Council Meeting Notes

From the 5/13 ANC meeting...

Ken Basler, ANC Chairman, convened the meeting, attended by approximately 80 people, to discuss the sites proposed by the City Manager’s office for the renovation/rebuilding of the Agassiz School. Before beginning school site discussion, Basler introduced Jim O’Neill, who gave a short update on the Traffic Committee’s work (see Traffic Issues below for an expanded version). Kirstin Gay, Garden Coordinator, also was recognized to speak on behalf of the Sacramento St. Garden, to explain the garden’s history in the neighborhood, and the gardener’s strong opposition to the possible loss of the garden to a school site.

Susan Sills, member of the Agassiz School Renovation Task Force, helped lead the meeting. Participants were given a list of objectives (see page 7) to rank issues in order of importance. After some discussion it was agreed that people could fill them out and return them after the meeting, or at a later date they could be dropped off at the community center.

George Metzger, architect from HMFH, introduced the site options. He discussed them, and responded to questions. There was one new option that had not been seen by the community prior to the meeting. The new site utilized the comer of Mass. Ave. and Garfield St. going back into Harvard owned property adjacent to the Sacramento St. Field. Lesley College representatives Pat Byrne and Rob Trow were on hand from Lesley College, as was Happy Green representing Harvard University. Questions and clarification followed the presentation.

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Those present voted on the seven site options, and these were the results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(site rejected)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2a</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(site rejected)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2b</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>2c</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
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The meeting is on audio tape, and anyone who wishes to listen to the complete proceedings is welcome to contact the council at 349-6287. This meeting will be reviewed at the next council meeting on June 11, so come and ask questions then.

Please refer to pages 6 and 7 for site illustrations and a page for voting. You may simply vote for as many of the sites you deem acceptable. If you can take the time, you may vote for the options on a scale of 1-5 also. Return these to the Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. no later than June 15 to be included in the numbers that will be reported at the next task force meeting.

Next Meeting of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Thursday June 11
7:30 PM
Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento St. Cambridge

ENDA WILL INCLUDE
Election of Board of Directors
Traffic (see pg. 2)
School Site Selection Update (see pgs. 6-7)

Preventive and Restorative Dentistry
QUALITY CARE WITH A GENTLE TOUCH

Elliot Kronstein, D.D.S.
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181 Concord Avenue Cambridge MA
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The Whistler June 1992

Avon Associates
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Apt. Rentals  ■  Sales
661-8400

Neighborhood News

Traffic Issues
6/11 Meeting Agenda on Traffic

As part of the regular June 11 Agassiz Neighborhood Council (7:30 in the Community Center) Astrid Dodds and Jim O'Neill, both from the Traffic Committee, will review their first two neighborhood walks of 5/6 and 5/26 with Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi and Lauren Preston, of the Traffic and Parking Department.

Mr. Preston responded to a list of neighborhood issues in writing. While some things were addressed, three major issues were not: truck traffic on Oxford, pedestrian safety issues, and solutions that create a traffic break at Wendell St.

Other issues for discussion will include: the possibility of turning Forest into a one way street between Oxford and Beacon Sts., the addition of a stop sign on Forest St. at the Frost St. intersection, and a traffic light at Wendell or Everett Sts.

Reconfiguration of Oxford St. meeting 6/23

There will be a meeting in Baldwin Hall, Agassiz School on Tuesday June 23 from 7-8:30 PM to discuss the current construction of the new Beacon St. Bridge and how the top of Oxford St. can be reconfigured to discourage cut through traffic onto Oxford St. This meeting will include the bridge Construction Site Supervisor from the state, George Conway, officials from Somerville and Cambridge.

Please come and let us know how you would like it laid out for your convenience as a motorist, pedestrian, bicyclist, or nearby resident. Since the bridge is already under construction, this will be the neighborhood chance for input into the process. We appreciate Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi's initiative in arranging this information and input meeting.

Oxford Street Parking News

The loading zone on Oxford at Sacramento on the playground corner will be de-commissioned with the next month and turned into two parking spaces. Its original purpose, serving the now defunct Agassiz Food Shop, no longer exists.

At Oxford and Wendell one parking space south and one parking space north will be removed in order to provide better visibility for drivers trying to pull out of Wendell St. onto Oxford. The current 40 foot "NO STANDING" zone has proved to be inadequate on those frequent occasions when the last legally-parked vehicle is a van or truck. Alternate ways to improve visibility will be pursued, and the spaces can be reclaimed if a better solution can be found.

