ANC News

Notes from the December 9 ANC Meeting

Fred Levy, ANC Treasurer, turned the first hour of the meeting over to the Cambridge Police, who talked with community members in order to get to know the neighborhood and to introduce Sgt. Kathleen Murphy and Lieutenant Daniel Reagan, both of whom have the Agassiz neighborhood as part of their territory. Currently there are lieutenants assigned to a total of five Cambridge sectors, and sergeants assigned to each of 13 neighborhoods. Also in attendance at the meeting were Commissioner Ronnie Watson, and Officers Edward Lyons and Mary Washington; Vicki Boulrice, Neighborhood Coordinator for the Cambridge Police, was also in attendance.

Concerns from neighbors included house and car break-ins, cars speeding on neighborhood streets, roller blading and biking on sidewalks and parking issues.

Police said the neighborhood was currently experiencing very low crime. This is why neighbors do not see police patrolling very often, since police are sent where the need is greatest. There have been a few isolated incidents of street robbery, one at Irving and Bryant and one at Holden Green. Serious Crime alerts are sent to anyone who requests them. (The Agassiz Neighborhood Council receives alerts, and posts all that are relevant to the neighborhood in the kiosk outside the Agassiz School.) Neighborhood alerts and other police information can be found on the police department web site: [http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CPD/]. For emergencies contact the police at 911, but for general administrative issues, call Vicki Boulrice at 349-3236 who can refer you to the proper department and officer.

See page three for more information that Cambridge police made available to the neighborhood at the December meeting.

Alan Pern, Lesley College Vice President for Administration and Finance, was introduced by Fred Levy and recapped Lesley College activities in the past few years and to ask the Lesley Planning Committee to take another look at the zoning request that Lesley proposed for the Mellen/Wendell St. campus. (See page four.)

Last on the agenda was Dr. Bruce Weiner who came to the meeting with his architect and his wife. She currently operates Cambridge Pet Care Center on Mass. Ave., a retail pet store that also does grooming (next to Emack and Bolio). Dr. Weiner would like to open an animal hospital at 1771 Mass. Ave., on the corner of Forest St. that would occupy half of the first floor and the basement level. (Another tenant will take the right side of the first floor space.) Access to the facility would be at the first floor, and it would include the retail currently in the store across the street. However, the look will be more of a professional building than a retail store, with the retail being located in the back. Hours of operation will be 8-8, six days a week.

Concerns raised included noise, odor, and parking. The architect, Warren Fredenfeld, specializes in animal hospitals, and he assured the council that there will be neither noise nor odor. Most dogs are there for short periods and remain indoors. Occasionally dogs are walked, but it is minimal. The doctor has practiced in Boston, and said there was no parking at all there, and it was not an issue.

The facility will be a full service animal hospital. It will have the capacity to board about 36 animals (twice as many cats as dogs). They will board sick animals as well as healthy ones while owners are away. The service will be primarily for dogs and cats, although birds and other animals are sometimes treated. Emergency cases will go to Angell Memorial for treatment.

The council had no objection to this use, nor to Dr. Weiner's application for a special permit to run an animal hospital.
Neighborhood News

Traffic and Transportation

Traffic Calming Solutions for Oxford Proposed

Traffic Calming Project Manager Kathy Watkins has provided us with some diagrams (below) to show the variety of solutions that may be used on Oxford Street to keep traffic speed down. These renovations will be part of the sewer renovations project, which guarantees funding.

Come to the JANUARY 20 ANC Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Agassiz School where Tams Consultants will propose real solutions for real streets in our neighborhood. This is an opportunity for neighbors to make some real contributions about the way traffic flows on Oxford Street.

IF YOU DON’T COME AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD, YOUR VALUABLE EXPERIENCE WILL NOT BE PART OF THE PROCESS. THE MORE PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATE THE MORE LIKELY THE SOLUTIONS WILL BE THE BEST SOLUTIONS FOR USERS OF OXFORD ST.

See Traffic Calming diagrams below, courtesy of Kathy Watkins and Cambridge Community Development Department

Call the ANC at 349-6287 for more information.

Sewer Renovation

Planning to begin in March

The Department of Public Works estimates that community meetings will begin in March to plan for the upcoming sewer renovation construction that will take place up and down Oxford St. and most side streets beginning next fall.

