Hoffman, Chair of the ANC, opened the January 17 Council Meeting and turned it immediately over to Jo Anne Preston, Chair of the Agassiz Tenants Association. The more than 50 people in attendance were first updated on the new law regarding the phasing out of rent control in Massachusetts. Basically, the law ends rent control but provides an extension for people whose household income is 60% or less than the median Boston area income (80% for those over 62 or disabled). There are other criteria, but those who are eligible are protected and will have rent control extended until December 1995 or 1996. *(For summary of the law which phases out rent control, see p. 2.)*

Preston provided various handouts. One was an example of an eligibility form for Cambridge residents. Participants were urged not to fill out these forms, as they were still in the process of being developed by the rent control board. Another handout included excerpts from a position paper developed by Cambridge Somerville Legal Services which provided recommendations for the Rent Board. There were many eligibility questions that were still unanswered, and some people were unsure if they would have protected status.

The Rent Board will soon be sending out the final version of the eligibility forms which must be filled out by tenants and submitted to the rent board in order to qualify. Preston hoped that the Rent Board would set up sites in the neighborhood where representatives could help tenants fill out the forms.

Preston also urged tenants to attend the next meeting of the Rent Board where the topics of confidentiality and lisability would be discussed as they would appear on the eligibility form. She added that the last meeting was attended primarily by landlords and few tenants were present.

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**ANC Meeting Notes**

**Jo Ann Hoffman**

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**Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council**

Preston said that the Agassiz Tenants were developing a position paper. There would be further meetings to develop this document.

Representative Alvin Thompson spoke to the group. He explained that this law was the best legislators could provide given the position taken by the Governor. He said the income guidelines will stay, but the rent boards will have to do some “fine tuning”. He said that the rest is now in the hands of the landlords. He suggested that tenants visit legislators who you can be seen by appointment.

Members of the group provided some information on organizing. Many tenants have organized buildings or properties owned by a single landlord. One strategy was to send all rents to the landlord for the building in one envelop to show that tenants are organized. If there are any code violations, rents can be legally held up, and Cambridge Inspectional Services will inspect your apartment if you suspect violations. Since the Rent Board has been available for tenant disputes over the past twenty years, there has been less need for tenants to organize, but it is most important now.

Jeff Purcell provided some legal advice for tenants. He advised that no one should pay any rent increase before March 1, and increases cannot be legally demanded before February. Tenants who cannot afford the rent increase should go to the landlords and say it is not affordable. If you are not sure if you are a protected

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**Upcoming Council Meetings**

Next Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell St.)

February 21, Tuesday
7:30 p.m.

Agenda: Next year the ANC will be in the New Agassiz School. Come and share your ideas for new community programming.

See page 2 for more information.
Information on FEBRUARY ANC Meeting

February 21 Tuesday 7:30
New School New Space New Programs

Join the ANC on Tuesday night February 21 and add your ideas for new neighborhood programs in the New Agassiz School. Speak at the Council meeting about what you would like to see happening in the neighborhood. Who do you see as the underserved groups and what activities might be fun for everyone?

Opportunities abound for developing programs, and your participation will help shape new programs. This will be a "brainstorming" session where all ideas are worth consideration.

The council will develop a program committee to review all the suggestions. The committee will further explore the feasibility of the ideas in terms of cost, community need and interest, school department requirements and compatibility with the mission of the ANC.

FRESH POND BALLET
Nina Alonso Hathaway
Studio
1798 A Mass. Ave. • Cambridge
491-5865

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

(Continued from page 1)

tenant or not, pay the regular rent until you are certain. He advised that tenants not be afraid to report code violations. If a landlord tries to evict you because you have protested, it could be viewed as retaliation. In that way tenants are protected.

Lester Lee addressed the group, and he was hoping to launch a city wide response to landlords that 10% increase per year is enough.

Handouts and information for tenants was provided by the ANC. The Eviction Free Zone is offering workshops (868-2900) for all tenants. CEQC has developed a housing justice program for landlords to develop.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW "RENT CONTROL" LAW

The new law, effective 1/4/95, specifies the phasing out of rent control. Some highlights of this new law are listed below. Sources for this information include Jeff Purcell and the Cambridge Chronicle.

