An ANC News

Notes from the November 18 ANC Meeting

State Representative Alvin Thompson, scheduled to visit the C. was unable to attend. Chair Janet Rustow introduced Kathy Watkins and Cara Seideman from the Cambridge Community Development Department and David Black from TAMS Consultants. They delivered an excellent presentation on a variety of ways to calm traffic on Oxford Street. Those who attended were able to participate in an informative (to both sides) discussion regarding possible solutions to slow traffic down and provide safe intersections for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. (See page 3 for more details on this issue).

The representatives will be back in January and will have specific suggestions for solutions on Oxford Street intersections. It will be a work in progress, with plenty of room for community participation. To be on the traffic mailing list (members receive notice of all traffic related meetings), call the ANC office at 349-6287.

What is the ANC?

For the benefit of newcomers (and those of us who may have forgotten) this statement taken from the ANC policy provides some insight into the ANC vision:

"To improve the quality of life . . . through the provision of programs, activities and resources to the community based on the Council’s determination of neighborhood need. The Agassiz Neighborhood Council aims to know and understand this neighborhood, to develop the potential of its residents, to provide services or to aid in obtaining the services its people need, and to relate that neighborhood to a wider community."

Information on December 9 ANC Meeting

Agenda:

1) The Agassiz neighborhood will be introduced to Sector Sergeant Kathy Murphy and Lieutenant Regan of the Cambridge Police, both of whom have been assigned to the Agassiz neighborhood.

2) Lesley College will review and update the ANC regarding their master plan (building use issues) prior to further discussion with the Lesley Planning Committee.

3) Dr. Bruce Weiner, Veterinarian, wishes to discuss his plans to open an animal hospital at 1771 Mass. Ave., the Forest St. corner, in the former bicycle shop.

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, December 9
7:30 p.m.
Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:

1) Cambridge Police Introduce Sector Sergeant Kathy Murphy and Lieutenant Regan
2) Lesley College Update on Planning

(See further information opposite and above.)
Neighborhood News

Oxford Spa is Renovated

As you can see from the picture, the Oxford Spa has been completely renovated, and it is under the management of Andrew and Elizabeth, Agassiz neighborhood residents who want to provide you with the best of produce, cheese, breads, sandwiches, soups, salads and very soon, prepared dishes for your meals. (They also have a full line of essentials for your household.) Andrew and Elizabeth are still working on many details, and there will be a new sign soon.

The Spa hours are Monday - Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (for now).

Stop in and see the wonderful job they have done on the building-then taste the coffee. There are some who consider it better than any you can get on Mass. Ave!

Oxford Street Rest Stop

Pedestrians on Oxford Street now have an immense wooden chair on which to rest along their route. The chair was carved from a chest-high stump, all that remains of the magnificent elm tree that once grew across the street from the Oxford Spa. Mitch Ryerson is the local woodworker responsible for carving the handsome piece of furniture, using a chain saw, hammer and chisel, and power grinder. Mitch came up with the idea of making a tree chair after noticing numerous stumps of sizeable proportion around the City. He was awarded a grant from the Arts Council to put the idea to form, with assistance from interested CRLS students. If you have seen any other tree stumps along public ways that would be good candidates, let him know (491-8436).

Story courtesy of Susan Redlich

Housing Issues

Harvard Lists Property at 22 Sacramento St.

Harvard has put up another Agassiz property for sale. They have agreed to give the tenants, then the neighborhood a first chance to buy residential properties they list in Agassiz at a lower price than on the open market.

Since time is critical, Harvard has agreed to give listings to the ANC, which we will post in the kiosk at the Agassiz School as soon as they are received.

Loans Help Landlords Rehab and Keep Rents Down

Thanks to a rehab project by Cambridge Neighborhood Apartment Housing Services (CNAHS), six apartments on Prospect St. will not only remain affordable, they will also have new baths and kitchens, new carpets, new doors and windows, an upgraded electrical system, and a new heating system. The landlord was able to secure a deferred payment loan that can be forgiven if the unit remains affordable.

CNAHS has assisted with 34 apartment renovations in Cambridge that guarantee affordable rents for at least ten years. If you are a landlord that wants to keep rentals affordable, you may qualify for a loan to renovate your rental property. You do not need to meet any income guideline as a landlord. For more information call 491-1545.

Traffic and Transportation

“Traffic Calming” Coming to Oxford Street

The ANC November meeting provided an opportunity for Agassiz residents to work with representatives of the City to plan a calmer, quieter Oxford Street.