Progress on Traffic Problems

Some progress on traffic problems so far:

* a stop sign on Gorham St. at Mass. Ave.
* the bus stop moved to the North Hall corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell so as not to compete with cash machine.
* permanent "no parking" signs on the Museum St. fence
* four zebra-striped cross walks for the Forest/Oxford traffic light
* Police Dept. regular surveillance of Oxford re: speeding
* repaired curbs at Garfield/Mass. Ave. and Prentiss/Oxford
* City Manager Robert Healy's written support for the return of T bus #83 to Beacon St.

WANTED-New Members for the Traffic Committee

In order to maintain momentum, the ANC Traffic Committee seeks additional members willing to meet monthly in the summer for an hour on Astrid Dodds' back porch (breeze, drinks and snacks provided). If you are interested, call Jim O'Neill (864-0877) or Astrid Dodds (354-6553). At the first meeting on Tuesday June 16, 7-8 PM, we can schedule for July and August. We need pedestrians, bicyclists, T-users and motorists.

Two 60 Second Ways to Help with Traffic

(A) Drop a note in the Beacon St. Star Market's suggestion box for Store Manager Tom Regan letting him know that you're counting on him to lobby Somerville for some boldly painted cross walks across Beacon, defer to pedestrians-in-crosswalks signs, and a demand only walk light at Sacramento and Beacon. He has heard from the traffic committee and now he must hear from you.

(B) Call 354-6553 and leave a message about any neighborhood site that is too dark at night now that trees have leafed out. City Arborist Jack Kelly will soon be scheduling tree pruning in the Agassiz neighborhood; we can give him a list if you supply the sites.

Report Neighborhood Traffic Problems-A Correction

The Whistler regrets listing Astrid Dodds' phone number incorrectly in the May Whistler. The correct number is 354-6553, and you can call her (or leave a message) with your concerns, ideas or accident reports from the neighborhood. The committee wants to hear from pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Problem areas you report will be added to a continually evolving list for the City to remedy.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE READ IN THIS TRAFFIC SECTION, COME TO THE JUNE 11 COUNCIL MEETING OR CALL THE COUNCIL AT 349-6287.
Board Elections

The following ANC Directors have agreed to serve a second term:
Andrea Avellino of Cambridge Trust
David Chlinsky
Rich Curran-Parent Representative
Chris Guerrero
Madeline Kleiner-Parent Representative
Kathleen Manion
Jim O'Neill
Cynthia Snell
JoAnne Hoffman

The election to vote on this slate will be held at the June 11 ANC meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Agassiz Board of Directors, please send a resume or letter of interest c/o Terry DeLancey, ANC, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, 02138.

Current Chairperson Ken Basler will be leaving the board after many years of service. His long term work on neighborhood issues is well known, and his contributions will be long standing. THANK YOU, KEN.

Agassiz Principal Honored

Eva J. Paddock, recently appointed principal at Agassiz School received the Mass. Elementary School Principals Association's "Outstanding Principal/National Distinguished Principal" award at a ceremony in Framingham on May 7.

State Education Commissioner Robert Antonucci presented the award with a quote from Piaget: "the goal of education is to create people who are capable of doing." He said that Ms. Paddock exemplified that statement.

Voting in Ward 7

The Agassiz Neighborhood has contacted the Cambridge Election Commission to see if our new community room might be appropriate as a voting site. We have had several requests from residents to look into that possibility.

What do you think? Would you like the voting kept at the North Prospect Congregational Church or would you rather use our new site, located in the basement of Harvard Law School's North Hall, formerly the Quality Inn. The room is 800 square feet large (excluding kitchen, bathrooms, storeroom and corridor). It is located between Wendell and Mellen Street on Mass. Ave., and by September a ramp and an elevator will make it wheelchair accessible. Of course, use of this space is contingent on the decision of the Election Commission.

Call the council at 349-6287 and give us your input.

City Wide News and Information

DPW Violation Hotline: 349-4830

You can now call 349-4830 24 hour a day to report violations of laws that the Department of Public Works enforces:
- the pooper scooper law
- botanical obstruction of sidewalks
- snow and ice removal from sidewalks

Recycling News

Yard Waste Day Is Now Trash Day

Starting June 1, yard waste will be collected on the same day as regular trash collection. It will be picked up by a separate yard waste truck. If your YARD WASTE is not picked up on regular trash day, call 349-4800 before 9 PM on your trash day to report that fact. If you use a barrel, you must have a YARD WASTE STICKER on it. A sticker will be mailed to you if you call the DPW at 349-4800.

