Neighborhood Council Notes

News from the December Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
Marilyn Lyng O'Connell from Harvard University met with the council and it was agreed that the joint working committee comprised of representatives from Neighborhoods 9 and 10, CCLN, Harvard Square Defense Fund, Mid Cambridge Association and representatives from Harvard Planning Group would deal with long term Harvard issues relating to neighborhoods. Specifics that have to do with our neighborhood will be dealt with from time to time as necessary in our monthly council meetings.

A supplement to the Harvard University Gazette, Harvard Law School, dated December 7th was circulated in which the modernization of the Harvard Law School Library, Langdell Hall, and the construction of a new building on Holmes Field was described:

To quote from the Gazette...

...the faculty last month approved a proposal calling for modernization of Langdell Hall and the construction of a new building at the end of Holmes field. These two initiatives will enable us to reorganize the library and provide additional faculty offices and research space, and more small classrooms...

Much library space will be freed by moving faculty offices from the second and third floors of Langdell to the new Holmes Field building. We envision a new building of approximately 23,000 net square feet to be built at the north end of Holmes Field. It is planned as a mixed faculty office and classroom building containing two classrooms for 50 persons and two classrooms for 30 persons on the main level. The upper three floors would contain space for approximately 35 faculty offices, 13 offices for lecturers, 10 secretarial offices, and some space for conference rooms, files, and equipment,...a lower level floor would contain administrative office space.

Plans for the existing building are mostly modernization: renovations to heat and other systems, and the addition of air conditioning.

For more information on the planned project, please come to the January 15th council meeting (7:30 P.M., 20 Sacramento St.), where representatives from the Law School will answer questions about this project as well as update the neighborhood on their plans for the Bense Pharmacy Block and the Quality Inn.

Next Neighborhood Council Meeting

Tuesday January 15th 7:30 P.M.
Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento St. Cambridge MA 349-6287
Agenda:
7:30 General Business
8:00 Representatives from Harvard Law School will discuss plans for a new building near the Law School library (see neighborhood council notes above), plans for the use of the Quality Inn and development of the Bense Pharmacy Site.

Other HARVARD News

Harvard Expansion Forum Report on Sale

Edited transcripts from each speaker at the October 17th forum are available in the Agassiz Neighborhood Council office at 20 Sacramento St. This document, entitled HARVARD EXPANSION AND THE FUTURE OF CAMBRIDGE, will make the various issues clear to you. Loaded with specific information on Harvard's relationship with the city, including maps, statistics and suggestions for solutions. The cost is $3 for a 20 page soft bound report. Receipts from the sale will offset the printing expenses. (Add $1.00 for postage, and we will
Cambridge In Lieu of Tax Payments from Harvard

The long awaited agreement regarding an in lieu of tax payments on non taxable property in the City of Cambridge has been signed by Harvard and Cambridge. Anyone who would like a copy of that agreement can call the council offices at 349-6287 for a copy.

We would like to print the resolution from Mayor Wolf regarding in lieu of tax payments:

WHEREAS: Cambridge is home to several large educational institutions; and WHEREAS: Inevitably the interests of the city and the interests of these institutions often clash; and WHEREAS: There has been considerable discussion recently about town/gown relations in light of ongoing discussions about a possible new agreement with Harvard University; and WHEREAS: A recent community forum organized by several neighborhood associations raised a number of important issues regarding relations with Harvard; and WHEREAS: The many issues that arise between all the large institutions and the city have never been examined comprehensively; now therefore be it RESOLVED: That this City Council requests and authorizes the Mayor to appoint a Task Force to review all key issues regarding the relationship between the city and the large institutions including, but not limited to, in lieu of tax payments; university expansion; institutional zoning; the legal basis for the removal of certain property from the tax rolls; continued payment of taxes for newly purchased properties; cooperative ventures between the city and the universities; opportunities for Cambridge students at local universities; and town/gown relationships in general, but not in any way to negates the new agreement with Harvard that is currently pending; and be it further RESOLVED: That the Mayor will appoint an eminent but neutral individual to chair the task force, and will also appoint to the task force representatives of the city; resident representatives of Cambridge's diverse neighborhoods; university representatives; tax and assessing experts; and educators; and city planners; and be it further RESOLVED: That the task force will present its preliminary report four months after its initial meeting and, after one or more public hearings, will submit recommendations to the Mayor and City Council for consideration and adoption; and be it further RESOLVED: That this task force will attempt to forge the basis for new, more productive partnerships between the City and its large institutions.