When this construction is completed, the streets will be reconstructed according to the current planning that includes traffic calming ideas listed below.

Truck Traffic: Another Point of View

Last month The Whistler published an opinion on a truck traffic ban around Harvard Square sent to us by the City from Palmer and Dodge. We have since heard from Thomas Bracken, counsel to the Harvard Square Defense Fund, Inc. with a different opinion on the matter. They believe that trucks take up scarce parking spaces, short cut through small streets, increase congestion and double park. Large noisy trucks often make small deliveries where smaller trucks would do, and deliveries could take place early in the morning and late at night. Excerpts are below:

Our legal counsel...advises us that the City has the legal authority to adopt and enforce such restrictions (on truck traffic). He respectfully disagrees with Scott Lewis’s conclusion...to that federal and state statutes which restrict the authority of municipalities to control large

CURB EXTENSIONS

- Reduce pedestrian crossing distance
- Improve visibility for pedestrians and vehicles
- Prevent illegal parking at corners
- Slow turning vehicles

PEDESTRIAN REFUGES

- Enhance pedestrian crossing
- Send a strong visual message to drivers identifying the crosswalk

RAISED CROSSWALKS

- Enhance pedestrian crossing
- Cause drivers to reduce speeds and devote more attention to driving

RAISED INTERSECTIONS

- Enhance pedestrian crossing
- Slow vehicles at intersections where most conflicts and accidents occur

CHICANES

- Cause drivers to reduce speeds and devote more attention to driving
- Slow vehicles by breaking up straightaways
trucks likely would prevent the City from adopting and
enforcing the measures proposed here .

The STAA (Surface Transportation Assistance Act)
provides that municipalities may not deny large trucks
"reasonable access" between the interstate highway
system and (i) "terminals" and (ii) "points of loading
and unloading for household goods carriers". The word
terminal is not defined in this statute . This statute
does not prohibit the city from banning large semi
trailers from making local deliveries when they are not
destined to a terminal and are not carrying household
goods. Certainly . . . other stores, restaurants, coffee
shops and movie theaters in Harvard Square are not
"terminals" as that word is normally used . . .

Mr. Lewis then sites state law . . . which provides
that "any sign excluding heavy commercial vehicles
must be approved by the Mass. Highway Department.
If that exclusion is adopted and enforced without post-
ing signs . . . approval of the MHD may not be neces-
sary. . . any such effort to avoid the necessity of
MHD approval would be met with "serious objections"
by the MHD" . . . We do not believe that such an objec-
tion would be warranted. The legislature gave the MHD
authority to approve only those truck restrictions
whose enforcement depends on signage . . . the City
could give actual notice of the restrictions by writing to
all large trucking companies known to be doing busi-
ness in Cambridge on a regular basis . . .

The Massachusetts zoning law, Mass. General
Laws Chapter 40A and the Cambridge Zoning
Ordinance adopted thereunder, provide authority to
adopt and enforce measures restricting trucks which
need only be approved by the Attorney General . . .

Another source of authority for adopting a heavy
truck exclusion which would not require MHD
approval is the Cambridge Noise Ordinance . . .

While it can be expected that any meaningful
truck restrictions will be attacked by the trucking
lobby, we believe that measures carefully constructed
under the zoning authority can withstand such an
attack. Clearly we believe it is time to make a serious
effort to adopt measures to mitigate the adverse effects
which large trucks are having in our City.

This information was submitted at the public meeting
on November 25 to the City of Cambridge. For the com-
plete version, call the ANC at 349-6287.

Winter Storms - Here's How You Can Help

*Only one blocked sidewalk will force all pedestrians,
including elderly and children, into the road.*

- Keep you sidewalk free of snow and ice. If you’re not at
  home, get someone else to do take care of the sidewalk.
- Clear openings at street corners so pedestrians can cross.
- Clear snow and ice from catch basins and fire hydrants.
- Park at least 10 feet from a corner, so plows can push
  snow away from the crosswalks.
- Notice which side of the street is "No Parking" during a
  snow emergency.
- Report unshoveled sidewalks 24 hours a day to the
  Hotline 349-4903. You must have the street address.

