**ANC NEWS**

**Notes from the November 19 ANC Meeting**

Joan Squeri, Vice Chair, conducted the meeting. She introduced Lauren Preston, Cambridge Traffic Director, who talked about several issues of concern to the neighbors.

Lauren invited all residents to become active in the Truck Advisory Committee, chaired by Thomas Bracken on Kirkland St. This committee is focused on several truck issues: day and night truck routes, local truck deliveries and truck bans. He suggested people call him at 349-4712 to become active on this committee.

Snow emergency routes are set throughout the City. Oxford St. is a primary route with no parking on either side and Sacramento is a secondary route with one side parking. The city tries to limit tagging in a snow emergency unless completely necessary. There is a snow hotline: 349-4904, which can be called for unplowed streets, or other snow-related situations.

The Lesley College shuttle bus was the next item of business. Lauren said that the shuttle bus had to be efficient and regular with safe areas to board or there is no incentive to ride it. He said that the traffic department is trying to keep cars out of the City and so encourages the use of shuttles. The Lesley shuttle transports Lesley community from Mellen Street to Porter Exchange via Mass. Ave.

There were various speakers who opposed the shuttle on Mellen Street for reasons that included safety of children, congestion added to the already extensive truck and delivery traffic, exhaust fumes due to bus idling, speed of bus, ability of cars to get by the bus, and amount of bus trips with low ridership. Residents questioned Lesley's right to run a bus for Lesley use at the neighbor's expense. Residents said the bus was always empty, and questioned the fact that the bus kept cars out of Cambridge.

Alan Fein, speaking for Lesley College, said that the ridership was 1,500 per week. He said that the college subsidizes parking at Alewife and he said that six times as many subsidies are now paid, which is a direct result of the shuttle bus. Lesley would also consider resident use of the bus. Lesley believes that Mellen St. is the best route, but Alan agreed to abide by the neighborhood consensus and experiment with the route for three months.

Many routes were discussed, but in each case, taking the bus onto another street would cause other problems. Neither Lesley nor the neighbors could find another route that would be satisfactory. In the end, there was a consensus from the meeting of people who lived on Wendell, Sacramento, Mellen, Oxford, Garfield, and others that the Lesley shuttle bus stops belonged on Mass. Ave. In this way no neighborhood street need live with the problems of a bus route. Alan and Lauren agreed to work out a route using Mass. Ave. This will take a few weeks, and The Whistler will keep you posted.

The last agenda item was a proposal to close the median strip on Mass. Ave., where it is now open for turning on and off Garfield Street. The proposal would make the corner safer particularly in anticipation of the corner being developed into 8 units of housing. This will increase the number of children and decrease the visibility on the corner. Several residents spoke up against the change. They did not believe it was dangerous and felt a change would inconvenience them unnecessarily. Residents from other streets discussed how this change would shift more traffic onto Wendell and Oxford, both of which already have too much traffic now. The suggestion to install a traffic light at Mass.
Ave. and Garfield was mixed by Lauren since it would be too close to the next light on Limaean Street to be effective.

Neighbors agreed that the main problem on Garfield Street is the speed at which traffic moved and suggested signs and enforcement. Lauren agreed to post a no trucks sign, since large, (probably lost) trucks find their way down Garfield to Eustis Street where they get stuck.

Information on Next Meeting 12/17/96
(see page one for time and place)
1). Joel Bard will be on hand to present a new city wide zoning initiative that is being discussed by citizens from neighborhoods around Cambridge. They wish to make refinements to the City Zoning Ordinance; to look at aspects of the ordinance that may allow scale or density inappropriate for particular locations. It might include issues that allow buildings to be at a height far higher than existing buildings. It might include areas where future allowable commercial activity is so substantial that local roads could not handle traffic generated at that scale.

If this initiative continues each neighborhood would examine the allowable zoning of its own area to assure the allowable build out under zoning is appropriate. For more information on this initiative come to the meeting, and Joel will answer your questions, or call the council at 349-6287.

2). A discussion on affordable housing-what is the criteria to be accepted as a tenant? and with the City’s purchase of Harvard units, will there now be too much affordable housing in the Agassiz neighborhood?

Neighborhood News

Harvard Proposes Music Center Addition
The Board of Zoning Appeals will hear a request from Harvard to construct an addition of approximately 2,000 square feet to Paine Music Center. Although the building has a 5 Oxford Street address, it is not situated on the street but within the campus.

