, highly recommended by former teacher Heather Tallman. The first term of the course runs until January 31 and the cost is $144 for 12 sessions. You may begin anytime and the cost will be prorated. For more information or to register, call 349-6287.

Computer Lab Needs Hardware! Donations are tax deductible!

The new afterschool computer lab, which is being run by CRLS student Dan Clark, needs equipment. We now have two Macintosh Plus’s, two Apple II Plus’s and one old IBM computers. We can use more computers, Macintosh hard drives, Macintosh computers with color monitors, and printers (we would love one that could support graphics.)

The lab is used by children afterschool, mostly for games, and it has become very popular. We would like to expand the use to word processing and graphics, and with the additional equipment, we can develop the computer lab.

Donations will be a gift to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council which is a private tax exempt non profit, and donations are tax deductible for the value of the equipment. If you are interested call us at 349-6287.

Kids Only Sale December 5

This year the Kids Only Holiday Sale will take place between Noon and 3 p.m. at the Agassiz School temporary site located in Union Square, Somerville, 15 Webster Ave. It will be part of the Agassiz International Food Fair, so you can eat while your children shop! There will be many other events and activities of interest to families at the fair, so stop by.

The Kids Only Holiday Sale is an opportunity for school age children to shop for holiday gifts in a safe environment. Community School staff will be on hand to help children pick out gifts and help with math. Gifts are inexpensively priced, with many items less than $1.

As in the past, many items in the sale have been donated by Jole de Vivre on Mass. Ave. near Porter Square.

Cultural Happenings

First Sunday Concert December 5

The North Prospect Church, located on the corner of Roseland St. at 1803 Massachusetts Ave., will hold its December concert on Sunday December 5 at 4:30 p.m.

Melanie Chiappini, soprano, and Elfrieda Hiebert, piano, will be performing music by Mozart, Fauré, Hindemith and Warlock. Some of the pieces will be seasonal. There will be a reception in the Sawyer Room following the hour-long concert. The concert is free, but donations are requested. A handicap entrance is located on Roseland St., near the front of the church. For more information call 547-1448.
Agassiz School
Demolition and Construction

for updates or to report problems, call the HOT LINE 497-4388

New Agassiz School - Project Schedule
(courtesy of HMFH Architects)
26 Sacramento St. Relocation .... 11/22/93-1/15/94
Agassiz Demolition .............. 11/22/93-1/21/94
New School construction......... 3/01/94-7/01/95
Sacramento Field construction .. 6/01/94-11/01/94

26 Sacramento House To Move
The move of the house at 26 Sacramento St. is now underway. Although some of the work will be done concurrent with the Agassiz School demolition, it is under a separate contract with Harvard, the owners of 26 Sacramento St. The house will be moved approximately 25 feet, onto the lot at 24 Sacramento St., to provide the new school with additional property for contiguous play space.

The utility relocation, removal of bushes and other preparatory work was done prior to Thanksgiving. A fence will be erected around the entire construction site prior to foundation work, which should begin as The Whistler goes to press. Once the foundation is ready the house will be moved.

Agassiz School Demolition Begins
Jim Rita, from the School Department, will act as Clerk of the Works for the demolition phase of the Agassiz demolition and salvage project. Salvage has begun, and workmen will be taking out historical items for the next several weeks which will be stored until needed. Demolition will not involve any explosives, but the building will be knocked down, and trucks will remove the debris. The Agassiz School site will be unfenced with an 8" layer of sand or gravel on top until construction begins.

Call the Hot Line 497-4388 for weekly updates.

New Agassiz School Construction
The completed documents for the Agassiz School construction will be available on November 30 from the City. This is the information that contractors read prior to bidding on the contract that specifies all construction details. The ANC will have a copy of these documents available for interested residents to review. Bids are due in on January 13.

Agassiz School Building Committee
At the 11/16 ANC meeting, Ken Wexler, Agassiz representative to the Agassiz School Building Committee, presented a written report. His report detailed the building committee's 11/9 meeting. Many of the time lines have been modified since that time, and the other articles in this section will provide you with the updates.

Ken discussed neighborhood concern regarding
the possible damage that could occur to homes during construction. The architects have developed a map (see below left) that delineates "Zones of Influence." There are two circles. The inner circle represents the area of possible horizontal movement impact from excavation, approximately 45 feet from excavation. The outer circle represents the area of possible vibration impact from placement of sheet piles, approximately 100 feet from excavation.