See the table of contents: INTRODUCTION

Harvard is eroding the city which sustains it. But standing at the brink of a new presidency and a multi-billion dollar fund drive, Harvard has a unique opportunity to re-evaluate its course and become a national model for constructive cooperation between town and gown.

J.P. Pickhan

- HOW MANY PROFESSORS,
- HOW MANY CARES? 
R. Philip Doucet

Since 1974, the University population (students, faculty and staff) has grown at an annual average rate of 2.7%, to a "family" of 35,500 persons in 1990. If this growth continues, Harvard would be 60% bigger in 20 years and need another 4 million square feet of physical plant.

CHANGE AND CONTINUITY IN HARVARD SQUARE

Charles Sullivan

The Executive Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission traces Harvard's role in shaping the character of Harvard Square during the last 120 years. He advocates strong participation by the public and municipality to protect the community's interests in the development process.

MAP: Regulatory Constraints on University Growth

Current regulations prevent University expansion in low-density neighborhoods, but do nothing to prevent a Harvard takeover of the Harvard Square and Massachusetts Avenue commercial districts, or of areas zoned for high-density residential use.

THE CLIMATE FOR INDIGENOUS BUSINESS IN HARVARD SQUARE

Charles Soper

Harvard's actions as a developer and landlord are squeezing out the local businesses that once defined Harvard Square and speeding the trend toward mass-market franchise retailing.

HARVARD AS CAMBRIDGE DEVELOPER AND CITY PLANNER

Gladys Gifford

In seeking to protect its real estate investments, Harvard has exerted its influence in Cambridge to promote projects and policies, and to set precedents, which favor big development at the expense of other important objectives.

MAP: Harvard-owned Land in Cambridge by Period of Acquisition

Since 1975, Harvard has been buying major commercial properties in Harvard Square, its recent purchase of the Quality Inn has extended its acquisitions into yet another commercial area.

HARVARD EXPANSION AND CAMBRIDGE TAXES

The City Treasurer of Cambridge acknowledges Harvard's benefits to Cambridge, but warns that "too much of a good thing can be bad for you," Harvard, he argues, should compensate the City in full for all taxes on commercial property taken over for academic use in the future.

HARVARD IN THE LOCAL HOUSING MARKET

James Stockard

While certain Harvard projects have made a modest contribution to affordable housing, its continuing growth and many of its housing policies have made it difficult for all but the wealthiest households to find and afford residence in Cambridge.

WHAT NOW, TOWN? An Agenda for the 1990's

Neighborhood Representatives

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BEACON ST. LAUNDROMAT
358 Beacon Street
Somerville/Cambridge Line
864-8654

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Porter Square
Somerville Ave
to BEACON ST. LAUNDROMAT
for the future and not to interfere with agreements currently under discussion. City Council 11/19/90.

☆☆☆ Other Neighborhood News ☆☆☆

Scholarship Donors Named

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Scholarship Fund Drive a success:

Belle, Deborah
Booth, Marlene
Cambridge Savings Bank
Cheng, Shull-Way
Christopher's
Commonwealth Electric Co.
Connolly, Mary
Donovan, Ginnie
Fong, Jeanne
Gallivan, Sarah
Garber, Jody
Griffin, Richard
Groden, Harry and Claire
Grollman, Sharon
Gundy, Walter
Hams, Marcia
Hilliard, John and Carol
Hunter, Mareha
Hutaff, Margaret
James, Edward
Kadomtya, Ron and Andrea
Kigoishi, Hideo
Kindleberger, Richard
Kline, Elizabeth
Leff, Judy and Steve
Leffert Family
Maher, John
Maziarz, Rita
McBride, Sharon
Medwed, Howard
Munroe, Carol
Nagurney, John
Nilsen, Eve
Orme, Sally
Salganik, Mikhail Peter
Sanoff, R.
Shattuck, John
Shaw, Gertrude
Shawmut Bank
Silkowitz, Marshall
Sullivan, Eve
Sullivan, Walter J. and Marion
Thibodeau, Lillian
Thompson, Janet
Weinstein, Larry and Diane
Wylde, Elizabeth
Zhu, Yizhi

If you are interested in supporting our scholarship fund, please send a donation of any amount to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, 02138. Your donations are tax deductible and will be used to keep our programs both economically and culturally diverse. Anyone who donates $100 or more will have their name placed on a permanent honor roll to be displayed in the Agassiz Community Center.