**If you need assistance with shoveling** and you
are elderly or disabled, call Ms. Pacheco at 349-6220.
Tips courtesy of the Department of Public Works

Porter Square Traffic Issues

Willie Bloomstein, Agassiz resident and member of the
Porter Square Citizens Advisory Committee, has advised
the ANC that there will be a meeting in late January to fur-
ther discuss access to the Porter Square Shopping Center.
At the last meeting, some members were interested in
revisiting a proposal from some years ago, which was to
allow traffic exiting from White Street to make a left turn
onto Somerville Avenue.

Please call the ANC for more information. The ANC
hopes to provide a discussion on this topic at the ANC
meeting on January 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Agassiz School,
when Oxford St. traffic calming is discussed.

Police Information for the Community

Anonymous Drug Tip Hot Line 349-3359

The hot line is usually answered by an answering
machine, so speak for as long as you like, using as much
detail as you can. You DO NOT have to leave your name,
address or telephone number. You may leave your name if
you wish to speak to a detective, who will return your call.
It will be kept strictly confidential.

The information below is the kind that can help the
police: offenders name, physical description, location where
drugs are being sold, and time and day of heaviest activity.

If you witness a crime, call 911.

Guidelines for Calling 911

Call 911 for:

- Crimes in progress
- Life threatening situations
- Fires
- Motor vehicle accidents or major traffic obstructions
- Injuries that require medical attention
- Chemical spills
- Fire, smoke or carbon monoxide alarms that are sounding
- Sparking electrical hazards
- Smoke in a building
- Any other emergency

Sexual Offenders Registry List

The Cambridge Police will provide citizens with a list of
sexual offenders living in proximity to them. For further
information on how to obtain that list call the Cambridge
Police, 349-3236.
Police Personal and Home Safety Tips
The Cambridge Police Department provides an excellent pamphlet designed to help you with your own safety and also with safety in your home. They provide tips for landscaping, burglar proofing, lighting, kinds of doors, locks, windows and alarm systems.
There are also tips on traveling by car or public transport. There are tips on street safety and dating.
For a copy of this pamphlet, call the Police at 349-3236

Agassiz Public School
Noisy Fan Still Concerns Neighbors
Residents of Oxford and Sacramento Streets have again complained about the noise coming from the Agassiz School. Corrections were made on this problem several years ago, but residents again are being disturbed.
The ANC has been in touch with Jim Ritsa from the School Department and Architect George Metzger. Jim Ritsa has agreed to look into the problem. The ANC will provide an update in The Whistler as soon as it is available.

Kindergarten Registration
Children who will be four years old on or before March 31, 1998 are eligible to enter kindergarten in September 1998. All children who will be four years of age from January 1-March 31, 1998 will be considered Jr. Kindergarten students, and will be in a two year kindergarten program.
Applications can be made beginning on January 12 at the Cambridge Public School Registration Center (formerly known as the Family/Parent Information Center).

Lesley College
Lesley College Planning Committee to Reconvene
Alan Fein, Lesley College Vice President for Administration and Finance, has asked the committee that works on planning issues to reconvene this January. Past issues have included affordable housing, housing to office conversions, signage and various other renovation and planning issues. He would like to see the original request that Lesley made for rezoning on the Mellen/Wendell campus reconsidered by the committee.
All interested Agassiz residents are encouraged to attend the planning meetings which have traditionally been held at 8:30 a.m. on a day convenient to the members. Please call Terry DeLancey at 349-6287 if you are interested in being on the Lesley Planning Committee mailing list. The meeting will be scheduled in the last two weeks of January.

Harvard University
Harvard is in the process of planning an infill addition within the University campus. The proposed addition is to the Science and Museum Building Complex, located east of Oxford Street. The infill addition is proposed to abut the Mallinckrodt Laboratory Building, located at 12 Oxford Street, and the Converse Laboratory Building. The infill addition is called the "Naito" addition, named after the generous gift of Mr. Haruo Naito in the late spring of 1997.
Harvard hired the architectural firm of Ellenziweg Associates, Inc. to develop options for a five-level, approximately 47,000 square foot facility for laboratory and office space. Harvard is proposing to demolish an existing 2-story connector between Mallinckrodt and Converse Laboratories, which is necessary for the construction of the addition. The design of the proposed addition includes red sandstone and glass facades that will be compatible with the existing components of the Science and Museum Building Complex.
Please contact Mary Power, Harvard's Director of Community Relations, at 495-4955 if you have any questions about the project.

