ANC Meeting Notes

Chair JoAnn Hoffman opened the November 15 meeting at 7:30 p.m., and introduced Steve White, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Works who was invited to discuss the sewer and water problems of Agassiz neighborhood. Steve introduced another staff member, Annette Rodbaugh. He discussed the current status of the Sewer Separation Project, Phase VI. This project will separate the sanitary sewer lines from the storm run off lines in our neighborhood. Currently the run off is mixed. It will also increase the size of pipe that carries the waste water. White said that the size of pipe varies, but under Oxford St. in some places they will be as large as 72" in diameter. Currently, the sewers are about 100 years old and in very poor repair all over the neighborhood. He said the pipes, often 8-12" diameter, work like straws in a heavy rainfall.

Residents who have had frequent flooding were very skeptical that the pipe sizes were adequate for their problems. People from Carver, Sacramento and Crescent Streets described waters that were so high they came into car windows and over basement window sills. One basement had so much water that the fuel tank came loose and spilled its oil. Another resident said that because the water contained sewage, it should be looked at as a health issue and solved even if it takes long term coordination.

Mr. White said that they are now developing construction plans from the engineering plans that were done some years ago. These plans are more specific and deal with more detail. He said they are looking into all the factors that must be considered prior to construction including: m and sanitary sewers, electrical lines, water services from homes, pavement and curbs. He strongly believes that prior to drawings, the neighborhood should be physically reviewed and information from the residents should be included. White agreed that more storm drains are necessary, and he feels some need to be better placed on the streets. Gravity is the preferred method of carrying water, since it is free and more reliable than pumping, but if the water needs to be pumped, it will be pumped. He agreed to come into the neighborhood the next time it floods and see the problems for himself. He is currently working with the MWRA, Somerville and other relevant agencies, and seeks neighborhood input into this process.

Residents who live at the Somerville border explained that water comes into the neighborhood from Somerville. They fear that without Somerville’s cooperation, Cambridge will be unable to manage the water. White said Cambridge is far ahead of Somerville in its sewer work, but they were in discussion on it with Somerville. He believes that the conditions in Somerville will not prevent Cambridge from solving the problem.

Currently the entire project, which began at the River and deWolfe St., is ahead of schedule. They are currently tunneling under the Red Line at Quincy Square. White would like to work on Sacramento St. pipes between Mass. Ave. and Oxford St. this spring in coordination with the school construction. In this way, the street and sidewalks will be completed at one time, and Sacramento will not have to be torn up again in another year.

Residents have noted strong smells coming out of storm drains. In the last few months, White said this is due primarily to grease and also soap scum. Sometimes restaurants will throw grease down the drain, and this will

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Upcoming Council Meetings
Next Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell St.)
7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 20

Rent Control Update
Agassiz Tenants will be brought up to date on action by the City and State
Agassiz School Construction Update
A report on upcoming construction for the winter months
cause the smell. He asked residents to alert him when there is a smell from the sewers.

It is White's hope that the Agassiz project can be pushed up from its original start schedule (1997) to spring of '95. Originally the neighborhood was told that moving the Agassiz project ahead would do no good because until Agassiz can be tied to the rest of the system, there is no way for the water to flow to the river. After the current project, there is one more project before Agassiz. Mr. White's hope is that the two remaining projects can be done concurrently. This will hasten relief to Agassiz, but it will double the funding needed for '95 which is uncertain now.

Mr. White said he would have more information in March and offered to return to the neighborhood to review the time lines and drawings then. He offered to take the time to help neighbors understand the drawings and respond to them.

Rent Control Discussion

The next issue up for discussion was the defeat of rent control in Massachusetts, and the plight of the many tenants in the Agassiz neighborhood. Mayor Reeves had sent a representative, Maureen Spofford, to the meeting who said that the Agassiz Tenants Association had inspired many other tenants in the City. That group is currently working as is the City, but no plan was established.

Spofford said the Agassiz tenants were vulnerable to rent increases due to proximity to Harvard Square and the desirability of the neighborhood. She said that some tenants were very frightened, and they needed to understand the facts. For example, some tenants are receiving notices of rental increases now, and this is not permitted until January. Tenants need to understand how they are protected in other ways by law, and what they can do to legally protect themselves.