Kids Only Sale Raises $850

Thanks to the generous contribution of Joie de Vivre located at 1792 Mass. Ave., hard work on the part of the Agassiz Community School staff, and excellent participation on the part of the Agassiz children, we were able to raise a substantial amount of money for our scholarship fund.

City News and Information

Scheme Z

Mayor Wolf has sent a letter to Governor-elect William Weld and Secretary of Environmental Affairs, John DeVillars regarding the issues Cambridge has with the proposed Scheme Z (the Charlestown-Cambridge interchange) of the Central Artery Project. The Cambridge City Council has unanimously voted to oppose the current design.

Areas of concern include:

1). Size. The interchange is higher than the state house and larger than Boston Common. It will create more highway than is removed from Boston. It will create shadow, noise, air pollution and concrete.

2). Local opposition. While the area has been described as a wasteland, it is the last undeveloped area of Cambridge. Two years work on plans for affordable housing and parklands were underway (with full knowledge of other state offices) before Cambridge was advised of Scheme Z.

3). Public Process. The public was not advised in time to input early in the design process due to lack of adherence by Secretary Salvucci to the MEPA process.

4). Environmental Concerns. The implementation of Scheme Z will prevent the restoration and planned construction of parkland on the Millers River. It will create a low dark roof over three acres of the Charles River, creating an unsafe area with a dense forest of columns. Long standing plans for continuous parkland from the Charles River to Old Ironsides will never be realized.

Mayor Wolf urges Secretary DeVillars to seek an alternative and withhold final approval.
Delinquent Taxpayers may be denied permits

Mayor Wolf has sent us a draft copy of an ordinance that gives the City the authority to deny, revoke, or suspend any license or permit of any party who has failed to pay local taxes, fees, assessments, or other municipal charges. It will be reviewed soon.

for a copy of the draft document, please call the council office at 349-6287.

Flash - The Community Mural will be on view in the gallery before it is installed at the tot lot. Look for announcements soon.

Sacramento St. Gallery Donates to Aids Benefit

The Annual Holiday Auction sponsored by the Aids Action Committee received a donation from the Sacramento St. Gallery this year. It was a porcelain bottle by Anne Hyland, who has coordinated our Holiday Crafts Fair for the past three years. The bottle is valued at $175.

Leningrad Theatre to visit Cambridge.

As part of the cultural exchange between the US and USSR, the Leningrad Komsomol Theatre of Leningrad, hosted by the American Chekhov Theatre and Film Co, brings the production of Chekhov's "Seagull" to Boston and Cambridge.

The visit is the realization of the second step of the international exchange project, which started with the two-week tour of the Chekhov Theatre and Film Co in Leningrad in September 1990.

The Leningrad Theatre of Leningrad Komsomol, one of the most prestigious theatre companies in Leningrad, was founded in 1936. Today under the leadership of V. Ovodzlov, the artistic director, the theatre reflects its new freedom introduced by the advent of perestroika, and carries on its avant-garde spirit in the search for artistic truth.

The play will be staged at the Cambridge Multicultural Art Center, 41 Second St. Cambridge on Saturday January 26 at 8 P.M. in Russian with a transcript available. Tickets are $12 ($10 seniors and students). For information call 1 577-1400.

The play will also be produced in the Robsham Theater at Boston College on January 18 and 20 with English subtitles. Call the theatre at 552-4800 for more information.

Neighborhood Council Programs

Tae Kwon Do Classes begin at Agassiz

On Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 and Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 Tae Kwon Do classes will be taught starting January 8th in the Agassiz School. The instructor, Heather Tallman, is a 1st degree Dan Black Belt. For more information or to register, call the community school at 348-6287.

Afterschool Activities Term 2 Begins in January.

No, it is not too late to register your school age children in grades K-6 for activities. Special activities for K-4th graders includes Jazz dance, sewing, clay studio, chess club, recorder lessons, and a drama experience as members of the Agassiz Afterschool Players.

This term on Fridays we are lucky enough to have ROBIN WINTER back who will do one art class for 4-4th graders and who will revive her legendary story hour (these are continuing adventure stories) for all ages, enjoyed by both girls and boys. Don't miss it.

