Annual Meeting Notes from 4/8...

Before the election of officers, the Cambridge School Department's kindergarten admission policy, specifically regarding the priority for neighborhood children, was discussed. It seems that there may be a difference between the stated policy and placement practices. There is concern about how the waiting lists are prioritized when a family has failed to be given any of their first three choices. It was agreed to do some further research on the issue, and write a letter to the superintendent of schools requesting further clarification. Since then, Larry Weinstein, Cambridge School Committee, has been invited to our June Council meeting, and the school department should also be represented.

New officers of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council were elected, and they are:

- Jody Garber—Chairperson
- Karen Vaters—Vice Chairperson
- Barbara August—Secretary
- Bob Johnson—Treasurer

Judy Bard, Chairperson for the last five years, was presented with a gavel by the council and a sweatshirt by Bob Lewis, Executive Vice President for Lesley College. After the meeting, there was a party with refreshments and blue grass music. Robin Winter, teacher and "artist in residence" at the afterschool, was also honored for her contribution to the organization and to hundreds of children over the last 9 years.

[next council meeting...]

Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
May 13 Agenda
7:30 P.M. General Business
8:00 P.M. Cambridge Dog Officer
8:30 P.M. Reports on Development
- Citywide Committee for Development Review
- Update on Sears/CDIA Parking Garage Problems

☆☆☆ Second Annual Agassiz Awards
by Joel Bard

At our April 8 Annual Meeting, a second batch of Agassiz awards was given out "in appreciation of services selflessly rendered to Agassiz and to Cambridge." The awards were initiated in April 1985, at the Agassiz Neighborhood Council's first Annual Meeting as a non profit corporation. The idea behind the awards is to recognize, in a low-key but sincere manner, people whose valuable contributions have helped the community and, in particular, have helped sustain the concept of community in Agassiz.

This year's recipients are:

Robin Winter for her 9 years as a creative, dedicated, and warm teacher in numerous Agassiz Community School Programs. We will miss her very much.

Ada Snider, Jill Gleim, for their annual efforts in organizing and teaching Cambridge children appropriate songs and dances for a May Day celebration held on Sacramento Field. Ada, in addition, has done wonderful work in the Agassiz School converting classroom curricula into musicals performed by the kids.

Carol Hantman for her tireless and extremely conscientious work in the never-ending story of Porter Square development.

Judy Garber also for her vital work in Porter Square, as silent driver behind the Porter Square Working Committee, as well as for taking on the responsibilities of Chairperson of the Neighborhood Council.

AGASSIZ RECEIVES ARTS LOTTERY GRANT

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council was awarded a $500 Arts Lottery Grant to benefit the Agassiz Reading Series and the Sacramento Street Gallery. Funds will be used for publicity and props to display crafts.
CHAIRPERSON'S FAREWELL
by Joel Bard

Within Agassiz, one by product for which I'm especially grateful is the regularity and wide distribution of the Whistler. I do not recall a time when the Whistler was as faithfully published on a monthly basis and distributed door to door throughout the neighborhood.

For this last feat, and many, many others, I must thank Terry Delanaye, the Agassiz co-ordinator. My task as Chairperson has been made immeasurably easier because of Terry, and my number one accomplishment was hiring her!

Finally, I must thank my fellow Agassiz board members. In the best Agassiz tradition, we have shared the load. And, with Jody Garber moving up to be Chairperson of the Council, I leave the board with peace of mind and complete confidence that neighborhood affairs will be very well managed.

OXFORD/WENDELL TRAFFIC SAFETY POSTSCRIPT
by Astrid Dodds

Have you noticed how much easier it has been to pull out of Wendell onto or across Oxford for the last four months? Then chalk up another victory for Agassiz neighborhood solidarity!

On October 14, 25 residents petitioned the Traffic and Parking Department to do something about the cars parked illegally close to the corners at Oxford and Wendell -- cars that frequently obscured a driver's ability to see oncoming Oxford St. traffic. At the November 14 Council meeting, attended by City Councillors Alice Wolf and Frank Duehay, Lauren Preston of the Traffic and Parking Department promised to do something about it.

Within 2 weeks, 4 "no standing" signs appeared on the eastern corners of the intersection and diligent daytime ticketing did the rest. The drivers trying to cross or turn north or south on Oxford could finally see oncoming cars (not to mention determined bicyclists in dark clothing)!

Parking illegally close to the 2 eastern corners still happens occassionally at night after the end of the regular ticketing day. But 90% of the time the visibility is 90% better than it was before December.

