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ANC Notes

Chairperson

Kathleen Manion opened the meeting with the election of New Board and Officers for 1994/95:

- Chair** **JoAnn Hoffman**
- Vice Chair** **Steve Kosslyn**
- Secretary** **Sue Bergin**
- Treasurer** **Fred Levy**
- Director** **Kathleen Manion**
- Director** **Fred Willey**

Returning Directors include Terry Conway, Richard Griffin and Parent Representative Janet Rustow. Just elected Chair JoAnn Hoffman wasted no time assuming her new role to thank outgoing Chairperson Kathleen Manion with a plaque from the ANC expressing appreciation for the two years she served in office.

Peter Hooper from Atlantic Marketing Research and Eileen Woodford from Community Development discussed the Agassiz Survey, and there were many interesting facts about Agassiz. There were 354 households surveyed by telephone, randomly chosen from the street listings. Phone books were used to provide contact, so one limitation of the survey is that residents without phones or with unlisted numbers were not in the sample.

Eileen Woodford said that Community Development will most likely begin a neighborhood study on Agassiz next year. The US census and this survey are important tools in a neighborhood study. She used the example of another neighborhood in which these tools helped them determine workforce readiness. They learned that prior to any job training, literacy programs were necessary. Now they are working toward a federal grant for adult literacy targeted in that neighborhood.

Five percent (just over 5,000) of the Cambridge population lives in Agassiz. Over one third of the Agassiz residents live in group quarters (defined as dormitories, nursing homes, prisons) rather than households. In Agassiz 9% of the population is Asian.

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

6% is black and 84% is white, Agassiz is more homogeneous than most of Cambridge, which is only 75% white city wide. This is a dramatic shift from 40 years ago when there were very few minority people anywhere in Cambridge.

The vacancy rate is around 3% in Agassiz as compared to 14% in East Cambridge and 6% city-wide. Only 27% of Cambridge residents are home owners. Many who wanted to buy in Agassiz reported that they could not afford to own. Agassiz rents paid by 40% surveyed were reported to average \$451-600, 13% paid \$300-450, 29% paid \$601-900, 12% paid \$901-1500 and 6% paid over \$1501. Half of the renters said this included utilities. Two thirds reporting were under rent control.

Agassiz is the second wealthiest neighborhood with an average related household income of over \$55,000. There are more households with non related people than people related by birth, marriage or adoption, and their average income is \$37,000. Cambridge as a whole is the reverse of the US with more non related people households than related.

We are a very educated neighborhood with 83% reporting at least college or higher. The city-wide statistic is 54% which is high for the US at 9% reporting they have a Master's degree. Half of the Agassiz work force is in education or professional careers.

Mid Cambridge is the only neighborhood with less open space. Agassiz has 1.3 acres of parks. This does not take into account the open space owned by Harvard that

Upcoming

Council Meetings

Next Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell St.)
7:30 p.m.

JUNE 21 TUESDAY

- Representatives from Lesley to discuss
- Porter Exchange
- Update on Agassiz School Construction
- See Page 2 for more information

makes the neighborhood appear to have more open space. However, there are some public accessible facilities: the Community Room at North Hall and the Community Center at 20 Sacramento St.

FRESH POND BALLET

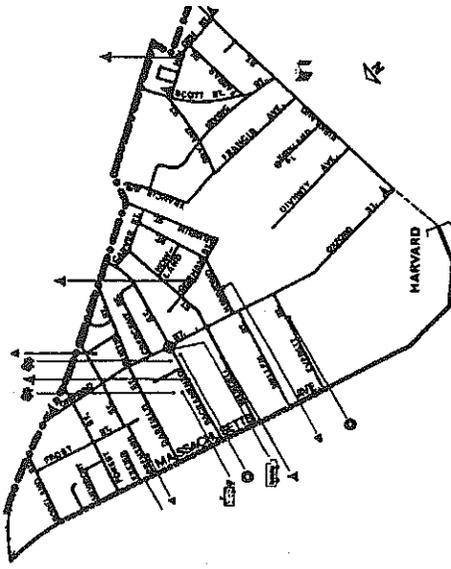
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- Classical Ballet
- Pre-Ballet to pre-professional
- Summer Program