Star Market adds a Copy Machine
Star Market, located on Beacon St., has been working to add convenience to the community. At a neighbor’s suggestion, Star has provided an inexpensive coin operated copy machine near the courtesy booth. It is somewhat hidden, so if you can’t find it, ask. Thanks to Keith Shaw, Manager, who has worked hard to provide the conveniences neighbors want.

Porter Exchange Restaurant Seeks License
The Blue Fin Restaurant, located in the Porter Exchange building, has requested a license for two televisions and one radio. Richard Scal, Executive Director for the Cambridge Licensing Commission, has assured the ANC that the request is within the neighborhood agreement which was approved by the License Commission when that building was developed.

A restaurant to be called Duckworth Lane has been proposed for the old site of Cappuccino’s located on Mass. Ave. at the corner of Arlington St. across from the Porter Exchange building. There has been some concern voiced by residents in the building above due to the problems encountered with noise, smells and truck congestion that occurred with Cappuccino’s.

Garfield Street Breaks Ground
The foundation for the new housing at the corner of Garfield St. and Mass. Ave. was begun just in time for the official groundbreaking. City officials, housing officials and community representatives were on hand to praise the level of cooperation and hard work by a variety of agencies and individuals that allowed the project to come together. Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) has lead this project from the start, and they will provide the community with support throughout the construction process.

Start time for construction is 8:00 a.m., and if enough work is complete before the cold weather sets in, construction will continue through the winter. Construction is expected to be complete next fall.

Neighbors received a letter in November from Charlie Adams, Assistant Planner at CHA, to provide information on the construction project. He advised the neighbors to call him with any concerns, and to call CHA on weekends or evenings. There is always someone available in emergencies.

Charlie's numbers are 520-6239 (wk) and 628-9949 (hm). The main number for CHA is 864-3020. You may also call the ANC Hot Line at 497-4388.

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the most unique shopping experience in Cambridge
JUST GOT BETTER!

Food
Fitness
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Free Parking

Porter Exchange
1815 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge
Come see what the birds & bees like!
Traffic and Transportation

Lesley Shuttle Bus

At the 11/19 ANC meeting, there was a consensus that the Lesley College Shuttle bus which travels between the Porter Exchange and Mellen St. campus, should use a stop on Mass. Ave., rather than Mellen St. A new route will be tested for a trial period of three months. This rerouting of the bus was part of an agreement with the neighborhood to alleviate concerns caused by the bus route on Mellen St.

There are some issues to work out before the route can be initiated, and Lesley has agreed to work with the traffic department to create a route on Mass. Ave. that will satisfy Lesley needs.

Sacramento St. Construction Almost Over

As The Whistler goes to press, the sewer work on Sacramento Street and Place should be finished. The streets will be paved, with a final paving scheduled for the spring.

Weather permitting, the brick sidewalk work will begin directly after the paving. This work will take a total of three weeks. New trees will be planted in the spring.

City Wide

Updated Zoning Guide

The Zoning Guide published by Community Development Department, has been recently updated. It gives a simple and straightforward overview of Cambridge Zoning Ordinance with illustrations but without technical language in about 12 pages. (It does not contain all regulations and should not be consulted to determine zoning status of a specific lot or building.)

Visual illustrations of FAR (floor area ratio) in the guide helps to explain the often used but not well understood concept widely used in zoning. The guide defines the various regular zoning districts, special districts, and overlay districts. There is information on various procedures such as special permits, variances, building and occupancy permits. Finally, there is an overview of how various city offices and departments fit together in zoning.

The Zoning Guide updated for 1996 from the Cambridge Community Development Department at 349-4600.

Agassiz Public School

Principal Hiring Update

In mid November, Acting Principal Fran Foley left his post until January, due to retirement regulations. Another acting principal will fill in for the interim, Marilyn McGinn.

The search firm has located principal candidates for interview, but it was decided to hold off on the interviews until after the holidays. Interviews should begin in January.

Farewell to Eva Paddock November 12

There were many old friends on hand at the Oakley Country Club to celebrate the retirement of Eva Paddock, who retired as the Agassiz Principal this summer. Speakers included Superintendent Mary Lou McGrath, State Representative-Elect Alice Wolf, former Agassiz teacher Jeannie Whitten, her son Toby Paddock and many other parents, friends and teachers. Eva was thanked for being a mentor to younger teachers, a good friend, a sympathetic ear, a hard worker with many achievements and awards from her educational work in Cambridge, Topsfield and Korea. She was thanked for successfully leading the school through demolition of the old Agassiz, a relocation in Somerville, and the move back to a barely finished new Agassiz School.

Eva, true to her reputation as a thoughtful and giving teacher and principal, presented the school with a new panel of stained glass created by Nancy O’Neil, artist for the original work, to add to the beautiful windows.