- All units in Cambridge decontrolled as of 12/31/96
- Tenants with household incomes 60% or less of the Boston median will be protected temporarily
- Tenants over 62 or disabled with incomes of 80% or less of Boston area median will be protected temporarily
- Full time students over 18 do not qualify for an exemption regardless of income
- All 1-3 unit buildings decontrolled as of 12/31/95
- All owner occupied 4-12 unit buildings decontrolled as of 12/31/95
- Ordinance condos will be decontrolled by 12/31/95 or as soon as the owner wants to move in
- The courts will have jurisdiction over all eviction proceedings. Just cause eviction requirements remain.
- This law ends the lawsuit challenging Question 9 because it is a new law which replaces all home rule petitions and results of Question 9
- Tenants may be required to pay 30% of household income regardless of prior rent
- Landlords are entitled to at least a 5% increase yearly regardless of income
- Income eligibility will be determined by the last 12 months. Tenants must show proof of income in months since last tax return if using tax forms. Medical and child care expenses can be used in determining allowable rent but not eligibility for continued rent control.
- Two roommates is a household of 2. Income of all persons residing in the unit will be counted.

RENT BOARD HOT LINE: 349-4636

The Rent Board has agreed to come out to Agassiz and help tenants fill out eligibility forms during the week of February 6. If you are not yet on the mailing list, call for specific information.

To be on the mailing list for the Agassiz Tenants, call the ANC at 349-6287 for meeting information and updates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</th>
<th>60% OF MEDIAN INCOME</th>
<th>80% OF MEDIAN INCOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$21,550</td>
<td>$27,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 person</td>
<td>$24,600</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>5 person</td>
<td>$33,250</td>
<td>$43,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Neighborhood News

Trolleys Wish to Stop at Harvard Museums

Old Town Trolleys has advised the ANC that they will be applying for a license to route their 32 seat trolley down Everett St., turning right onto Oxford St. This license will expand their sight seeing tours of Cambridge to include the Harvard Museums located on Oxford St. The stop will be in front of the Science Center, where the Harvard Shuttle already has a stop. Passengers will be let off and on there six times per day. This is the same trolley you can see in Harvard Square.

In a letter to the ANC, the operations manager said:

We believe that our new route down Everett St. and Oxford St. with a stop at the Harvard Museums, will reduce the requests and complaints about seeing the museums which we have received in our comment program. We believe it will also reduce the number of cars traveling to the Museums and the difficulty parking at the museums, therefore, solving problems for all concerned: Old Town Trolley, visitors to the city and the neighborhoods. We would certainly monitor and reduce the noise levels in residential sections to be courteous of neighbors.

The tour operates April and May on the weekends and seven days a week June through October. Old Town Trolley has been in operation in Cambridge since 1986. We have always considered ourselves good neighbors.

The request may come before the License Commission prior to the next ANC meeting. If you have any questions, the Operations Manager Frank Curran will be glad to speak to you. He can be reached at 269-7150 or you may call the ANC at 349-6287 with concerns.

STOP Dog Poop on Sidewalks

The Whistler has received a letter regarding the problem of irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs, leaving our sidewalks a mess. Another problem mentioned was dog owners who clean up the mess, then deposit it into the nearest trash barrel.

YOU CAN HELP. When you see this happen, speak to the dog owner. You can also call the animal officer of the Cambridge Police at 349-4376. It is against the law to leave the mess or deposit it in someone else's garbage.

Garfield St. Housing Still on Hold

Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) has advised the ANC that the public housing planned for the corner of Garfield St. and Mass. Ave. (currently a vacant lot) has been delayed again due to title problems. Transfer from the MBTA to CHA is expected to take place on 2/1, and soon after CHA will contact ANC to host a meeting.

Traffic and Transportation

Parking Permits Galore!