Ski Trip February 8
The third annual Agassiz Ski Trip will be happening on Sunday, February 8, 1998. All Agassiz students, their families, and Agassiz residents are invited.
We car pool from the school and head to Pat's Peak in Henniker, N.H., about 1 1/2 hours away. We leave at 7:00 a.m. and return at 6:00 p.m.
Our first two outings have been huge successes, with over 80 participants last year. Our group includes experienced skiers and beginners, including adult beginners.
If you are interested, stop by the Agassiz School front desk or the Neighborhood Council at 20 Sacramento St. to pick up a registration form. The form includes all the price information for tickets, rentals, and lessons. The price for an adult lift ticket is $25, $19 for children 6-14 and $13 for a child on the beginner slopes (group rates).
Forms must be in by February 3rd to match cars and riders. If you have any questions, call Joel Bard at 547-3210 or George Pillsbury at 547-8947.
Agassiz Community
School Programs

FALL REGISTRATION

Agassiz Afterschool

The afterschool ended the year with two plays that took place in the Agassiz School cafeteria. One was done by Afters teachers Beth Friedland and Tina Kidd Jacas, and the other was put on by our Drama specialist Joel Ryder. Thanks to our teachers and to the many parents who were able to attend and support the kids. We are all looking forward to a new year as afters starts up again on January fifth and, as usual, follows the school calendar.

The Afterschool has a number of specialists who come in once a week to share their particular skill area. On Monday Daniel Staub teaches a chess class. He gives individual attention to students in order to help them grow as chess players. Tuesday gives us Cortney Skinner, Cortney's art is an Agassiz favorite. He encourages kids to build all types of art projects with a wide variety of materials. On Wednesday, Karate specialist Liz Pennell takes a group of beginners and returning students to learn Shoalin Kempo Karate. Wednesday is also the day for Joel Ryder and his drama class. Joel teaches drama skills which culminate into plays. On Thursday Kristen Kissik teaches a dance class. Two groups of younger (mostly first and second grade) and older (third through fifth) kids learn dance skills that sometimes develop into a performance. Thursday also brings us Ellen Morrison, who offers a creative writing course for our older (third through fifth grade) kids. Beth Applebaum is our Thursday sewing expert, helping kids of all ages create sewing projects. Woodworking is our Friday special with Margaret Moore. Margaret takes small groups and gives individual attention to help each child build a wooden project.

This year we have limited enrollment, but there is a waiting list for the days which are closed for new students. Currently only Friday is open to new students, but this is subject to change. If you would like to find out about updated availability or to be included on the waiting list call Michael Brown at 497-4284.

Our kindergarten program, run by Dawn Greene, has had a great fall, and is looking forward to the new year. This program is located in our community center at 20 Sacramento Street. There are three rooms available along with a spacious backyard. Kids can choose from a variety of activities from cooking to arts and crafts to sports and free time. There are full time as well as part time spaces available. For more information call Dawn Greene at 349-6287.

Sacramento St. Preschool

Diane DiMaina runs our preschool. This program provides a developmental preschool experience in a cozy individualized atmosphere. This program serves children from age 2 years, 9 months to kindergarten age. This program runs from 8:30-1:30 five days per week with many part time options. There is still space available for full or part time students. For more information or to visit call Diane DiMaina at 349-6287.

Middle School Afterschool Programs

Our middle school activities will start up again in the new year. The courses offer last semester will be open to returning or new students. These courses are offered to children in the sixth through eighth grades. Lisa Beaudin teaches a cooking class on Mondays, and the new ten session class will begin January 12. Illustrative drawing is taught by Cortney Skinner on Wednesdays and the new ten session class will begin January 14. Ellen Morrison teaches Creative Writing on Fridays, and that new semester will not begin until March 6.

To register or for more information on any of these classes call Michael Brown at 497-4284.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR AFTERSCHOOL

Needed: Loose fitting clothing for kids, sweats or tee shirts, bean bag chairs, markers, AND paper.