Star Share Gives ANC 5% of Your Purchases

Clip the attached coupon and use it on DECEMBER 10-11-12 at any Star Market, and the ANC will receive a cash donation that equals 5% of all purchases on those days. This is a real opportunity for you to donate to the ANC just by submitting the coupon to the cashier when you shop at Star for our Star Share Days. THANKS !!!

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**STAR SHARE Identification Certificate**

| 000013 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Group Name |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agassiz Neighborhood Council |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Dollars — Tax Excluded |  |  |  |  |  |

**Your Star Share Days**: December 10-12, 1996

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1. Star Share participants can make purchases at any STAR MARKET on the days shown above.
2. Please present to cashier prior to checkout.
3. Your non-profit organization earns a 5% cash return (or 5% return in the form of gift certificates based on the total amount you spend) at STAR MARKET during your group's designated Star Share days.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED ON STAR MARKET PROPERTY
Agassiz Community School

For a brochure, to register or for more information on the Agassiz Afterschool or the Sacramento Street Preschool contact Jody Garber at 349-6287.

KIDS HOLIDAY SALE IS COMING
December 9-12

The Annual Kids Sale will be held this year from Monday December 9th through Thursday December 12th beginning afterschool until 6 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. All kids are welcome to stop by and shop for inexpensive holiday gifts to give friends and family members. The Agassiz Neighborhood Council provides a shopping experience in a supportive atmosphere with teachers and friends.

Gifts are mostly in the $1-$3 range, with many small items under $1. Adults will be on hand to help with the math and selections. Remember it's kids only, but adults are welcome to wait in the Community Center.

Evening Programs
NEW ! ! ! Community Computer Access

There will soon be access to the Agassiz School Computer Lab for the community that includes internet access. At this time the plan is to begin an open computer lab evening after the holidays in January. The Lab will be staffed Tuesday or Wednesday evening by Agassiz School personnel for drop in use by the community for $1. Call the ANC at 349-6287 to express interest in this idea, and check out the January Whistler for more information.

Beginning in early spring the ANC hopes to begin afternoon classes in computers with emphasis on internet training and access for senior citizens. Call the ANC at 349-6287 to express an interest in this program.

DANCE February 8th

Mark the date: Saturday, February 8th. The ANC will host an adult dance with music by the Embraceables. Keep posted by reading The Whistler.

BASKETBALL

Drop in basketball for teens is held every Tuesday at 6 p.m., admission $1. Drop in basketball for adults is held every Wednesday at 6 p.m., admission $2.

YOGA

Yoga classes are held on Wednesday nights from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Agassiz School. For more information call Jody Garber at 349-6287.

Announcements

TALENT WANTED

Do you have a talent to share with the neighborhood? Does your workplace allow you free time to work in the community? The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is looking for people like you to help on many projects. Right now there is a huge need for computer training, help setting up computers with mix and match hardware, carpentry. There are many kinds of opportunities, so let us know your skill. Call Terry at 349-6287. We hope to develop a TALENT BANK to better use the wide range of skills and talent available in our community.

Christmas Tree Sale to Aid Preschool

The Agassiz Community Children's School located at the corner of Roseland St. And Mass. Ave. will hold its Annual Christmas Tree (and wreath) Sale beginning December 7th on Thursdays Fridays Saturdays and Sundays until Christmas Eve. Hours are noon to 8 p.m.

Homelessness Prevention Project Can Help

This project run by Community Legal Services and Counseling Center at 1 West St. in Cambridge offers free legal services for low-income residents who face eviction, loss of housing due to domestic violence, denial of application for public or subsidized housing, termination of housing subsidy, illegal lockouts or rent increases and evictions due to changes in rent control laws.

For more information call Helena Yau at 661-1010.

Girl Scouts and Leaders Wanted

The Agassiz School is in search of a Girl Scout Troop Leader and participants in grades 4-6 to join. Call Jody Garber at the ANC, 349-6287. If you are interested in this program.

Busy Parents: Loving, responsible nanny/babysitter will be happy to look after your children. Experienced, CPR certified, bilingual Spanish, with a very flexible schedule and excellent references. Karina 547-6434.

Gutters cleaned: Responsible man with neighborhood references will clean your gutters. Call Kelly at 349-6287.