We have learned that 282 Cambridge Parking Permits were issued from the Agassiz site. Another 327 Guest Parking Permits were also issued. This was so successful that it will be repeated next year, currently planned with increased hours.

Bernie Flynn from the Traffic and Parking Department contacted the council this fall to see if ANC was willing to provide space to issue Cambridge Parking Permits. This would provide a convenience to Agassiz residents who could just stop in for a permit, rather than have to trek down to Inman Street. In spite of space limited by the closing of the Agassiz School, the ANC enthusiastically agree to try this idea out.

So, this fall the Agassiz Neighborhood Council hosted the Department of Parking and Traffic at our Community Room on the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell Streets. Permits were available to the public on Thursday evenings from 6-8 during November and December. Lines were reportedly long, but good humor prevailed. Next year the extended hours should help keep lines shorter.

For All Your Real Estate Needs
ELIZABETH BROWNING
884-4430 BUSINESS
497-4511 RESIDENCE
HUNNEMAN AND COMPANY COLDWELL BANKER
1730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE MA 02138
City Wide

Recycling Advisory Seeks Members

Give the City a resident's view of the recycling program by becoming a member of the Recycling Advisory Committee. Committee members advise the City on the operation and expansion of its recycling program. Some Committee members also get involved in outreach programs that inform their fellow residents about the hows and whys of recycling. Others help to research and implement new programs in their neighborhoods, schools and places of worship. No specialized skills or knowledge are required to become a member, just an interest in building strong recycling programs.

Meetings are every sixth Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire St. near Inman Square. The building is wheelchair accessible. Representatives of Cambridge's ethnic communities are encouraged to apply. To apply, send a letter or resume to: Robert W. Healy City Manager 795 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139

If you'd like more information about the committee call Jan Aceti, the Director of Recycling at 349-4866.

Agassiz Detour

By now most Agassiz residents are reconciled to the Oxford St. detour for Agassiz School construction which will remain in effect through March. While the detour is an inconvenience for most residents, people who live on the streets taking the detour traffic have had to face more and faster traffic.

ANC advised the City Manager's Office that residents were concerned about the excessive speed used by many detourers. We have heard from the City Manager that Superintendent Boyle of the Cambridge Police has taken steps. In a memo dated 1/6/94, Supt. Boyle has requested "that Day and Night Patrol Sections direct the appropriate traffic unit and/or route/sector car to do selective traffic enforcement on Sacramento St. for speeding violations and trucks entering the wrong way."

Crime and Safety

As the Whistler went to press, we did not have the year end crime report from the Police Commissioner’s office. We will provide it in an upcoming edition of The Whistler.
Agassiz School

New Agassiz School Architects Honored

HMFP Architects have been recognized for work on three separate school projects in the past year. The Benjamin F. Butler Middle School in Lowell received the American Association of School Administrators' annual Walter Taylor Award in April. The Golden Hill and Silver Hill Elementary Schools in Haverhill won the William Caudill Citation from American School and University and the Association of School Business Officials awarded one of their three Certificates of Excellence to the Nauset Regional Middle School.

HMFP is located on Bishop Allen Drive in Cambridge, and Architect George Metzger has spent many long hours with the Agassiz community as architects for the new Agassiz School.

Update on the New Agassiz School

Construction

The steel work was completed in mid-January, and the crane has left the site. There remains a loose metal deck that will be moved around for some time longer.

By February the neighborhood will see scaffolding that will be used by the masons. A protective covering that will shroud the building will then be added. This will protect the fireproofing that will be sprayed, and it will allow for heating so the masons can get to work on the brick.

Once the shrouding is completed, residents will see little more from the outside.

Other

The teachers and Principal Eva Paddock have been selecting appropriate furniture over the past few weeks. Documents are being prepared for spring bidding.

Architects will ask environmental consultants to provide guidelines to ensure that no volatile vapors will occur in the new building.

Update on the Sacramento Field

Work on the field has been suspended for the winter. Remaining work (play equipment, sod) will be completed as soon as weather permits.

Members of the Community Garden have been concerned regarding the extent of excavation in the garden and the condition in which the garden was left by the workers. The City agreed to replace soil when the work was completed.