Please remember that yard waste must be:
- out on the curb the evening before trash day
- in barrels labeled with an official "YARD WASTE" sticker
- in paper yard waste bags not sealed on top
- free of plastic wrap, Styrofoam bits or other nonbiodegradables
- devoid of sticks larger than 2' in length or .5" in diameter

Curbside Magazine Collection begins June 8

Starting June 8, Cambridge Recycling will take your magazines on regular trash day. Magazines must be tied with string or twine and placed IN or BESIDE your blue recycling bin. Please don't mix them in with newspapers.

Toxic Waste Collection

Saturday, June 20 from 9 AM to 1 PM the Cambridge Department of Health and Hospitals sponsors one of its twice annual toxic waste collections. You may bring toxic waste to the end of Cambridge park Drive which runs alongside the Alewife T station. Come with
proof of Cambridge address, and turn in:
* pesticides
* oil based paint in sealed cans
* empty oil-based paint cans
* household cleaning products

They will not accept any thing flammable, and they do not consider latex paint toxic. Cambridge Recycle suggests allowing the paint to dry up, then place in regular trash. For more information call 498-1000.

Council Programs

Family Summer Beach Trips

Again this summer we will provide transportation to community members for weekly beach trips. The donation for transportation is provided by Harvard Law School as compensation for the loss of the Quality Inn swimming pool. The trips were free of charge, and residents accompanied Outback Summer Camp to the beach each week. We visited Crane Beach in Ipswich, Wingaersheek Beach in Gloucester, Singing Beach in Manchester to name a few. People met in front of the school, and boarded busses at approximately 9 AM. Once at the beach, community members only had to meet back at the bus at the time specified by the trip leaders, usually about 1:30 PM.

If you are interested in joining us for trips, call for more information or a brochure at 349-6287. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for them.

Outback Summer Camp

There is limited space available in the Outback Summer Camp which offers eight weeks of summer camp activities for school age children. The Counselor in Training program for students entering grades 7-9 is filled. Camp hours are 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM with an extended day option until 5:30 PM. Call now to see what weeks are still available. Contact Dawn Greene, Camp Director at 349-6287.

On Stage and Off Drama Program

This year begins a new summer experience for youth entering grades 6-9. It runs from June 29-July 31 between 1-5 PM, and it will be held in the Agassiz School. The camp will be directed by Carol Hantman as the summer component for Stage II of the Agassiz Afterschool Players. It will give participants some experience in stagecraft, scenery design and other adjunct dramatic activities as well as acting technique using improvisation and exercise in voice and body control. For more details on curriculum call Carol Hantman at 354-5118, to register call Steve Winter at 349-6287.

PRE REGISTRATION FOR FALL AFTERSCHOOL

We are currently accepting registration for all fall afterschool programs at Agassiz next year. For a brochure or more information call Steve Winter at 349-6287.

Community Room at North Hall Takes Shape

The Preview Open House was a great success on May 20th in North Hall. Delicious desserts including cakes, cookies, baklava, fruits and coffee were graciously provided by BLACK FOREST, EVERGOOD MARKET, MARCELLA’S, ROSIES RESTAURANT, TAPAS.

Thanks to Donors:
Amanda Anns and Guillermo Velasco  John Harnason
Carmela Bernardini  Jole De Vore
Eric Blumenson and Eva Nilson  Kathleen Manion
Cambridge Trust  Eileen McCarthy
Central Barber Shop  Ruth Mandalian
Deirdr Chilinski  Richard Melrose
Donna Realty  Yvonne Pappenberg
Fred and Doug Dodds  George Potter
Mary Donaldson  Margorie Rekani and Ron Nelson
Carl Donovan and Robert Lang  Robin Rosenberg
Evergood Market  Herbert Rosenfeld and Barry Fishman
The Food Source  Rorie’s Bar and Grille
Katie Goldblatt  Henry Sowah
Stephen and Deborah Gould  Cynthia Smith and Steve Irwin
Harvard University  Three Arts House of Pizza
Richard Griffin and Susan Knue  Mary Two and George Hillbary
Healthworks  Carol Weinhaus
Ken and Sherry Wexler

We have received over $2,000 so far in cash and other in kind contributions. The room is now closed for final renovations and will reopen in September. If you would like to contribute toward room furnishings, tax deductible donations can be sent to: Community Room Fund, ANC, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

Do you know what to do each month to make your financial dreams come true? Receive a free financial planning session with this ad.