Activities for 5th and 6th graders include a class in video where children get to use cameras and write short pieces, a cooking class to learn simple meals, and a day when they take trips using public transportation or on foot. A two day class with the Agassiz Afterschool Players will culminate in a musical directed by Carol Hantman and Ada Snider.

Children must sign up by the day, and can be bused from any Cambridge Public School. For more information call Steve Winter at 349-6287.

Boy Scout Troop Plans Open House

Daniel Beck, Scout Master at 1803 Mass. Ave. (N. Prospect Church) is planning an open house there for interested boys age 11 or older on January 28 at 7P.M. For information call him at 730-8487.

Town Meeting hosted by Mayor Wolf

On Wednesday January 23 there will be a Cambridge Town Meeting from 7-9 P.M. in the cafeteria of Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. This will be a chance to share your views on Cambridge's services and issues. All Cambridge residents are invited, refreshments will be served. For more information call the Mayor's Office at 349-4321. (Snow date is 1/24.)

Snow Shovelers Wanted:

Every winter Senior Citizens need help shoveling snow. You can earn $5-$20 depending on the size of the job. This is a program run from the Office of Mayor Wolf, and you must call there for a registration form. Call 349-4321.

Kripalu Yoga Classes to Begin

Danielle Levi Alvarez will begin sessions of 12 Yoga classes at 25 Carver St. on January 3rd. For information and fees call 354-2113.

Thursdays 8:30-9:45 A.M.
Tuesdays 12:30-1:45 P.M./6-7:15 P.M.
Wednesday 5:30-6:45 P.M./7-8:15 P.M.
See below for information on Agassiz School Fundraising with STAR MARKET. Please note that SIC is the Agassiz Public School Improvement Committee. For more information contact Marcia Duran, Parent Liaison at 340-6525.

STARSHARE/APPLES FOR AGASSIZ UPINIS. SIC has chosen the Starshare as a major fundraising effort! Star will donate 5% of every dollar you spend during the designated times to the school. The money will be spent for classroom materials, computers and the many other worthwhile projects supported by SIC. If every family spends $100 each week would could raise approximately $3,000. And it's easy - you need to shop anyway.

Agassiz will be participating on the following dates:
Tuesday - Thursday January 29 - 31, 1991
Tuesday - Thursday February 5 - 7, 1991
Tuesday - Thursday February 12 - 14, 1991

Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to do your shopping at Star Markets during the weeks indicated.

In order for Agassiz to receive the money you must present a copy of the certificate bearing Agassiz's registration number at the register when you shop. A sheet of certificates is enclosed and more are available in the Agassiz Office. You may copy the certificate and distribute certificates to friends, relatives and co-workers. However, Star will TERMINATE the program if certificates are distributed outside their markets during the designated days. So be sure to share them in advance!

Shopping can be done at any participating Star Market. Most of the Stars in Massachusetts are included. The local markets are:

Beacon Street
275 Beacon Street
Somerville, MA 02145

Porter Square
49 White Street
Cambridge, MA 02140

 McGrath Highway
14 McGrath Highway
Somerville, MA 02143

Mount Auburn
699 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02140
January Community Calendar 1991

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>School Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2</td>
<td>First Fall 1991 Kindergarten Registration day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Cambridge Public School—see article</td>
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<td>January 7</td>
<td>Early release day Agassiz School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting</td>
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<td>January 8</td>
<td>7:30 P.M. 20 Sacramento St. (see page 1 for Agenda)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day School Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Cambridge Town Meeting</td>
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The Whistler
January 1991
Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA 02138 349-6287

DO NOT FORWARD

Children who will be four years old on or before March 31, 1991 are eligible to enter Kindergarten in September, 1991. You may apply for any school/program in the Cambridge Public Schools. Assignments will be mailed February 28, 1991.

When you apply, please bring a...
1. Birth Certificate or Passport
2. Certification of Address Form*
3. Immunization Certificate

* Application information packages are available in the Cambridge Elementary Schools, all public libraries and the Parent Information Center (Huntington School, 850 Cambridge Street). The Parent Information Center will be closed at 12 noon from January 7 through January 18, 1991 only.

Cambridge School Department
For Kindergarten Information Call 349-6550 or 349-6482.
The Cambridge School Department is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
For More Information, Pour Plus D'Information Appelez, Para Más Información Llame, Para Más Informações. For Pia Informaciones 349-6512.

Please note our new telephone number is 349-6287