Many thanks to Councillors Alice Wolf and Frank Duehay for listening to our requests and to Lauren Preston and the Cambridge Traffic and Parking Department for a prompt and effective response.
CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR BEACON ST. BRIDGE

We have received this information courtesy of Alice Wolf through a letter to the City Council from City Manager Robert Healy:

"....Joe Lastovica has contacted representatives of the Massachusetts Public Works Department (MDPW) for an update on the reconstruction of the bridge at Beacon St. and Somerville Ave. Sketch plans are currently being revised to change the bridge profile to increase the clearance for transportation; these plans should be completed by the end of April 1987... review by MDPW and Federal Highway Administration... final plans will be ready for the bid process... January 1988... completion December 1988. The bridge will be constructed in two phases to allow for traffic in one direction at all times. It should be noted, however, that the MDPW representatives cautioned that this is a very optimistic schedule for completion of this project."

UPDATE ON SEWER RECONSTRUCTION

Courtesy of Councillor Wolf the Council received a copy of a letter from Richard Rossi, Acting Commissioner of Public Works. The letter, addressed to City Manager Healy, explained Phases VI and VII of the sewer reconstruction, and a copy has been sent to everyone on the Council's flood mailing list.

The letter describes timetables, funding sources and provides maps to help explain the upcoming sewer construction, which will separate storm drains from sanitary sewers and upgrade the size of pipes. The entire Agassiz Neighborhood is included in Phase VI.

The engineering study should be completed in June 1988, construction should begin in December 1988 and end in March 1991. Rossi advises Healy in the letter that "as the project progresses, periodic neighborhood meetings will be held to allow residents to participate in the project."

Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the letter should contact the Council office at 498-9056.
**THE GREAT PATRIOTS DAY FIASCO**

The odd numbered side of Street Sweeping District No. 6 was treated on Patriot's Day to its first spring one-over-lightly. Instead of loudspeaker warnings and tow trucks, our streets got a sweeper weaving in and out of parked cars. The winter debris that remains is ample testimony to April 20's "hit or miss" approach.

Agassiz residents who think the 3rd Monday in April should live up to its advance billing -- or who think our neighborhood deserves a first spring street sweeping equal to that other neighborhoods enjoy-- should call the DPW at 498-9051 or their favorite City Councillor.

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**LESLEY - AGASSIZ TO CELEBRATE WEEK OF YOUNG CHILD**

On Monday May 4 at 4 PM there will be a Launch of 100 balloons at Lesley College sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. Children from the Agassiz Afterschool programs will walk over to the Lesley College Campus, each with a balloon to which a postcard will be attached. The postcards announce our joint celebration of the Week of the Young Child and request that the finder return the postcard, and note where it was found.

Other events presented by Lesley College include:

**TUESDAY MAY 5**

**Alumni Hall**
12PM-1:30PM
*The War Play Dilemma: Children's Needs and Society's Values* - Nancy Carlsson-Paige, Lesley Graduate School faculty. *(RSVP 868-9600 x260)*

**WEDNESDAY MAY 6**

**Alumni Hall**
7:30-9:30PM
*Literacy Connection: Families, Pre and Public Schools*

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**THURSDAY MAY 7**

12:15-1:15 PM in the Amphitheater
Agassiz School Children will perform Maypole dances accompanied by musicians and followed by a performance from the Agassiz Chorus

5-6:30 PM at the Tennis Courts
Softball Clinic for children from the Agassiz School

5-7 PM in the Amphitheatre
Annual Lesley College - Agassiz Neighborhood Barbeque

5-7 PM in Heterick Lounge
Display of curriculum units developed by Lesley College student teachers working in classrooms at Agassiz School

For more information call Beverly Faison 868-960 x362

The Lesley College Tennis Court will open May 1. Rules and regulations for use by neighborhood residents can be obtained by calling the Council office at 498-9056.

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**AGASSIZ READING SERIES—UPDATE AND SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Peter Taguri: *Architecture in an Age of Film will be on May 19* not May 12.

**May 19:** Peter Taguri will be talking about the similarity between the experience of Architecture and film as a sceneographic background to our lives and the very different results each has. Has Architecture been replaced by the world of film? What is Architecture's place in the perceived world?

**May 26:** Nicholas Kilmer will be reading sections from his long poem DILeo's Garage. Nicholas Kilmer is also an artist who had a show "Conversations" earlier this year at the Sacramento Street Gallery, and he is also a translator of Dante and Petrarch.

**June 9:** Andy Moore and Jack Walsh will be showing their new films: *Shades of Meaning and Present Tense.* *Shades of Meaning* by Andy Moore is a ten minute color film made in 1986. The film is a meditation on music and meaning in cinema. *Present Tense* by Jack Walsh, designed as a time capsule, explores personal experience with historical moment during a restricted period of time—June through October 1986.