All homes that fall within either zone (they are numbered on the map) will be both inspected prior to construction and monitored during construction for horizontal movement and vibration. The architects believe that the lines have been drawn well outside the possible damage areas.

However, if you are not in the "Zone of Influence" as shown on the map and would like your home inspected prior to construction, please call Rich Ross, Deputy City Manager at 349-4300.

**Ongoing Agassiz Construction Issues**

At the October ANC meeting, it was agreed that the issues usually handled in the Oversight Committee meetings would be discussed during the second half of the ANC monthly meetings for as long as necessary. At the present time these issues primarily involve Agassiz School demolition and construction.

At the 11/16 meeting plans were made to allow the ANC to provide a swift response to neighborhood problems or questions arising from the upcoming demolition and construction.

We have developed an AGASSIZ DEMOLITION AND CONSTRUCTION HOT LINE 497-4388 for neighbors to call which will be monitored daily. This HOT LINE will provide updates and an opportunity for neighbors to record problems and issues on an answering machine. Problems will be forwarded to the proper authority for action immediately, and all calls will be logged and published in The Whistler on a monthly basis.

We are recruiting a small group of people who will agree to meet on an emergency basis if a problem comes up that cannot wait for a regular meeting. If you are interested in this group, please call the council at 349-6287 and we will get back to you about best times to meet. Please remember that meetings might be called on short notice if quick action is required.

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**For an update on Agassiz School demolition/construction, or to report any construction related problems or concerns, call the Hot Line for Agassiz School Demolition & Construction 497-4388**

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**Lesley College News**

**Sally Lenhart Tribute**

The Lesley community lost one of its most well known and respected members this fall when Sally Lenhart, dean of students, succumbed to cancer following a long and courageous struggle. There was a gathering of students and staff in late October at Lesley in tribute to her memory.
Lesley Agassiz Meeting

On November 16th the Lesley Agassiz Resource Committee met in Lesley’s Alumni Hall for its fall meeting. Lesley President Margaret McKenna greeted the group, and a wide variety of representatives were on hand to update each other.

We learned that the security force of Lesley were focusing on “customer service” and training was taking place in that area.

The new Communications Director, Stephen Crawford, who has just assumed his duties, was introduced. He will be in touch with Terry DeLancey soon.

The committee would like to present a joint social or cultural event this winter. Do you have an idea for one you would like? Call Terry DeLancey at 349-6287, and she will report your suggestions to the committee.

The Lesley Agassiz Resource Committee has served the two communities in a low key, steady way for many years. Chairred by Linda Brion-Meisel, who is on staff at Lesley and in residence on Sacramento St., the committee brings representatives of each community together for two informal meetings each year. This committee has provided a forum for the communities to work together on mutual projects, sharing resources whenever possible and facilitating general communication.

There are many cooperative ventures. The work study program that trains Lesley students in administration and teaching, while providing Agassiz with an entergetic and inexpensive work force. This year Lesley has provided space for our dance program in their gym and a December performance in Welch auditorium for the Afterschool Players. Agassiz had provided evening class space for Lesley.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

The Agassiz Community Children’s School, located at the North Prospect Church, 1803 Mass. Ave. (next to Conran’s) will hold its annual fund raising sale Saturday and Sunday December 4 and 5 Thursday-Sunday December 9-12 Wednesday-Sunday December 15-19 Weekdays 4-8 p.m. Weekends Noon-8 p.m.
All sizes and kinds of trees, tree stands, wreaths and ad decorations for information call 547-9355

Ads and Announcements

Odd Job Exchange

As we mentioned in November’s Whistler, we have had several requests from residents to start a type of “Odd Job Exchange.” We are happy to act as a resource exchange for those people who need a task or chore done (on a one-time or ongoing basis) and those valuable other people who are willing to perform the needed service.

The ANC will act as “Information Central” to provide names of workers to those seeking services. We are not able, however, to provide screening of callers from either category – potential employer or employee. Participants must be willing on their own to check references, ascertain the exact nature of the service requested, and handle any communication necessary for a smooth and safe interaction.

We would urge all participants to ask lots of questions of the other party to be certain there are no miscommunications and that each party has a thorough, clear and mutually agreeable understanding of the nature of the work involved.

If you have a need for someone to help you with an odd job: shoveling, raking, cleaning the basement, walking the dog, and so on, please call the Council office at 349-6287. Similarly, if you are willing to provide services in these areas (or others), please also call. We will make the initial connection, but the rest is up to you.