The ANC agreed to work with the tenants associations and the City to help disseminate useful and accurate information in the way of mailings, flyers and information in the newsletter. The Agassiz Tenants Association has been holding regular meetings.

Neighborhood News

Traffic and Transportation

Car Storage

The question of car storage came up at the October Council meeting, and Bernie Flynn gave us an answer on it. Cars can only be stored in metered or unregulated space (spaces that are not posted for anything) for twenty four hours. If you are in a metered or unregulated space during a snow storm or any other time for longer than twenty four hours, you will be ticketed. However, if you are in a residential space, and you have a permit, you can leave your car there as long as you want for street cleaning days. Cars utilizing Temporary Visitor Parking Permits must move after twenty four hours. If you will have a long term guest using your Visitor Parking Permit, call Traffic and Parking at 349-4700 to advise them of the circumstances.

Agassiz Site for Parking Permits

Cambridge Parking Permits are available this year in the Community Room located in North Hall, 1651 Mass. Ave. at the corner of Wendell. Staff from the Department of Traffic and Parking will be there on Thursdays through December 15 between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. You must have a current Massachusetts vehicle registration, a current utility bill (cable, gas, electric) with your Cambridge address, and the cost will be $8.00. The same is true to receive a Visitor Parking Permit, but the vehicle registration is not necessary.

Be sure to have everything you need with you before you drop in.

Crime and Safety

Neighborhood Report

A Carver St. resident reported vandalism and cars broken into in the area. On resident had the same car broken into twice. A young adult was found in a residents car, and it was reported to police.

City Wide Crime Report for first three quarters of 94:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>1/1 to 9/30/93</th>
<th>1/1 to 9/30/94</th>
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<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
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<tr>
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<td>554</td>
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<td>2665</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


City Wide

Parking Board Seeks Members

The Interim Parking Control Committee Board (IPCC) is looking for members. Participants review applications for new parking spaces created in the City. To be considered, please send a letter of interest to Lisa Peterson c/o City Managers Office, City Hall, 795 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, 02139. For more information on this committee or the IPCC, please call Lisa Peterson in the City Manager’s Office, 349-4302.

New Curb Cut Policy

Thanks to the effort of City Councillor Frank Duehay, the new Curb Cut Policy developed by the City Manager’s Office will include neighborhood association notification. The policy also requires that the applicant develop a plot plan and submit signed forms from abutters in front, behind, on the side and across the street from the property. This application is submitted to Inspectional Services for review. For a copy of the complete policy, call the council office at 349-6287.

Recycling Information

Recycling Awards

Do you know of someone who recycles everything but the kitchen sink? How about your employer or apartment building? The Cambridge Recycling Program wants to hear from you.

Nominations are being accepted for the City’s First Annual Recycling Awards in the following categories:
- Outstanding Individual
- Extraordinary Business
- Impressive Large Building (over 13 units)
- Exceptional Commercial Building Maintenance Staff
- Notable Citizen Volunteer
- Best City Building or School program

Send nominees name along with accomplishments to Cambridge Recycling Program, 147 Hampshire St. Cambridge 02139. There will be an awards ceremony this spring to coincide with the 25th Anniversary of Earth Day.

Cardboard is added to curbside

Please flatten cardboard, no food stains permitted. Also recently added for curbside collection are: junk mail, office type paper, and phone books.

Fall leaves

If you haven’t yet finished your yard work, please follow the following rules for curbside pickup of yard waste:
- 30 gallon paper bags or clearly marked barrels (plastic will not be picked up)
- Paper bags are now available at supermarkets and hardware stores.

Call 349-4800 for free yard waste barrel labels
- Have yard waste on curb by 7 a.m. (no earlier than 3 p.m. of previous day) on your regular trash day.
- No branches thicker than your thumb or longer than your arm will be picked up
- Dirt goes with trash, not yard waste.
- Yard waste is not picked up with regular trash. If it’s still there by 3:00 p.m. call 349-4860.

Recycle Even More . . .