As always, there will be refreshments served after the performance and a chance to talk with the presenters in an informal setting. Performances start at 7:30 PM and run about an hour with a reception following at 53 Wendell St.
LOVE A TREE - DON'T STAPLE IT


Which is fine if they are stapled into wooden lampposts or taped onto metal ones. But not fine if they are stapled, thumbtacked and sometimes even NAILED into street trees.

The Agassiz Neighborhood Street Tree Committee will once again be posting its own signs (on inanimate objects, naturally) warning that ANY posters affixed to street trees will be torn down on sight. In the past, this has miraculously reduced the incidence of tree stapling/nailing/thumbtacking to almost nothing. With your help, it will this year, too.

BANC PLANS NORTH CAMBRIDGE CLEAN UP MAY 9

The Business Association of North Cambridge is planning a Clean Up for Saturday, May 9 (Rain date May 16). Meet at 10 AM in front of the Henderson Carriage Building, 2067 Mass. Ave. Let's join the business community, and give our neighborhood a good spring cleaning! The DPW will be providing some rakes, brooms, shovels, but if you can provide your own, please do, and remember to wear gloves!

CONFERENCE AT THRESHOLD JUNE 5 and 6

The Threshold Program, Lesley College Graduate School, presents “Toward Independence - Issues for Parents of Adults with Learning Disabilities.” The conference will be held Friday and Saturday June 5 and 6.

The keynote speaker will be Larry B. Silver, author of The Misunderstood Child: A Guide for Parents of Learning Disabled Children. Topics to be covered include: social skills, parent support groups independent living skills, employers views, starting a social group, issues of sexuality, vocational evaluations, estate planning and bridging dreams with reality.

For information on costs or to register, call Threshold at 491-3739.

CHILDREN'S SPRING FAIR - MAY 9TH, NORTH PROSPECT CHURCH (formerly North Congregational Church), 1803 Mass. Ave. 10 AM to 4 PM. Games, food, moonwalk, rummage, face painting, raffles, a clown. 75¢ admission. Benefit for the AGASSIZ PRESCHOOL (Rain Date Sunday May 10th, 1-5 PM)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FANTASTIC PORCH/YARD SALE SATURDAYS MAY 1 AND MAY 9 (Rain or Shine)
84 Wendell Street
10 AM - 3 PM
Furniture, games, toys, clothing direct from drycleaners
Poodle 2 year old male altered black and white pedigree AKC registered. Great with kids and elders $200. Call 547-0909

Part-Time Job Available: Mt. Auburn St. consulting company needs clerical help 8 or 8:30 AM - 1 or 1:30 PM (phones, xeroxing, typing, work processing). Familiarity with IBM-PC or "Wordstar" helpful but any word processing experience O.K. Call Debbie 492-7666, 10 AM - 5 PM

For Sale: Men's black English ("Robin Hood") bicycle a home converted 6 speed (standard 3 speed hub+2 speed derailleurs). Needs a new inner tube (& to be cleaned and oiled) $30. or best offer. Call Doug at 354-6553, 8-9 AM or after 7:30 PM.

Deadline for articles, classified or information to be printed in the Whistler is the 25TH OF THE MONTH FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH.
MAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY 1 .................................................. Annual May Day Celebration Dance and Music
7:30 Sacramento Field, 8:30 Agassiz School

MAY 4-8 .................................................. Week of the Young Child- See article on special
events to be held at Lesley College

May 9 .................................................. BANC Neighborhood Clean Up (see article)

May 13 .................................................. Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting 7:30 PM
Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.
(See front page for agenda)

May 14 .................................................. Agassiz School Released Day, School closes and
Afterschool opens 12:45 PM

May 19 .................................................. Agassiz Reading Series Peter Tagiuri
7:30 Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento St. (See article)

May 25 .................................................. Memorial Day No School or Afterschool

May 26 .................................................. Agassiz Reading Series Nicholas Killmer
7:30 Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento St. (See article)

THE WHISTLER
MAY 1987

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
498-9056

AGASSIZ READING SERIES

February 24, 1987: WILLIAM MACNAB HENDERSON: Waldenwood Tales

MARCH 9: JON LIPHY: bike ffs songs & other pieces

MARCH 24: MAIKE WELTY: prose/poetry

MAY 19: HELEN DAVIS: prose/poetry

JUNE 7: JANICE ZAHORSKI: Lora Waite &
ELLEN SARTO: prose

APRIL 7: PATRICIA MARTEN: Three Ladies Of the Century

MAY 19: GUDMUND HORSTAD: prose with

APRIL 30: PATRICIA THOMPSON: Architecture In An Age Of Chaos

MAY 26: NICHOLAS KELM: Eliot's Geography: poetry

June 9: To be announced (see article)

7:30, 20 SACRAMENTO ST.
INFO: 663-0557