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Retirement Planning
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(617) 933-2067

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Cultural Happenings

Afterschool Players Spring Offering
June 13 Performance 7:30 P.M. Baldwin Hall
Agassiz Afterschool Players Stage One (grades 1-4) will premiere two original plays written by the cast under the direction of Carol Huntman, Agassiz Afterschool Players Director. They are:
The Mysterious Visitor—(strange happenings at a birthday party) with players Laurence Venicelli, Christian La Rosa Waters, Ben Ewen-Campen, Omari Fortune, Julia Sheketoff, Michael Akula, Alex Gundy, Akiva Leffert, Adam Zeielz, and Daniel Piper.

From Time to Time—(a novel Las Vegas and time travel in a comedic frame) with players Mako Takahashi Parker, Kate Kochman, Maria Hemphill Harris, Sarah Wheeler, Amira Soifer, Evan Ragon, and Sarah Hall Nourse.

Agassiz Afterschool Players Stage Two (grades 5-7) presents an advanced drama workshop with scenes from previously written plays. One offering will be a staged reading of the winning play Best Friends by Bushra Makiya and Sarah Warner-Berry, Agassiz School fourth graders. (This play was cast by the authors who also assisted in its direction.) The players hope to present a full production next year.

Stage Two Players include: Rafi Soifer, Nate Gundy, Michael Sullivan, Melina Avery, Jessica Butler, Claire Singer, Bushra Makiya, Rebecca Ennen, Evan Zeielz, Caleb Epps, and Luc Schuster.

Agassiz Youth Chorus Performs June 12
The Agassiz Youth Chorus will present a spring performance on Friday, June 12 at 7:30 PM in Welch Auditorium, Lesley College, under the direction of Ada Park Smider. The music in the performance has been chosen from a variety of opera and musical shows, and was written for children to sing. The performance is open to all.

Members of the chorus are: Caitlin Bergin, Umayah Cable, Susannah Colby, Jessica-Jeune, Mekkin Lynch, Arielle Nelson, Leigh Schuster, Kate Silver-Heilman, Nicole Smida, and Chavonne Trevillion.

Father's Day Concert - North Prospect Church
The newly painted sanctuary of North Prospect Church, 1803 Massachusetts Avenue will be the location for a Sunday afternoon concert on June 21st at 4:00 PM. Tickets are $5 and the church is handicap accessible. The program will include Richard Mead singing jazz pieces, including Gershwin, with Morton Hymans providing piano accompaniment. "The Copley Cats," an a cappella women's group will be performing popular choral harmony pieces, including a few top hits. Some of the professional members of the church's choir will be singing solos and duets from Broadway shows, and the choir ensemble will sing lyrical madrigals. There will be an intermission with refreshments served downstairs, both indoors and out (weather permitting).

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Notice to singers: We are looking for additional members of the choir ensemble to sing madrigals in the concert. Rehearsal of this music is being done during our regularly scheduled Thursday choir rehearsals that start at 7:30p.m. The first half of the rehearsal will be reserved for concert material so that nonchoir members won't have to be there the whole time. Phone # for more information: 547-1448.

Ads and Announcements

Russian Club Yard Sale June 20
This multi-family yard sale will be held at 73 Wendell St. (rain date Sun. June 21) to fund all expenses in the U.S. for a 2 week visit to Cambridge next October by students at St. Petersburg School #238 in Russia. It's not only a worthy cause, but it will be a yard sale not to miss. Likely featured items include a large lawn mower; and electric leaf and twig shredder; a compost bin; bicycles; Russian crafts, records and posters; and a Bargain Gift Table of entirely new items. If you have something you'd like to contribute to this yard sale, call 354-6553 and leave a message. Otherwise, come by on June 20 and talk to some CRLS Russian language students who just visited St. Petersburg in April.

WIC SEEKS NEW PARTICIPANTS
The Massachusetts Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children is currently increasing the program to include more participants. This program provides money, nutritional education, and health services to women who meet the income eligibility guidelines.

If you are or know of anyone who may be interested in this program for women who are pregnant, nursing or have children under 5 years of age, please call WIC at 1-800-WIC-1007 for more information.

Math Tutor
Private Math Tutor (middle school and algebra) available. Call Nella at 547-5399.

Thanks to Ellen Friedman for her generous donation of a grand piano for the Community Room in North Hall.
Task Force Meeting of May 26

Members of the Agassiz School Renovation Task Force met to compare the results of polling of their constituents on the 7 sites presented by the City Manager's Office. The top three choices of each group was determined by voting at meetings organized by the task force members representing that constituency.