Experienced Science tutor: very reasonable rates. High school and college math and physics tool call Farzi at 876-0509.
World AIDS Week Events

December 1 is World AIDS Day, with a theme of "One World, One Hope, Voices from the community." For information on all events, tune into CCTV channels 19, 54, 55, and 66 or call Cambridge Cares About AIDS at 661-3040. Below are listed some of the Cambridge awareness events for the following weeks:

December 1, Sunday
GALLERY 57 will present a dance/performance piece at 2:15 p.m. in the Middle East, 472 Mass. Ave., Ecstasies and Devotions; next Fincurl will perform poetry and music. At 3:30 p.m. it presents the film SILVERLAKE LIFE: The View from Here. Admission free. SANDERS THEATER at Harvard University will present the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra at 3 p.m. with work of Prokofiev, Kodaly, and Brahms. THE DANCE COMPLEX at 536 Mass. Ave. presents a movement ritual workshop from 4-6 p.m. Admission free. GROLIER POETRY BOOK SHOP presents a quilt of poetry submissions.

Harvard Film Archive, 24 Quincy St. presents The Tempest directed by Derek Jarman, 1979 at 4 and 7:30 p.m. at 6 p.m. it will present Life and Death on the A List.
St Paul's Church A.M.E. will hold a service at 4 p.m. with gospel music, dance and drama. Admission free.

December 3, Tuesday
CCTV will run a continuous scroll of names of people lost to AIDS on Channel 19.

December 4th, Wednesday
CCTV will show the Zinberg Clinic's Vancouver Update: A report back on the 1996 World AIDS Conference at 9 p.m. on channel 66. CARPENTER CENTER for the Visual Arts, 24 Quincy St., presents Boys Night Out at 10 p.m.

December 5th, Thursday
David Michaels Barbershop and Salon, 10 Magazine St., will donate a portion of each haircut to Cambridge Cares About AIDS. Kendall Square Theater, One Kendall Square, will present Boys Night Out at 7:30 p.m. The filmmaker, Yule Caise will be on hand. Admission $5.

December 6th, Friday
Concilio Hispano, 105 Windsor St. presents a quilt project at 4 p.m. A Public Policy Meeting will take place in Cambridge City Hall at Noon. The Faces of AIDS exhibit will be hung in City Hall Lobby.

December 8th, Sunday
Annual Gospel Fest for AIDS will take place in Memorial Church, Harvard Yard from 3-5 p.m.

December 15th, Sunday
1369 Coffeehouse 1369 Cambridge Street will cover art in black velvet adorned with a red ribbon. In the evening there will be an art auction to benefit AIDS from 6-10 p.m.

Porter Square
The Porter Square Neighbors Association meets in the Metro Baptist Church located on the corner of Beech and Orchard Streets on the third Thursday of each month from 7-9 p.m.. This month the meeting will be on December 19. Visit their web site at: http://www.channel1.com/users/psna

Mid Cambridge News

Inns Spread in Mid Cambridge
The proliferation of inns has been identified by the November Mid Cambridge News as a top issue facing the neighborhood. The License Commission has proposed a new category of licenses for inns such as The Irving House, located on Irving St. in Mid Cambridge and the subject of a three month investigation. This investigation was made to determine its status as "inn" or "lodging house", and it was found that the premise is operated as an inn, based on the length of time residents live in the building. This use is illegal on that street, but the finding will be contested by the owners.

The Mid Cambridge News reports that "The License Commission has conducted a comprehensive review of all the lodging houses in the City and is ready to adopt new, separate categories of licenses for short-term inns, long-term lodging houses, and hotels. The new regulations have been approved pending review by the City law department.

Hospital begins construction
Cambridge Hospital obtained a building permit to start work on an Ambulatory Care building for November. The Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Association in cooperation with the City and the Hospital has an agreement that includes mitigation goals and enforcement procedures for the upcoming construction.
Cultural Happenings
Sacramento Street Gallery

Holiday Craft Show Returns December 14-22

This year the Sacramento St. Gallery is proud to announce a craft show with several prominent craftspeople. This show is a fund-raiser for the Gallery, but it showcases the fine craft work of the participating artists. The Holiday Craft Show is a sale, but it is an exhibit as well, and people are welcome to come and just enjoy the pieces.

Mickey Sequenzia will be showing clay jewelry and vessels. Both the jewelry and the vessels are organic in feeling, and the dark clay has been painted, in some cases gold leafed, and several kinds of beads and other objects have been incorporated into the jewelry.

Anne Hyland will have porcelain pottery which has been thrown on the potters wheel and then painted with colorful slips before firing. This functional work will be in a wide selection of forms from vases to mugs and candle holders.

Anne Baldwin will exhibit large, colorful monoprints. The pieces swirl with color and energy, and the hues are deep and rich with a impressionistic feeling.