Few people believed that they knew enough (33%) about development in the neighborhood. This is considered a typical response. When asked how residents liked to learn about development, the highest percentage said from neighborhood newsletters, next was through newspaper articles. Most people saw Harvard positively (75%) which was higher than in other neighborhoods (50%). There was not much comment on the impact of Lesley with 36% seeing it as positive and 16% seeing it as negative.



NEIGHBORHOOD #8...AGASSIZ

BOUNDARIES: Bounded by Mass Ave Kirkland Street and the Somerville/Cambridge line

POPULATION: 5158

Neighborhood #8 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of CAR 6 (a two-officer car) and CAR 6R (a one-officer car). It is also covered by walking route NORTH 17

Agassiz 1/94-3/94

CRIME	1/1/93 TO 3/31/93	1/1/94 TO 3/31/94	% CHANGE
HOUSEBREAKS	4	0	-100%
STREET ROBBERY	1	NC	NC
AUTO THEFT	9	3	- 67%
LARCENY FROM MVS	6	4	- 33%
MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION	11	10	- 9%
*****	*****	*****	*****
DRUG ARRESTS	0	0	NC

Housebreaks during the first quarter in Neighborhood #8 continue to decline. The numbers have fallen from eight in the first quarter of 1993 to four in the first quarter of 1993 and zero in the first quarter of 1994. Signal 86 dispatches in the Mass Ave corridor between Chauncy and Forest Streets continue to be effective in deterring purse snags and armed robberies. All motor vehicle related incidents, (auto theft - 67%, larceny from motor vehicles -33% and malicious destruction-9%) have declined due in large part to winter weather conditions.

Information on Next Meeting

JUNE 21 Tuesday 7:30
1651 Mass. Ave.

Lesley to Discuss Porter Exchange

Lesley College is still interested in purchasing the Porter Exchange Building (the former Sears building in Porter Square), but the deal is not expected to be closed for some time. Lesley has offered to visit the June ANC meeting to explain the current status of their plans for the building if they become the owners. Naturally there are many unknowns, and Lesley will not have all the answers. Community Room at 1651 Mass. Ave.

However they are willing to explain their plans and listen to the concerns of the neighborhood.

Agassiz School Construction Recap

There will be an update on construction issues. This will be the last regularly scheduled meeting until the fall, although special meetings may be called anytime.

Crime Report 1st Quarter 94
for a complete report call the
ANC office at 349-6287

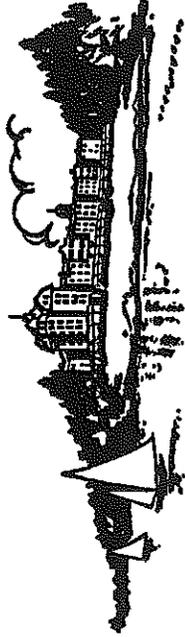
Agassiz Averages

Annual Average for Target Crimes
Based on decade of 1980's...1981 to 1990

Housebreaks.....67 per year
Street Robbery.....11 per year
Auto Theft.....45 per year
Larceny from MVs.....47 per year
Malicious Destruction...45 per year

City-Wide 1/94-3/94

CRIME	TOTAL
MURDER	1
RAPE	7
ROBBERY	45
ASSAULT	138
BURGLARY	149
LARCENY	578
AUTO THEFT	157
INDEX TOTAL	1075



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Neighborhood News

Traffic

Porter Square Pedestrian Committee

The ANC office was contacted by the City to recommend a representative for the Porter Square committee initiated by City Councillor Frank Duehay. The committee will look at ways to provide safe crossing at Porter Square intersections. Astrid Dodds was asked if she was unable to join the committee. She did agree to suggest representation for the Agassiz neighborhood to the traffic department.