For a trip to 147 Hampshire St. on Tuesday and Thursday between 4:30-6:30 p.m. you can drop off the following non curb pick up recyclables:
- Plastic bags marked with a triangle of arrows containing a 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7
- Plastic containers marked with a triangle of arrows containing a 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7.
- Styrofoam cups, trays, plates and packing
- Drink boxes, milk and juice cartons
Honor Roll of Donors 1994

The ANC thanks this year's donors. ANC would be grateful to receive a year end donation from you. Gifts are tax deductible, and can be sent to Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St, Cambridge 02138. THANK YOU!

Naomi Arenberg • Peter Baum • Amy Barad
Charles Beye • Steve Bonsey
Councillor Kathleen Leahy Born
Linda & Steven Brion-Meisels • Elizabeth Browning
Professor Clark Byse • Cristina Callan
Cambridge Co-operative Club Trust
Cambridge Natural Foods • John and Quaker Case
Central Barbershop • Jean Chapin Smith
Anne Charett • Chef Lee’s Restaurant • Harvey Cox
Jon Cummings • Dana Realty • Richard Deppe
Mary Donaldson • Daria Donnelly • Steven Weissburg
Lydia and Anthony Eno • Frameworks
Gaby Friedler • Chantal Fujiwara • Pirooz Vakili
Sarah Gallivan • Gopal Kadagathur • Margaret Hutauf
Joseph and Lani Gerson • Richard Griffin
Susan Keane • Mary, David and Charles Groark
Healthworks • George Hein • Emily Romney
Joie De Vivre • Elizabeth Klinn • Stephen Kosslyn
Robin Rosenberg • Helen Lambert
Tom & Martha Lang • Bill Lazonick
Steve and Judy Leff • Sherry and Jim Leffert
Fred Levy • Sebastian Lockwood • Maureen Malloy
Ruth Mandalian • Kathleen Manion • David Mason
Sharon Mc Bride • Eileen McCarthy • Margaret Moore
Lynda Morgenroth • Loretto Morris
Councillor Jonathan Myers • Fong and Mary Ning
Oxford Spa • Yvonne Pappenheim • Bruce Posner
Betsy Rudnick • Barbara St. Clare Post
Wendy Prellwitz • David Chilinski
Susan and Terry Ragon • Rebecca Ramsay
Amelia Rechel-Cohn • Beverly Reifman
Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Reisman
Rosie’s Bar and Grille • Michael Rosenburg
Henry Shawah • Marshall Sikowitz
Richard and Mariana Silver • John Sitkin
Cynthia Smith • Steve Imrich • Henry Smith
Ada and Joel Snider • Lucy and Dan Strook
Bonnie Solomon • May Waugh • Fred Willey

Lesley College

Employment Opportunities at Lesley

Did you know that Lesley College last listings of jobs available for your perusal? Just go to the Human Resources Department, 23 Mellen St., 5th floor, Job postings and applications are available there. Call 349-8787 for more information.

PEAL - Poetry Events at Lesley

Elizabeth McKim will be the guest on Tuesday December 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall, Lesley College. She is a faculty member in Lesley’s Creative Arts in Learning program, and she is the author of four collections of poetry. She works from the Oral Tradition of Chant, song, and Story, weaving these elements into her poetry.

PEAL is a monthly poetry series sponsored by the Division of Liberal Studies and Adult Learning of Lesley College. All PEAL events are free and open to the public. Each presentation will be followed by a book signing and reception. For more information on upcoming events, call Peggy Barrasso at 349-8467.

Thank You Harvard Law School for generously donating space in Pound Hall for our 23rd Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Feast
Agassiz School Construction
For updates or to report problems, call the HOT LINE 497-4388