David Black, a consultant to the City from TAMS Consultants, provided drawings of various solutions to Oxford Street speed and visibility problems. These solutions can decrease speed of cars, provide safer crossings, make the length of Oxford more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly.
study; (b) called out to the trucking community by
signs posted on the restricted streets and (c) submit-
ted to and approved by the MHD. If they were new to
attempt, without MHD approval, to impose restrictions
on the use of large semi-trailer trucks to make local
deliveries—either through an outright ban or a time-of-
day restriction—a legal challenge is very likely. Serious
issues would be raised by an outright ban, especially
if it applied to deliveries to a “terminal” or place of
loading or unloading “household goods” . . .
Reasonable time-of-day restrictions—for example, an
ordinance that required truckers to use designated
loading zones in commercial districts during specified
hours to make their local deliveries would be simpler
to defend, but in the absence of MHD approval might
well be set aside by the courts.

We share the City’s concern about the growing vol-
ume of truck traffic, including local deliveries, in
Cambridge, and we are eager to help you shape a cre-
ative strategy to mitigate its adverse impact on the
quality of life in the City. It is important to recognize,
however, that any efforts to regulate truck traffic are
likely to be highly contentious and present challenging
legal issues. It is, in our view, important to develop a
carefully considered strategy—potentially involving
negotiations with the MHD and FHWA, legislative
efforts on Beacon Hill, and possibly litigation— before
embarking upon any systematic effort to restrict the
use of heavy commercial trucks to make local deliver-
yes in the City.

To receive the letter in its entirety, please call the
council at 349-6287.

Public Meeting on Truck Traffic November 25
A meeting was scheduled by City Councillor
Henrietta Davis for November 25 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss
methods available to regulate the size of trucks making
local deliveries in congested areas. The meeting was
scheduled as The Whistler went to press.

Below are excerpts from a letter received by the City
Solicitor from Palmer and Dodge, LLP. They have pro-
vided the City with their opinion on this matter.

There is little doubt that deliveries by large semi-
trailer trucks can create significant problems in a
congested city, such as Cambridge, and that the reg-
ulation of truck traffic on local streets falls within
the police power of a municipality. Unfortunately,
however, the City’s power to regulate truck traffic is
subject to constraints imposed by both federal and
state law. Any efforts to ban heavy commercial
trucks from making local deliveries or to limit them
to specific hours—likely to be met with strong
opposition from the trucking industry and possibly,
from federal and state regulators . . .

To our knowledge, the City has never attempted to
restrict the use of heavy commercial trucks to make
local deliveries without the MHD’s approval. The City
does currently enforce ordinances prohibiting trucks
weighing more than 2.5 tons from using certain
streets, but we are informed that each of these
restrictions was (a) based on an engineering or safety

Development: Dealing with the Hot Spots
Cambridge Residents for Growth Management (CRGM)
have planned a forum on December 3, Wednesday, to dis-
cuss the impact of development on our neighborhoods. The
group has been working for reforms in the Cambridge zon-
ing laws in order to manage future growth, to preserve
neighborhoods, housing affordability and open space.

Everyone is welcome to this forum that includes:
- Information on Cambridge’s development
hot spots and current down zoning petitions by the
residents who support them
- An opportunity to discuss new hot spots and
potential solutions
- Zoning experts will be on hand to answer your
zoning and development questions.

The meeting will be held on December 3rd at 6:45 p.m.
in the First Cambridge Baptist Church, 5 Magazine St.
Central Square (Franklin St. entrance). For more informa-
tion call Joel Bard at 547-3210 or CRGM at 554-0051.
November 4 Election Results

The results of the Cambridge 1997 PR Municipal Elections are as follows:

For City Council, all nine incumbents were reelected. The quota necessary for election was 1688. Those elected and their #1 vote totals were (in order of election):

2449 Anthony Galluccio (with 761 surplus votes)
1982 Francis Duehay (with 294 surplus votes)
1749 Katherine Triantafillou (with 61 surplus votes)
1740 Timothy Toomey (with 52 surplus votes)
1699 Michael Sullivan (with 11 surplus votes)
1508 Sheila Russell (elected on Galluccio transfer
2nd count
1519 Kathleen Born (elected on Duehay transfer
3rd count
1383 Kenneth Reeves (elected on MacKinnon transfer-
11th count
926 Henrietta Davis (elected on Cunningham transfer-
14th count

For the School Committee, five of six incumbents were re-elected and Robin Harris replaces Fred Fantini. The quota necessary for election was 2341. Those elected and their #1 vote totals were (in order of election):

2684 Alice Turkel (with 343 surplus votes)
2608 Susana Segat (with 265 surplus votes)
2043 Denise Simmons (elected on Stead transfer
5th count
1900 Robin Harris (elected on Stead transfer-5th count)
2190 David Maher (elected on Stead transfer-5th count)
2071 Joseph Grassi (elected on Fantini transfer
6th count

-Report courtesy of Robert Winters

❖ Lesley College ❖

New Signs for the College

Members of the Lesley Planning Committee met with representatives from Lesley, including their designer Jon Roll, to review the new signage that Lesley plans to place on their campus on and around Mellen St. There will be large, free standing signs at Mass. Ave. & Mellen Sts, Oxford & Wendell Sts. and Oxford and Mellen Sts. They will direct visitors to Lesley. A hanging sign will be placed down Mellen St. so visitors will know when they have arrived.