Help Wanted at Rape Crisis Center

Volunteer/Educational Coordinator wanted: $21-23,000 per year for a 32 hour week, some evenings required. Health and dental insurance, three weeks vacation and two weeks sick time per year. Commitment to anti rape organizing, interest in women’s issues, and experience in volunteer training and coordination is required. Crisis intervention, community organizing, and multi-cultural/multi racial programming skills required. For more information call 492-8306.

Apprentice in Ironworks

A three year apprentice training program (learn while you earn) in setting steel, tying reinforce rods, and ornamental work is being offered by the Joint Apprentice and Training Committee of the Iron Workers Local #7 in Allston.
Applicants must be at least eighteen years old with ten years of school and in good physical condition. Apply between January 10-21 Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-Noon at 35 Travis St. Allston. Registration fee is $20. For information call 254-7686.

**One Stop GED Classes**

Just A Start, located at 432 Columbia St. offers ONE STOP - G.E.D. classes to achieve high school equivalency, career exploration with a stipend for those who are eligible. Call 494-0444 and ask for Kick or Elizabeth.

**AIDS GROUP SEeks HELP**

Cambridge Cares About AIDS seeks volunteers who can help people with HIV infection remain at home as long as possible. Volunteers working for the Meal Delivery Program deliver hot meals to people with HIV/AIDS, their children, other members of their households, and their caregivers. If you are interested in helping, call Caroline Ross at 661-3040.

**Help Fire Victims in Central Square**

As most Cambridge folks know, many people lost their homes earlier this year in a terrible Central Square fire. Many city organizations have worked hard to raise funds for these families, and if you would also like to contribute, you may send donations to Central Square Fire Fund, c/o Theodora Arvenites, Cambridgeport Bank, 689 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139.

**Share Your Family**

Cambridge Family and Children's Services is looking for people who want to be part of the solution and make a difference through sharing their families with a special child. Family preservation services is looking for foster parents, and they offer support, training and generous compensation. For more detailed information call 876-4210 x38.

**Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Partners**

Marcie Mitler, M.Ed. provides an ongoing support/discussion group or a one day workshop for survivors. There is also an evening gathering for partners. For more information, call Marcie Mitler at 497-5283.

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**What Is the ANC ?**

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is a private non profit corporation whose mission is to improve and promote the quality of life in the Agassiz Community. To that end, we provide many services and programs. This month we would like to explain one service: Technical assistance.

If you have an issue of neighborhood concern, come to a monthly council meeting. If the issue is of general interest, your issue will become part of the council business, and an appropriate response will be developed. There is much assistance available.

The staff of the ANC maintain many resources including up to date, coded mailing lists, city reports, general neighborhood information, files of history on neighborhood information and newsletter back to 1971. The staff can assist in the development of flyers, press releases, newsletter articles, research, mailings, leafleting, and phoning. There are funds to provide mailings.

Meeting space is available, and outside groups may rent rooms if space permits.

If you have a neighborhood question or problem that may be unique to you, well informed staff are willing to discuss these issues. Many people have used our resources in writing papers, others have been referred to the appropriate person in a city department or agency.

Call the council 349-6287 anytime between 9-6.

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**The Agassiz Neighborhood Council would like to**

**Give a Special Thanks to neighborhood businesses who have supported our efforts in very special ways this year**

**JOIE DE VIVRE**

**and**

**ROSIE'S RESTAURANT**

Thank you to Joie de Vivre for a merchandise donations for our Kids Only Holiday Sale every year.

**Thank you to Rosie's Restaurant for the use of your function Room for our drama program and a spinet piano that we can use in the Community Center!**
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 4, Saturday</td>
<td>Noon - 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Kids Only Sale and International Food Fair</td>
<td>Temporary Agassiz School, 15 Webster Ave., Somerville</td>
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<td>December 5, Sunday</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Concert North Prospect Church</td>
<td>1803 Mass. Ave., Cambridge</td>
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<td>December 6, Monday</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz School Improvement Council</td>
<td>Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.</td>
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<td>December 7, Tuesday</td>
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<td>Cambridge Public Schools half day</td>
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<td>December 8, Wednesday</td>
<td>Sundown</td>
<td>Hanukkah</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9, Thursday</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ANC December Meeting, 1651 Mass. Ave. at Wendell St.</td>
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<td>December 14, Tuesday</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz Afterschool Players performance</td>
<td>Welch Auditorium, Lesley College</td>
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<td>December 23, Wednesday</td>
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<td>Agassiz School and Afterschool Close for December Holiday</td>
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