School Construction

Hot Line Log
12/28 Caller was concerned about cars moving cones and driving through Oxford Street in spite of the closing. This was particularly dangerous given the sidewalk was completely obstructed by manhole construction. ANC contacted City Manager. Saw horses replaced cones.

1/3 Caller wanted to voice frustration over the closing of Oxford St. and felt that construction company was taking advantage of neighborhood.

1/9 Caller advised that traffic light had not be turned back on after work completed that day. ANC contacted police to turn it back on.

1/10 Caller requested that construction company move a piece of equipment that was parked in an Oxford St. space. ANC called Clerk of the Works and equipment was moved.

1/12 Caller complained that Oxford St. (the part that is closed off to all but residents) had not been plowed. ANC spoke to Department of Public Works who agreed to be sure it was on the plow list.

1/12 Caller said shoveling was not done around the Tot Lot on either Oxford or Sacramento St. which had been promised. ANC spoke to the Department of Public Works, who said that the walks were on the list, but hadn't been reached that day.

1/17 Caller called to say that fence behind her house had not been reattached after the fence was installed around Sacramento Field. ANC called Department of Public Works who agreed to contact caller and set up a time to fix fence.
Cultural Happenings

Lesley College hosts Monthly Poetry

PEAL - Poetry Events at Lesley is a monthly series featuring an array of distinguished Boston area poets. Each event will feature poetry readings and a book-signing reception at Lesley’s campus. All are free and open to the public.

Featured poets were chosen to exemplify the richness and diversity of poetic voices and include nationally known artists, writers, and performers; poets working in schools with children and teachers; and Lesley faculty and staff.

Patricia Smith, a noted playwright, performer and reporter for the Boston Globe, will discuss Performance Poetry, 2/1, Alumni Hall, 29 Everett St. Smith is the author of Close to Death, a book of poems in the voices of black men.

Black History Events in Cambridge

Lift Every Voice, a Gospel event in its 6th year, will be performed February 10 at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, 434 Broadway at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Multicultural Task Force of the Cambridge Department of Human Services, this event celebrates Black History and features: Ife' Franklin, Soloist, Green Aggregation, Mount Cavalry Gospel Choir, Kuumba Singers, Cambridge Rindge and Latin Gospel Chorus, the Haggerty School Chorus and others.

Cost is $10 ($8 in advance and $5 for senior citizens and youth).

Black History Family Celebration will be presented on March 2 (snow date March 9) at 6:00 p.m. at the M. L. King Elementary School, 100 Putnam Ave. This event will include guest speakers, music, dance and craft vendors. The Harriet Wiggall Community Service Awards and Black History Multi-Media Contest Awards (see p. 8) will be presented. Admission is free.

Breaking the Silence of Racism
Unspoken Issues Between
Women of Color and White Women

presented by the YWCA of Cambridge
Saturday March 18, 1995
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Volpe National Transportation Center,
Kendall Square
Keynote speaker:
Donna Latson Gittens, VP WCVB TV
Call 491-6050 for registration information
Spread the Word

Community School

For General Information on all ANC Programs, contact Jody Garber, Program Director, at 349-6287

Afterschool Activities Term 2

The Activities program, which provides after school care and activities for children up to three days per week, has just begun Term 2. If you are interested in this program, call Jody Garber at 349-6287.

Kindergarten Registration

Those of you who will have kindergartners next fall should be receiving your school assignments soon. The Agassiz Afterschool Childcare Program (available 5 days per week) does accept registrations in advance, but the Activities Program (available 1-3 days per week) begins registration in late August.

Please call Jody Garber to visit the program, to receive registration materials for either program, and for more information.

Sacramento Street Preschool Registers for Fall

The morning preschool program sponsored by the ANC is now accepting applications for children ages 2 years nine months through 4 years for September '95.

Housed at 20 Sacramento St. in a beautiful old house with an ample backyard, the program is small with many options for parents to choose regarding days and pick up times.