Smaller signs have been developed to direct visitors to parking and various buildings. Signs have also been developed to be placed on the Lesley Buildings. All signs will be painted with a green background and off white writing. They will conform to the design depicted below.

Another set of signs have been developed for Porter Exchange Building located in Porter Square and owned by Lesley College. They will soon be placed on the buildings for easy identification.

Check Out the Lesley Web Site

Lesley College has developed a web site that may prove to be very useful to Agassiz residents. The library has some links to children's literature that parents should find interesting. The Lesley Security Department has provided their Annual Report on line. You can also find information on Career Opportunities at Lesley. Check it out at (http://www.lesley.edu).

❖ THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT ❖

If you would like to make a year end donation to our Annual Fund, You may send it c/o Annual Fund, Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA, 02139. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. For written information on our organization, please call Terry Delancey at 349-6287.

The ANC thanks all of our donors for their generous contributions to our ANNUAL FUND DRIVE. We have received over $6,000 in donations to date. Donations support the many programs and public services the ANC provides, including this newsletter, monthly performances for children, a fund to finance volunteer projects and a new fund to plant trees in our neighborhood. These are just a few of the many services provided to Agassiz community members.

NOVEMBER DONORS
Deborah Galef and Kevin Brown  Lew Sargentich and Val Bradley  Leona Vogt
Agassiz Community
School Programs

FALL REGISTRATION

Agassiz Afterschool Programs

The Agassiz Afterschool Program for kindergarten children is located in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street. The program for grades 1-5 is located in the Agassiz School building. The program serves children from all public schools in Cambridge, many of whom are bussed to Agassiz from other public schools. Parents may sign children up for part or full time Afterschool. Limited space is available for this year, so call for registration information, a brochure or to tour the program.

The program provides childcare after school, on early release days and during school vacation weeks. Specialists in the arts, sports and other activities enrich the program each day, while teachers provide continuity and daily activities.

For more information on this program, call either Afterschool Director, Dawn Greene in the morning at 349-6287, or Michael Brown in the afternoon at 497-4284.

Sacramento St. Preschool

The preschool provides a morning program for children ages 2 years 9 months until they go to kindergarten. This program provides a developmental preschool experience in a cozy, individualized atmosphere. Located in our community center, a beautiful old house with an enormous play yard, the preschool is under the direction of Diane DiMaina. The program is in session Monday-Friday from 8:30-1:30, but parents have many part time options from which to choose. Sacramento St. Preschool follows the Cambridge School Calendar. For more information, a brochure or to visit call Teacher-Director Diane DiMaina at 547-1062 or 349-6287.

Yoga Classes

Yoga Classes will be taught by Isa Mattei in the Agassiz School on Tuesdays beginning December 2 for ten sessions through February 24. The cost will be $100. For more information call Isa at 661-6242. To register call Michael Brown at 497-4284.

Teen and Adult Basketball

Drop in Basketball for teens has begun on Tuesday nights from 6-8 p.m. lead by John Roderick in the Agassiz School gym. 28 Sacramento St. entrance. Admission is $1.00.

Drop in Basketball for adults has begun on Wednesday nights from 6-9 p.m. in the Agassiz Gym, 28 Sacramento St. entrance. Admission cost is $2.00.

Wanted: Clothing

The afterschool program is in need of sturdy, old clothing (T-shirts, underwear, sweat pants) to be used for a change of clothes for children 6-8 years of age. Please call Michael Brown at 497-4284 if you have clothing to donate.
Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children

December 9, Tuesday

2:00 p.m. - Agassiz School Stage

BIG NAZO

Admission $1.00 for information call 349-6287

BIG NAZO is an ensemble of visual and musical artists who transform themselves into giant puppet creatures and masked characters. Their performances are funny, thought provoking and sometimes irreverent. BIG NAZO’s combination of masks, puppetry and funk music have been presented at the International Fringe Theater Festival in Scotland, and they were recently the award winners at the World Fringe Festival in Japan. This performance is funded in part by New England Foundation for the Arts and the Agassiz Neighborhood Council.

Sacramento Street Gallery

20 Sacramento Street

Weekdays 2-6 p.m., Weekends Noon-6 p.m.

A Holiday Sale December 5 - 12

Ceramics, jewelry, prints, toys, candles, paper boxes and more. Profits from this sale will benefit gallery programs.