The Whistler will keep you posted on the committee's progress.

City Wide News

Recycle update

Composters Available

The Cambridge Recycling Program, Cambridge Recycling Inc. and the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection are sponsoring a program to make back yard Composters available to Cambridge residents for a super low price of \$14.70. Three hundred Composters will be available on a first come, first served basis. (Additional bins will be available for the still low price of \$33 plus tax). Residents should call 661-9230 to reserve a compost bin as soon as possible. They can be picked up at 147 Hampshire St. Ask about hours when you call to reserve.

City Increases Curbside Recycling

Starting on July 15th, recyclables will be picked up by the City's new recyclables collector, BFI. They will pick up all the recyclables collected in the past, but they will add CARDBOARD, TELEPHONE BOOKS, JUNK MAIL AND OFFICE-TYPE PAPER. Watch the mail in mid-

June for a brochure that will explain how to recycle these items.

BFI will take the recyclables they collect in Cambridge to Prins Recycling Center in Charlestown to be processed and marketed. BFI drivers may miss a few stops until they learn the routes thoroughly. Please call the public dispatcher at 349-4860 if your bin or yard waste is not picked up, and BFI will come back the next day.

These materials may or may not be recycled in large buildings, so check with your building management after 7/15 for more information. By the end of the summer, every residential building in the City will be eligible to participate in the regular recycling program. If your building does not have recycling services, please call the Department of Public Works at 349-4800.

MWRA Master Plan

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority is developing a Systems Master Plan for improvements to the regional waste water system over the next 30 years. As part of this process, the Authority is examining a number of possible alternatives for controlling pollution from Combined Sewer Overflows. The Authority has completed an assessment of existing water quality, and a range of water quality goals have been proposed.

To begin the public participation process, meetings have been scheduled for the summer. Additional public meetings will be held in the fall before the final plan is completed by 12/94. Beginning in 95 there will be public participation during the Environmental Review Process. For additional information on this project, call Lise Marx 242-0230.

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Agassiz School Construction

For updates or to report problems, call the HOT LINE 497-4388

Thanks

The ANC has received a note of thanks from Deputy City Manager Rich Rossi (all the thanks really should go to Sue Bergin). He received a photo of the old Agassiz School at our May 3 ANC meeting that he will hang in his office. That photo was of the second Agassiz. The first Agassiz School, we find from Mr. Rossi, was built in 1874 on vacant land. There are no know photos of it.

Sue Bergin also presented photos to Eva Paddock, Principal of Agassiz; George Metzger, Architect from HMFH; and Terry DeLancey, Executive Director of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council.

SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

Agassiz Construction Hot Line Log
5/17 Caller was concerned about removal of fence between his property and the school- Clerk of the Works was called and he said that the fence was removed to drive down the sheet metal, but the fence would be replaced.

5/26 Caller was concerned about lack of parking on Sacramento St. due to earth removal-Checked with Clerk of Works to see if no parking ban could be delayed until the work actually began, and if hours could be changed from 7 am to 8 am without disrupting the work schedule. Clerk agreed to negotiate this with contractor.

5/26 Caller was concerned with the strong vibrations when the sheet metal was being driven, and requested a house inspection- Referred request to City Manager's Office.

5/30 Caller reported pothole at corner of Sacramento and Oxford St. -Contacted the DPW who agreed to fix it right away.

The Big Agassiz Dig

The Ground Breaking Ceremony finally did occur on May 10, and the Cambridge dignitaries were on hand for the event. Mayor Reeves spoke, as did School Committee member David Maher, Principal Eva Paddock, Superintendent of Schools Mary Lou McGrath, and City Manager Robert Healy. The Agassiz School Choir under the direction of Deborah Brown sang several selections, and representatives from each class at Agassiz carried a yellow ribbon that had been signed by all students. Following the ceremony, a breakfast reception was provided by the ANC at the Agassiz Community Center for adult and student guests.