Call Mike Brown at 497-4284.

Evening Programs

(Call 497-4284 for more information.)

Drop In Basketball

Tuesdays - Teen basketball runs each Tuesdays (closed all school holidays) from 5:30-8 p.m. The cost is $1 per session.

Wednesday - Adult basketball runs each Wednesday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The cost is $2 per session.

Yoga

Our new Yoga teacher, Isa Mattei has begun teaching yoga on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the Agassiz School. Classes cost $100 for ten sessions. For more information, or to register, call Mike Brown at 497-4284.

Tasha Hansen, our previous Yoga teacher, is teaching in Somerville in studios at the City Press Building at 440 Somerville Ave., near Union Square. Call 643-0135 for more information.

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*Available through affiliates
COMING ATTRACTIONS

January 11, Sunday

Angkor Cambodian Dance Troupe
February 19, Thursday

Agassiz Hip Hop Festival
March 6, Tuesday

National Marimba Theater

Sacramento Street Gallery - 20 Sacramento Street

Opening Reception January 9, Friday from 6-7 p.m.

GALLERY 57 - 57 Inman Street

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

Cambridge Society for Early Music January 28

Key Porter Books January 28

Inland Cambodian Dance January 29

African American Artwork

FRIDAY FROTH BALLET

Nina Alonso Hathaway

FRESH FISH BALLET

Studio

491A Mass Ave. • Cambridge

*Classical Ballet 
*Pre-Ballet to Pre-Professional 
*Adult Classes

The society will present a performance featuring traditional Cambodian dance and music.

The gallery will host an opening reception with an exhibition of African American artwork.

The Cambridge Society for Early Music will present a concert featuring early music from classical to modern periods.

Key Porter Books will celebrate the release of a new book by a well-known author.

Inland Cambodian Dance will perform a traditional Cambodian dance, a traditional dance from Cambodia.

FRIDAY FROTH BALLET will perform a modern ballet piece.

Nina Alonso Hathaway is a well-known ballet dancer and choreographer.

FRESH FISH BALLET is a contemporary dance company.
Announcements

SEEKING PARENTS OF INFANTS

I am forming a parent/infant play group that will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street. The room is tentative based on the number of responses. Please call Debbie Miller (neighborhood resident) at 497-0368 before 9:30 p.m.

Cambridge Community Television

In response to growing interest among Cambridge families for fun and educational activities that adults and kids can do together, Cambridge Community Television is starting up a TV Production Workshop just for kids and their parents/guardians/grandparents. Adults will work side-by-side with their kids to learn video production skills, engage in critical viewing exercises, and produce their own television programs at CCTV.

The first workshop is scheduled to meet on three consecutive Sunday afternoons - January 25, February 1 and February 8 - from noon to 3:00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining this workshop or be notified of other workshops should call John Donovan at 661-6900. Enrollment is limited to 12 participants, so early registration is advised.

The workshop is free to all CCTV members.

Agassiz Afterschool needs
Assistant Teachers
from 2-6 p.m. weekdays for 3-5 days
per week. Salary is $5-7 per hour, and
childcare is available
for school age children.

Linda Beers Violin Studio
11 Miller St., Somerville
694-2563
Suzuki and Traditional Lessons
All ages

Elizabeth Browning

Lisa J. Drapkin

Your Neighborhood Realtors

COLDSTILL
BANNERS

HUNNEMAN & COMPANY

1730 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

864-4430
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 5, Monday</td>
<td>Cambridge Public Schools Reopen</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 9, Friday</td>
<td>Artist's Reception for <em>The Elm Tree</em></td>
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<td>Sacramento Street Gallery (through February 20)</td>
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<td>A photographic installation by Skip Schiel</td>
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<td>Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.</td>
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<td>January 11, Sunday</td>
<td>The Angkor Dance Troupe special family performance of classical and folk dances of Cambodia. Admission $1.00. Agassiz School stage, 28 Sacramento St. entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19, Monday</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - School Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 20, Tuesday</td>
<td>ANC Board Meeting - Open to the Public</td>
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<td>ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda.)</td>
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<td>Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St. entrance</td>
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<td>February 8, Sunday</td>
<td>Ski Trip - Meet at Agassiz School. (See page four.)</td>
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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.