Spanish Renaissance Christmas December 13

The Spectrum Singers will present a concert of early music at 8:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 11 Garden St., on December 13. Conducted by John W. Hardt, with guest ensemble “Renaissances,” they will perform Victoria’s Aeterna, O Magnum Mysterium, plus sacred and secular works from the Italian peninsula. Tickets are $8. Call 492-8922.

Cultural Happenings

The Whistler - December 1997

Cambridge Community TV Film Festival

Series #3 “Local Scripts” a film animation and video series hosted by David Kelsey, formerly of the Coolidge Corner Theater, continues in December. It will feature “Darling Artists” on December 10th at 7:00 p.m. at CCTV, 675 Mass. Ave., in Central Square. For more information, call 861-5900.

Fresh Pond Ballet

Nina Alonso Hathaway Studio

178A Mass. Ave. Cambridge

491-5665

Classical Ballet

Free Ballet for pre-professional students

Adult Classes

For information call Cambridge Arts Council at 349-4580.

Gallery 57 - 57 Inman Street

Ruth A. Scott, painter, “To Market...”

December 5-29, weekends 9:30-7:00 p.m.

Artists Reception December 4, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

For information call Cambridge Arts Council at 349-4580.
Announcements

City Sport and New Bookstore replace Fozzles
You may have noticed the changes coming to Porter Exchange. The bookstore, Fozzles, has left, and in its place will be City Sport. They are now creating an entrance from the street, as well as the one inside the mall. City Sport will open in December.
Lesley will also open a college bookstore that will be open to the public and will sell books and merchandise of general interest.

Fire Fighters Wanted
Are you interested in a career as a firefighter? It is tough, dangerous and demanding work. You can learn more about this by calling 1-800-392-6178. The deadline for applications is February 6, 1998.

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY
Fill Up St. Paul's Food Pantry from Barrels at STAR MARKET
You can help our less fortunate community members with a donation of food for the St. Paul's Food Pantry located in Harvard Square. It's easy. All you have to do is drop off a donation of non-perishable food every time you shop at the Beacon St. Star Market from now until the end of December.
Barrels are located in front of the store, near the check out counters. Ask a clerk if you can't find them.

Santa Claus To Visit 18th Annual Agassiz Preschool Tree Sale
Agassiz Preschool announces its 18th annual Christmas Tree Sale. The sale will begin on December 6th and run to December 21nd. 4-8 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, 12-8 p.m. on weekends. The sale takes place at 1803 Mass. Ave. in Porter Square. This is an opportunity to purchase a beautiful Christmas tree at a reasonable price and support a worthy cause. Come early; last year trees sold out before the sale was over.
All proceeds benefit Agassiz Preschool Scholarship Fund. For more information call Mari Badger at 491-7484 or Tracy Kaplan at 547-9355.

ELIZABETH BROWNING

LISA J. DRAPKIN
Your Neighborhood Realtors
COLDWELL BANKER
1730 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
864-4430
December 1997 Community Calendar

December 3, Wednesday 6:45 p.m. Growth Management Forum -
DEALING WITH THE HOT SPOTS
First Cambridge Baptist Church, 5 Magazine St. Call 354-0051

December 4-10
Weekdays 2:30-5:45 p.m. KIDS ONLY HOLIDAY SALE - Agassiz Community Center
Saturdays Noon to 5:45 p.m. 20 Sacramento St. - 2nd floor. Closed Sunday

December 5-12
Weekdays 2:00-6:00 p.m. A HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW - Agassiz Community Center
Saturday, Sunday Noon-6:00 p.m. Sacramento Street Gallery - 20 Sacramento St.
Opening Reception Friday, December 5 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

December 9, Tuesday 2:00 p.m. "BIG NAZO" Life size puppet performance for children
Agassiz School Stage Admission $1

December 9, Tuesday 6:30 p.m. ANC Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. ANC Monthly Meeting
Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance

December 23, Tuesday Hanukkah begins at sundown

December 24, Wednesday Cambridge Public School December Vacation Begins

December 25, Thursday Christmas Day

Cambridge Public Schools Reopen January 5

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.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 349-6287
Fax and Hot Line 497-4388
EMAIL Agassiz@concentric.net

DO NOT FORWARD

KIDS ONLY SALE
DECEMBER 4-10 (except Sunday)
Mon-Fri 2:30-5:45 p.m. Saturday Noon -5:45 p.m.
Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.
A sale of fun gifts for kids to buy for their
family & friends, and the prices are kid friendly, too!
Agassiz staff will be on hand to help with math and
selections. Choose from hand puppets, jewelry, bean
bag animals, cars, purses, banks, tool kits, wallets,
dreidels, sewing kits, paper dolls and much more
All profits will benefit program scholarships

For information call 349-6287.