Construction of Agassiz School is finally in full swing. Neighbors from Wendell Street, Oxford Street, Sacramento Street and Place reported some real house shaking while the steel was driven down, but no damage was reported to the ANC. According to the Clerk of the Works, vibrations were well below the legal level.

The current phase involves the excavation of the earth from the area that will be the school foundation, and earth will be moved from the site for approximately three-four

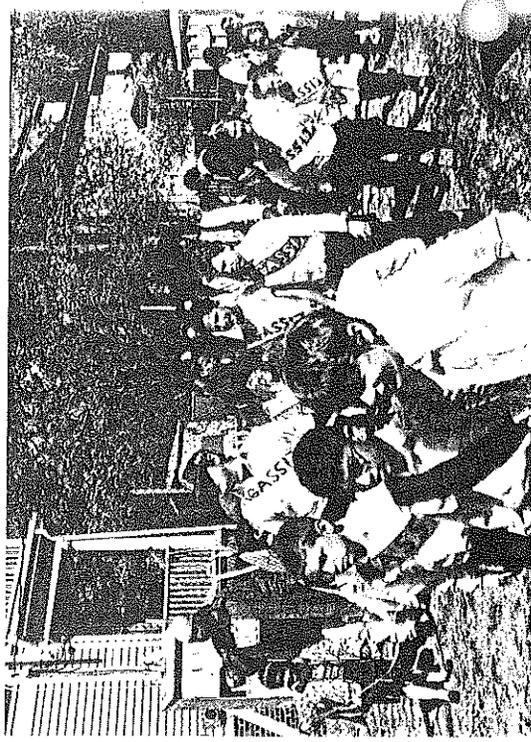
weeks. This will require truck traffic in and out of the neighborhood, and it will also mean limited parking around the site. Many potential problems have been eliminated, due to the hard work of the Oversight Committee that considered the issues well in advance and provided solutions through the scheduling and routing of truck traffic. The concrete for the school foundation is scheduled to be placed on approximately July 1.

Sacramento Field Renovations

There was discussion regarding access to Sacramento Field with Deputy City Manager Rich Rossi at the May 3 ANC meeting. Originally a wide access was planned between the Guidance Center and the brick row houses on Sacramento St., but it was found that Harvard owns all the property. (The City's only access to the field is through the Sacramento St. Garden.) The architect came up with a design solution that provided a narrower walkway that would not jeopardize Harvard's vehicular access. It was not clear after the meeting whether the architect's solution was acceptable or if there was support to pursue the wider pedestrian access with Harvard.

In order to determine the course to take, a survey was mailed to those people on the Oversight and Sacramento Field Committee mailing lists asking them to state their preference. There were no votes in favor of pursuing the wider access with Harvard, and 22 votes to keep the access as currently proposed in the design.

In May The Whistler incorrectly reported that the fence around Sacramento Field would be new on all but the south side. There will be new fencing on all four sides of Sacramento Field. Sorry for the error!



Agassiz Choir entering 5/10 Ground Breaking Ceremony

Lesley College News

Members of the Careers in Education Program

Lesley Bids on Porter Exchange

Representatives from Lesley College will be on hand at the June 21 ANC Meeting to discuss this issue. See page 2 for more information.

Summer Work Projects Planned

We have had a letter from Dave Erlandson, Director of Plant Operations who has provided us with the following information regarding Lesley's summer projects:

The summer is upon us once again and Lesley College is undertaking several repair and maintenance projects. The first and probably the most onerous will be the replacement of the roof on the top of the sixth floor of **47 Oxford**. The project is scheduled for **June 13th through June 17th**, weather permitting. The work day for this project will commence at 8 a.m. Logistical support for the project will be located on Oxford St.

Other projects that the College will be undertaking during the course of the summer :

Chimney and slate roof repairs at **29 Everett St., 1627 Mass. Ave., 49 Washington St.**

Fire escape repairs on ten buildings, minor repairs coupled with partial replacement.