Agassiz School

School Construction
Hot Line Log for November
10/21 Caller was annoyed with the noisy work being done on Sacramento Field which began at 6:45 a.m. Called clerk to advise contractor that work should not begin until 7:30.
10/24 Caller complained that the trucks from Mabardy were loading between 7:30-8:00 p.m. which effectively closed street. Since it was Monday, garbage pick up was disrupted, and residents couldn't get down street. Called City Manager who will see that contractors understands issues.
10/25 Caller was confused about no parking on Sacramento. Called to explain this was due to work being done for field. It was temporary and not related to the school site. Pipe had to be laid from Sacramento St. to field, and gas, water and DPW were involved in the work, all departments required space to work.
10/25 Caller said the parking signs on Sacramento were confusing and some were not dated. Called the Clerk who agreed to send someone to correct signs and dates. Said the DPW took longer to do the work than expected, and signs were not updated.
10/28 Caller complained that a cement truck had pulled onto the sidewalk, displacing and depressing the bricks. Driver agreed to have sidewalk repaired, but caller wanted to report it. Reported to City Manager and advised caller to call back if work was not done.
11/1 Caller wanted to know if flooding conditions were related to school construction. Advised caller that flooding was not related to school construction, but told her about 11/15 ANC meeting that would discuss flooding and sewer reconstruction.
11/5 Caller was awakened on Saturday at 7:30 a.m. with noise of Sacramento Field construction. Called contractor and advised caller that the contract allows for 7:30 starts on Saturdays. Contractor said that no more Saturdays were anticipated. Advised caller that if Saturday work became a problem, contractor would be approached to negotiate later start time.
11/6 Caller wondered why no parking signs on Sacramento St. were still up when work was done. Called Clerk and asked that they be removed.
11/7 Complaint about cars driving fast down Sacramento also concerned that work was not going to be finished on time. Agreed to contact Traffic Department who said it was an enforcement issue. Contacted Police to advise them of the problem. Advised caller that as of the last update, contractors were confident school would be ready to open in September.
11/7 Caller concerned that traffic light at Oxford and Sacramento was left blinking over the weekend. Called Clerk to find that Police were unable to reset the light on Friday night, and light was not immediately fixed.
11/8 Caller complained about blinking light and was advised about problem (see above). Asked caller to call hot line every time it happened so we would have a record of it.
11/9 Caller advised us that trucks carrying dirt from the field were exiting Sacramento the wrong way to directly access Mass. Ave. This had obstructed school buses and other traffic. Called the Clerk who said this should never happen and drivers would be spoken to.
11/10 Caller was concerned regarding shaking that felt like an earthquake on Garfield St. Called Clerk who explained that the shaking was caused by the compacting of soil. He said it had been completed so no more shaking was anticipated. Advised caller of same.
11/10 Caller said orange cones had been removed from the detour at Oxford and Wendell going north. This had happened several times, and traffic pulled in only to find the road closed. Also detour sign was missing from Oxford going south. Advised Clerk of the problem. Both were replaced.
11/14 Caller expressed concern that traffic was entering Sacramento St. the wrong way (going toward Mass. Ave.) from Oxford. A one way sign was requested. Since there are three one way signs at that corner, Traffic and Parking advised us to contact Police for enforcement. Advised Police of problem.
11/17 Caller was concerned regarding the walkway to the Sacramento Field (located on the side of the Guidance Center parking lot). She wanted to be sure the plantings against the wall.

Do you know what to do each month to make your financial dreams come true? Receive a free financial planning session with this ad.

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Update on Sacramento Field

Sacramento Field work is almost complete. The excavation and underground work had been completed. By publication of The Whistler, topsoil and sod should have been brought in and put down. The sidewalk at the side of the Guidance Center parking lot will be laid, and the fence will be installed.

Residents around the field felt some strong shaking during the early days of November which was due to the compacting of the soil. That process has been completed.

The Department of Public Works laid pipe through the garden to connect the field with Sacramento St. utilities in late October and early November. Some work had to be redone in mid November.

In the spring the playground equipment will be installed.

Crossing Guard Leaves

Sandra Calucci, who has been the Crossing Guard at Agassiz School (more recently at Wendell St.) left after many years with the Agassiz School. We will miss her!

Cultural Happenings

Arts Report Due in March

The Cambridge Commission on the Arts, which was created by Mayor Ken Reeves last fall, plans to present its strategic plan for the arts in Cambridge to the City council on Monday, March 6 1995. The twofold task of determining how the City can better serve its artists and cultural organizations and how art can best be disseminated to residents has been the focal point of the Commission's steady efforts in formulating the plan.

Comprised of about forty volunteer members who include artists and arts administrators, teachers, foundation representatives, and community residents, the Commission has been working regularly during meetings conducted in a variety of Cambridge locations. The Commission is co-chaired by Nicole Williams and Michael Haggerty.

The Commission has formed subcommittees to address such topics as art in the schools and the neighborhoods, cultural facilities, city-wide festivals and arts management and leadership.