Top three choices of the Agassiz School Faculty were: Sites 1b, 2b, 2c
Top three choices of the Agassiz School Parents were: Sites 2b, 2c. 1a and 1b were tied
Top three choices of the Agassiz residents were: Sites 4, 3, 2b

All three had one site they could commonly live with, site 2b or the site on Sacramento St. that would require the Cambridge Guidance Center building and the carriage house with 5 rent controlled units in it.

Rossi did not discard any options, but said that the city would look further into each option, considering the input given at the meeting by various groups. The next meeting is scheduled for June 16th.
The Whistler June 1992

After reviewing the sites (see page 6) for the Agassiz School:

I can live with the following sites (circle) 1a 1b 2a 2b 2c 3 4

Please rate the objectives below and return to ANC, 20 Sacramento St Cambridge 02138

1=strongly opposed or NO; 2=mildly opposed; 3=no opinion; 4=mildly in favor; 5=strongly in favor or YES

SITE AREA
1). I support a location for the Agassiz School that is within the neighborhood.
2). I support a location for the Agassiz School that is outside the Agassiz neighborhood.
3). I support a site that recognizes the importance of open space.
4). I support a site that preserves as many residential buildings as possible.

BUILDING
1). I support a building mass that is in keeping with the scale of the neighborhood.
2). I support an architectural style for the building, whether new or renovated, in keeping with neighborhood context.
3). I support a building whose maximum height at any location not exceed 2.5 stories (to match existing).
4). I support a building area that reflects a modified program that is educationally sound but which may not reflect the SBAB requirements.

ZONING
1). I support a building that maintains setbacks equal to or greater than allowed within existing zoning.
2). As it relates to the Lesley site, I support a building that maintains setbacks as would be required within a residential zone.
3). I support a building height that stays within the limits of applicable zoning.

TRAFFIC
1). I support a solution that minimizes any increase in congestion and/or traffic within the neighborhood.

PARKING
1). I support a solution that provides parking for school staff as is required by zoning.

PLAYGROUND ACCESS
1). I support a project in which any play spaces created are available for community use.
2). I support maintaining the tot lot at its existing location or at a new location if need be.
3). I support maintaining Sacramento Field in its existing location.

EXISTING BUILDING
1). I support the idea of maintaining the existing building:
   a). in its entirety
   b). in part
2). I support the idea of demolition of the existing building.

RELOCATION OF BUILDINGS
1). I support the idea of taking:
   a). No adjacent buildings
   b). One building
   c). Two buildings
   d). Three buildings
   e). Any buildings
2). I support the notion that any residential buildings taken be moved to sites within the neighborhood.
3). I support a solution that does not use the Community Garden for building relocation.
4). I support a solution that does not use Sacramento Field for building relocation.

HISTORIC
1). I support for historic reasons, saving all of the existing Agassiz School.
2). I support for historic reasons, saving part of the existing Agassiz School.
3). I support saving any building in the neighborhood that is deemed historic.

HOUSING/RENT CONTROL
1). I support the importance of maintaining existing rent controlled housing stock within the neighborhood.

Return this form to ANC, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge, MA 02138
## Community Calendar

### June 1992

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 10, Wednesday</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Agassiz School Graduation. School closes 12:45 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11, Thursday</td>
<td>6-8 PM</td>
<td>Community School Annual Pot Luck Barbecue</td>
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<td>Backyard 20 Sacramento St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11, Thursday</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Agassiz Community Center 20 Sacramento St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12, Friday</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Agassiz Youth Chorus Performance</td>
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<td>Welch Auditorium Lesley College</td>
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<td>Mellen St. entrance next to security office</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13, Saturday</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Agassiz Afterschool Players Performances</td>
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<td>Baldwin Hall Agassiz School</td>
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<td>June 22, Monday</td>
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<td>Last Day of School - Last Day of Agassiz Afterschool</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 23, Tuesday</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Reconfiguration of Oxford St. Meeting</td>
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<td>Baldwin Hall, Agassiz School</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 29, Monday</td>
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<td>First Day of Outback Summer Camp</td>
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<td>First Day of On Stage and Off</td>
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The Whistler is not published and there are no regular council meetings in July or August. If there is an issue of major significance for the neighborhood, there will be a special edition. The council offices are open and staffed all year round.

### June 1992

**The Whistler**

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA 02138  349-6287

**DO NOT FORWARD**