Electrical service work and upgrades on several of the College's wooden building

Removal of the 1,000 gallon underground oil tank at **1627 Mass. Ave.**

Exterior painting at **63-69, 82R and 82F Oxford St. and 33 Mellen St.**

Members of the Agassiz community thanked Lesley for informing us of the work and added that they should keep the Agassiz School project in mind when planning projects over the next year to avoid major inconvenience to both communities.

Agassiz-Lesley-CRLS Join Forces

The Cambridge Lesley Careers in Education Program is a collaboration between the Cambridge Public Schools and Lesley College. The program is coordinated by Phyllis Bretholtz and Maria Ferri from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School (CRLS) and Vivian Carlo from Lesley. Sixteen CRLS Juniors and Seniors were placed in K-2 classrooms at various elementary schools including Agassiz. The students spent two mornings at the elementary sites and three mornings in teaching and learning seminars at Lesley.

Hope Jones was assigned to **Pat Kelly's kindergarten** and **Stephanie Hudson**, worked with **Janice Sette-Lund's kindergarten**. Stephanie will be studying psychology at Simmons in the fall. **Laurie Zyllich** was assigned to **Marina Seevak's first grade class**, and she will be attending Worcester State in September to study elementary education.

All of the students presented their final projects at Lesley on May 12 to which parents, cooperating teachers, and friends were invited. **Superintendent Mary Lou McGrath** was on hand at the event.



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Cultural Happenings

The Hobbit to run June 3 and 5

Agassiz Afterschool Players will present *The Hobbit* at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 3 and 3:00 p.m. Sunday June 5. This is a drama adapted from the JRR Tolkien classic by Betty Bobb, who was the head of the Wheelock College Drama Department for over 20 years. It is the first time the AAP has performed a work of this type, and enthusiasm is running high.

The play is directed by Amy Freedman and performed by Robert Aguero-Hoffman, Judd Bornheimer, Keesha Cochise, Colette Cosner, Tanya Gideonse-Wright, Carrie Kindleberger, Joanna Levy, Margaret Levy, Liza Littenberg-Brown, Alan McAvinney Justine Nagurney, Sheila Pierre, Gina Pritchett. Alex Riedlmayer, Anna Riedlmayer, Leigh Schuster, Jaime Schoch, Rachel Sheketoff and Matias Garcia Simmons.

Writing Workshop Offered

The ANC will sponsor a writing workshop led by neighborhood resident James Gabriel Berman. It will run from 7-9 p.m. on six consecutive Wednesdays beginning June 15 in the Community Room at 1561 Mass. Ave. (Wendell corner).

The workshop will cover questions such as how to structure a novel and maintain an intriguing story line, as well as how to find an agent and market the writing. It is primarily geared to the novel, but short story writers will be welcome.

Mr. Berman is the author of *Uninvited* to be published next year. Please call him at 497-4451 for more information or to register for the workshop.

Harvard News

More Rooms at North Hall

Harvard Law School is planning to convert space in North Hall (site of our Community Room) that was previously used by the Quality Inn as the kitchen-dining area. The Law School will renovate the space into six single occupancy bedrooms, two of which will be for people with disabilities.

The only visible change to the building will be enlarging the existing half-size windows on the first floor on the Wendell Street side to full size windows to match the other windows on that side. The Law School hopes to have the bedrooms completed by September 1994.

Access to the six new rooms will be through the doors within North Hall. The entrance to the Agassiz Community Room will remain separate from the students' dormitory entrance.

Seniors News

Elderpreneur Awards

Cosponsored by Eldercorps and the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, Elderpreneur of the Year Awards program is dedicated to honoring an older adult (+55 years) who defies limitations, challenges expectations, and inspires us all to achieve our personal best by initiating an innovative enterprise or activity. This can include a new business venture, a change within an existing business or organization, an educational activity, a public service effort, a grass roots community volunteer program, a recreational program; an arts program, the development of apprenticeships and mentor programs, leadership on Boards of Directors and more.

Nominees must be the driving force in the initiation or implementation of the initiative or activity, and nominations will be accepted through June.