The Commission welcomes interested Cambridge residents to attend upcoming meetings that would provide opportunities for their input:

December 6 at the Middle East.
Central Square 6-8 p.m.
January 6 TBA, January 14 TBA
February 16 TBA, March 2 TBA

For specific information, call the Mayor's Office 349-4321.
Opportunities

What You CAN do to Help Neighbors

Listed below are just a few Cambridge organizations who can use your help. If you have traditional office parties with gift swaps or grab bags, how about using that event to buy presents for the truly needy?

1). Buy a Gift for a Homeless Family

Just A Start serves homeless young families—providing shelter, life skills, educational/job training and parenting skills. They need gifts for the homeless women and children they serve which include 10 families living at Just A Start House and 85 families who have transitioned to permanent housing. They would like you to donate new gifts for the families’ new homes. Some used items (starred) are welcome for the shelter if they are in good condition.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

For the Mothers (16-23 years old)  For the Children (Birth-4 years old)  For the Shelter
Sets of Dishes educational toys Monetary Donations
Flatware manipulatives cribs/sofas*  cribsheets
Glasses/cups story books baby monitors*
Mixing bowls dolls twinsheet/blankets*
Ceramic utensils clothing/coats serving bowls*
Pots/pans hats/mittens bath/face towels*
Toasters snow suits sturdy tables*
Iron/boards strollers vinyl table clothes
Comforters linens toaster ovens
Clocks/radios high chairs Polaroid cameras*
cameras car seats blankets*

Please try and get the gifts to Just A Start by December 12. They are located at 16 Butler Drive in Somerville. Call Alice, Jane or Anne at 776-8353 for more information or directions.

2). Buy a Toy for a family affected by AIDS

Cambridge Cares About AIDS serves people who are already burdened by the problems of the urban poor, but also must cope with AIDS. They will be holding a toy drive beginning November 28 to provide holiday gifts for the children. Again it is important that you donate NEW toys for children.

Toys will be accepted through December 16 at 678 Mass. Ave. #402 from 9:00-5:00 p.m. Call Tony Bottaro at 661-3040 for more information.

3). Help a Teenager all year long

Become a Mentor through Cambridge Community Services. You can make a difference in a teenager’s life.

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School has several apprenticeship programs. Call Lili Allen at 876-5214.

Community School

What’s Happening?

Pizza Party Open House

The Parent Steering Committee and Staff of the Agassiz Afterschool Programs provided an opportunity to inform parents about the afterschools many activities and programs as well as a social opportunity for everyone to talk informally over pizza and cider on November 9.

The Parent Steering Committee is represented on the ANC Board by Janet Rustow and Joan Squieri.

Afterschool Program Fall Highlights

• Lesley Agassiz Neighborhood Clean Up October 19
• Halloween Skeleton Making Workshop for Halloween
• Trip to the Computer Museum November 17
• Visit from Drumlin Farmcoming in December

Donations Welcome

Games for 5-6 year olds Used Legos, board games or puzzles in good condition would all be welcome.

The Whistler December 1994
DECEMBER 1994
Community Calendar

December 1, Thursday 6-8 p.m. Cambridge Parking Permit may be purchased (see p. 2) Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. at Wendell St.

December 3, Saturday Noon-3 p.m. Kids Sale and International Food Fair Agassiz School 15 Webster Ave. Somerville. Call 349-6287

December 8, Thursday 6-8 p.m. Cambridge Parking Permit may be purchased (see p. 2) Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. at Wendell St.

December 15, Thursday 6-8 p.m. Cambridge Parking Permit may be purchased (see p. 2) Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. at Wendell St.

December 20, Tuesday 6:30 ANC Monthly Board Meeting
7:30 ANC Monthly Council Meeting
Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. at Wendell St.

December 23, Friday Last Day of School before December Vacation

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.

DECEMBER 1994
The Whistler
Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
349-6287

Remember to Come to the
KIDS HOLIDAY SALE
DECEMBER 3, SATURDAY, Noon - 3 p.m.
AGASSIZ SCHOOL, 15 Webster Ave. Somerville
Children can purchase holiday gifts in a safe and friendly environment with help from the Agassiz Afterschool staff.
This event will run at the same time as the Agassiz School International Food Fair, so you can rest and eat after you shop!

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