Preschool is taught by Diane DiMaina, who will be happy to provide you with a tour and more specific information on the program. Call 349-6287.

Outback Summer Day Camp

Registration information will be available in late March. Call 349-6287 to be on the mailing list.
ANC Board Members—Their Role

While individual board members are often active in neighborhood issues, duty as a board member does not include forming neighborhood policy. This is done by all members of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council at monthly council meetings.*

The ANC, as a private, non-profit corporation, has a Board of Directors who govern the agency. The board oversees the management of ANC programs which include children’s programs, a forum for neighborhood issues and concerns, The Whistler. Newsletter of the ANC and many other miscellaneous social, educational, cultural and informational events.

Current Board Members are listed below:

JoAnn Hoffman, Chair
Stephen Kosslyn Vice Chair
Fred Levy, Treasurer
Sue Bergin, Secretary
Richard Griffin
Kathleen Manion
Joan Squeri, Parent Rep.
Fred Willey
Gorham St.
Garfield St.
Frost Terrace
Mellen St.
Howland St.
Newport Rd.
Sacramento St.
Green St.
Sacramento St.

* Who is a member of the ANC? Anyone who lives in the Agassiz neighborhood, has a child in the Agassiz School or the Community School program. To be a voting member, you must have attended and signed into one monthly council meeting in the past 12 months.

Announcements

CCTV Wins Award

"Allegations," a docudrama, was produced by Rudy Hypolite, CCTV Associate Director and the Cambridge Community Television Summer Video Institute. It has been selected to receive the American Film Institute’s 1994 Robert M. Bennett Award. The video can be seen on Cambridge cable Channel 19 Sundays February 5 and 26 at 9:30 p.m. "Allegations" and "The Making of Allegations" can be seen on Channel 19 February 8, Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. and February 23, Thursday at 9:30 p.m.

The Robert M. Bennett award, presented annually by the AFI, recognizes outstanding achievements in local television programming within the categories of drama, documentary, and limited budget. "Allegations" was placed at the top of the list in the drama category by the panel of television and video professionals.

Summer Video Institute participants included Paulina Villarocel, Ben Raynes, Brian Duran, Jorge Parrietta, Cherry Ann Goodridge, Ron Johnson, and Andy Blum who worked with Hypolite and local playwright Thomas Grimes. A script was developed that dealt with teen/police and race relations. Cambridge Police Department joined the collaboration, providing technical assistance, props and locations.
Community Calendar  
February 1995

February 1, Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Kindergarten Assignments to be mailed
February 1, Wednesday 7:30 p.m. PEAL Poetry Events at Lesley, Patricia Smith 
Performance Poetry Alumni Hall, 29 Everett St.
February 10, Friday 7:30 p.m. “Lift Every Voice” Gospel Performance 
Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, 434 Broadway
February 20-24, Monday-Friday Cambridge Public School Vacation Week
February 21, Tuesday 6:30 p.m. ANC Board Meeting (Open to Public) 
7:30 p.m. ANC Monthly Meeting 
Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. (Wendell St. corner)
March 2, Thursday 6:00 p.m. Black History Family Celebration 
M. L. King School, 100 Putnam Ave.

Reach us by FAX 497-4388, or by Compuserve E-Mail at 74372.1770 @ Compuserve.com

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.

February 1995
The Whistler
Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
349-6287

BLACK HISTORY MULTI-MEDIA CONTEST
for Kids Grades K-12
Entries Must be original and may include
• Video or Audio Tape (5 minutes max.)
• Poster, Drawing, painting or collage (11"x17" max.)
  • Sculpture (12"x12" area max.)
  • Prose or poetry (250 word max.)
  • Photography (8"x10" max.)

Each entry should emphasize the importance of history focusing on figures of the African-American experience, or on the connection between the past, present, and the future. (See page 6 for details on the March 2 Black History Family Night where awards will be presented.)

For more information, an entry form or to drop off entries, call 349-6287, or drop in at the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge 02138.
DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS FEBRUARY 17, 1995
Sponsored by the Multicultural Committee
Department of Human Services

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