The award winners will be honored at the fall Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on Wednesday October 26 at the Cambridge Center Marriott. For more information call 491-2227.

Beach Trips

As usual the ANC invites seniors (and anyone else who is interested) to join the Outback Camp on our trips to the beach that include Crane's, Nahant and Singing Beaches. Call 349-6287 for a flyer with dates and information.

We Just Joined The Best In The Business.

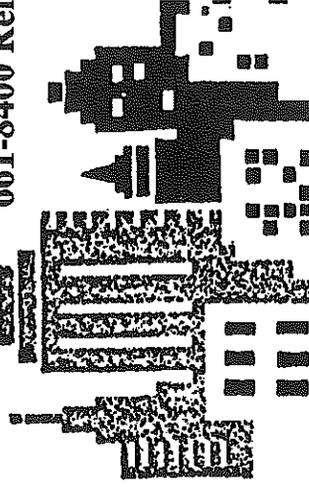
Century 21

AVON



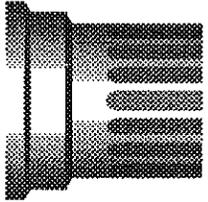
497-6555 Sales

661-8400 Rentals

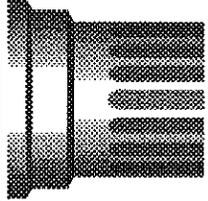


1675 Mass. Ave. Cambridge (corner of Wendell St.)

EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.



ANC HONOR ROLL



Thank you to all the donors who have contributed so far to our appeal that was begun in late May. We will repeat a full list of donors in the September Whistler:

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SPECIAL THANKS

SUE BERGIN
for the wonderful
photography of the
Agassiz School

**ROSIE'S
BAR & GRILLE**
for providing rehearsal
space all year for the
Agassiz Afterschool
Players

LESLEY COLLEGE
for providing
performance and gym
space for the Agassiz
Afterschool Programs

DAVID CHILINSKI
for his years of
service on the ANC
Board of Directors

Community School News

Outback Summer Camp

Camp has limited space still available. Call Jody at 349-6287 for more information.

Fall Programs

Applications are now being accepted for the five day Afterschool program grades K-5. Please call Jody for more information at 349-6287.

Ads and Announcements

Cambridge Community Services Directory

Time to order the directory that lists 130 public and private nonprofit Cambridge based community service organizations. It provides information on programs and services in a wide variety of areas and costs only \$8. For more information call CCS at 876-5214.

Return Your Questionnaires

In May a questionnaire was included in the Whistler to assess the needs of our readers. There is still time to return it. To receive a copy call the council at 349-6288



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Community Calendar June 1994

June 3, Friday	7:30 p.m.	<i>THE HOBBIT</i> presented by Agassiz Afterschool Players
June 5, Sunday	4:00 p.m.	Welch Auditorium, Lesley College
June 13-17		Cambridge Elementary Schools Graduation Week
June 14, Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	Pot Luck Barbecue, Backyard 20 Sacramento St.
June 15, Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Writing Workshop, Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell) Preregistration Required See p. 6
June 17 Friday	3:00 p.m.	Agassiz 8th Grade Graduation, Welch Auditorium, Lesley College
June 21 Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	ANC Board Open Meeting
	7:30 p.m.	ANC Monthly Meeting, Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell)
June 29 Wednesday		Last Day of Cambridge Public School
July 5, Tuesday		Opening Day of Outback

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.



June 1994
The Whistler
 Agassiz Neighborhood Council
 20 Sacramento St.
 Cambridge, MA 02138
 349-6287

DO NOT FORWARD

Remember this is the last Whistler until the fall, but the ANC office is staffed all summer. The Agassiz Construction Hotline will also remain available.

**All Are Welcome to the
 Annual Community School
 Pot Luck Barbecue**

**June 14, Tuesday
 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

Backyard 20 Sacramento St.
 We supply burgers and drinks. You
 bring a side dish, salad or dessert.
 For information call 349-6287