Susan Rizzo will show metallic earrings and necklaces which surprisingly enough are made of plastic. The plastic is formed with low heat and colors are "baked" together and molded so that the colors and textures are cleverly fused into a whole.

Jim Newbury is sending beautifully crafted wooden toys. His range of toys is large: there will be all kinds of cars, trucks, airplanes, trailers, and even a helicopter.

Nancy Kotarski will include some superb paper boxes. The paper is marbleized, and some boxes are made of paste paper. The boxes are unusual and of very interesting shapes. There will also be a supply of candles, plastic clay beads and earrings and cards.

CCTV Has New Computer Facilities

Cambridge Community Television will hold its monthly Open House Orientation on Wednesday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to information on how residents can get involved in learning to produce TV programs, the Orientation will introduce the new MacIntosh computer center.

You will need proof of residency to sign up for free access to training, equipment and facilities. For $35 residents can have a Video membership and learn to use camcorders and video editing equipment. For the same amount residents can become Computer members with use of the new computer facilities and training. For a $50 fee, residents can have a combined membership.

A Carol Celebration December 7

The Spectrum Singers opens its 17th season on December 7th at 8 p.m. with "A Carol Celebration of Christmas" at the First Congregational Church, 11 Garden St. Cambridge. The 50 member a cappella group will perform with harpist Carrie Kourkoumelis for this performance. Tickets are $18 with senior and student discounts available.

The performance, put together by Music Director John W. Ehrlich, will feature Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols." It will be performed in the original old English. A broad selection of carols and carol settings include composers Holst, Kodaly, and Vaughn Williams.

Call 321-5823 for more information and tickets.

The Messiah at MIT
December 15

Handel's Messiah will be sung by the Cambridge Community Chorus, directed by William Thomas on Sunday December 15th. The event will be held at 4:00 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 84 Mass. Ave. The hall is wheelchair accessible, an the Vassar street garage is free for this performance. A $5 donation is requested. Call 491-4887 for more information.

The Cambridge Community Chorus sponsored a Young Artist Competition, and the winner, violinist Yaeke Miranda Elmaleh, will play a prelude piece.
Valerie Stephens

Join the fun on the Agassiz Stage December 10 at 2:00 p.m. where Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children presents storyteller Valerie Stephens. Valerie is a gifted storyteller, singer and actress. She uses creative dramatics and folk tales or poetry as a foundation for her performances. The stories for this performances will be based on African American folk tales.

Admission is $1.00. Adults are welcome, and most afterschool programs qualify for free admission. This event is sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council with funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Call Kelly Tyler for more information at 349-6287.

Poetry at Lesley

PEAL - Poetry Events at Lesley presents Carolyn Wright and Michael Siegell on Thursday December 5th for a Noon Brown Bag Lunch at the Porter Exchange, 1815 Mass. Ave. in Room 414.

Poet and translator, Carolyn Wright, will read from two collections of poetry by Bengali Women Poets. The poetry will be followed by an Indian musical interlude played by accomplished sitarist Michael Siegell. For more information call Peggy Barasso at 349-8634.

FRESH POND BALLET
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491-5865

- Classical Ballet
- Pre-Ballet to pre-professional
- Adult Classes

The Firebird December 6-7, 13-14

The Undergound Railway Theater presents The Firebird, an ancient Russian folk tale of good versus evil set to the music of Stravinsky. It will be presented at the Arlington Center for the Arts Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. and Saturday afternoons at 2 p.m. For more information call 643-6916.

New Storm Drains Will be in Soon

Look for our new storm drains in the area of Sacramento Street and Place. They were purchased through the Agassiz Community Fund and will be installed by D'Allesandro, the construction company doing the sewer work. See the picture.

Elizabeth Browning
For Your Real Estate Needs

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Cambridge, MA 02138
864-4430 x 354
Community Calendar December 1996

December 1 is World Aids Day See page 5 for activities

December 6, Friday

First Day of Hanukkah

December 9-12, Monday-Thursday 3 - 6 p.m.

Kids Holiday Sale
Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento St.

December 10, Tuesday 2:00 p.m.

Valerie Stephens, Storyteller
Agassiz School Stage Admission S1.
28 Sacramento St. Entrance

December 14-22, Saturday-Sunday Weekdays 1-5 p.m.
Weekends 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Holiday Craft Show
Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento St.
Holiday Crafts Show Opening Reception

December 14, Saturday 4-6 p.m.

ANC Board Meeting - Open to the Public
ANC Monthly Meeting
Agassiz School Dining Room
28 Sacramento St. Entrance

December 17, Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Christmas Holiday-ANC closed

December 24, 25

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

The Whistler December 1996

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DO NOT FORWARD