Council Notes

At the 4/29 ANC meeting under general business, Terry DeLantery advised the council that Happy Greene from Harvard University Community Affairs contacted her to say that there had been no requests for permits to use the old Quality Inn parking lot by Mellen St. residents for overnight parking. This was part of the agreement made between the neighborhood and Harvard when the Quality Inn became a Harvard Law School dormitory. The council will contact Mellen St. residents to see what the need is for this service. [If you live on Mellen St. and would like to have access to overnight parking, please contact the council at 349-6287.]

Joel Bard thanked the council for achieving an odd side street sweeping in our neighborhood this April. Due to Patriots Day, the neighborhood has yearly missed this first spring street sweeping. Plaudits to Astrid Dodds for her efforts, and the council will send a thank you note to DPW Commissioner Haley who included the extra street sweeping this year, and agreed to continue it each year.

The first agenda item discussed was an update from Susan Sills on the Agassiz School Renovation Task Force meeting held on April 28. This meeting was chaired by Richard Rossi, Assistant City Manager, who had architect George Metzger from HMFH Architects describe and visually display the specific Agassiz neighborhood site options for the Agassiz School currently being considered by the City Manager's Office. These sites are all either owned by Cambridge, Harvard University or Lesley College, and land would be traded, not purchased. Harvard has no specific interest in these trades, but has agreed to consider them in order to help the community solve the problem of the school site. Lesley College has already entered into a formal programmatic relationship with Agassiz School which will create Agassiz as a professional development school. The possibility of a real estate deal is intended to extend and enhance that relationship for both institutions, and it presents some real opportunities for each.

Three sites were presented, with several scenarios for each site. [To see visual representations of these sites, please see pages 4-5.] The first site would utilize property between the Agassiz School (28 Sacramento) and the Agassiz Community Center (20 Sacramento). There were two options for this site: 1a (Addition to the Existing Agassiz School) would require an addition to the current building;
1b (Replacement Building on Existing Site) would demolish the existing building in favor of new construction. This scenario would move three houses on the property between the school and the community center. The two houses closest to the school would be moved to the tot lot on the corner of Sacramento and Oxford Streets, and the third house would be moved to the back yard of the community center. The tot lot would be reconstructed between the new school and the community center, and the barn behind the community center would be demolished.

The second site would utilize space on or adjacent to Sacramento Field. The first option, 2a (New School on Sacramento Field) and 2c (New School on Sacramento St.) would construct a new building and relocate or demolish existing brick houses at 9-19 Sacramento St. as well as the Community Garden. The difference in these options is how the building is placed on the site. There is no site suggestion for the brick houses or the garden in this scenario if they are moved and not demolished. Option 2b (New School on expanded Sacramento Field) would utilize the property at #5 (Cambridge Guidance Center) and 7 Sacramento St. (carriage house behind the Guidance Center) and the large parking lot next to #5. It would not build on the field, brick houses or garden.

The third site would utilize property owned by Lesley College between Wendell and Mellen Street bordering Oxford Street. This has only recently been proposed as a school site, and there has been little time to develop any plan for it. The drawing shows the footprint of the school, but Pat Byrne who attended from the President’s Office at Lesley, has advised us that the building could be configured in many ways. Ms. Byrne said Lesley is eager to develop a good looking entrance for Lesley from Oxford St., and they are willing to explore a variety of possibilities for building. The site could even include more than one building.

The community meeting to hear the architect present these options, to ask questions, and to voice your opinion was set for Wednesday May 13 at 7:30 PM in the Agassiz School.

A report on the meeting with Assistant City Manager Richard Rossi about Oxford St. (and other neighborhood) traffic was made by Astrid Dodds. Neighborhood representatives Ken Basler, Terry DeLancey, Astrid Dodds and Jim O’Neill were accompanied to the meeting by City Councillor Alice Wolf. Members of the Agassiz Traffic Committee requested the meeting with Mr. Rossi in order to coordinate a “whole problem” approach to Agassiz traffic woes. This would include all necessary city departments. Traffic problems have been under discussion for at least 6 years, and have never been solved to the satisfaction of the neighborhood council.

Discussion was held on the Beacon St. bridge, and lack of coordination by the City of Cambridge. Mr. Rossi agreed to meet with Somerville and the state to coordinate our role in the construction. He believed that the north end of Oxford St. could be reconfigured to keep cut through traffic at a minimum (as the neighborhood had discussed with the Traffic Department many years ago). He felt it was realistic to assume that this could be done before the construction was completed (sometime in late fall). He agreed to get back to us in 2-3 weeks on this matter.

Councillor Wolf suggested that we look at Oxford St. as a “neighborhood street”, then plan accordingly, making the street uninviting to cut through traffic. This approach would include community development as well as the traffic department, and it would allow for real planning and creative solutions with maximum community participation.

The need for a “traffic break” at Wendell and Oxford St. was stressed in the meeting, but a traffic light was not universally agreed to be the solution. A light at Everett St., four way stop signs, corner parking bans to 60’, spot enforcement of speed limit were all discussed.

Solutions require planning, and Mr. Rossi agreed to walk the neighborhood on May 6 with traffic committee members to see the problem spots. He will be accompanied by various representatives of related city departments including traffic and police. He will then discuss the problems and possible solutions with the various departments, and meet again with the Agassiz traffic committee.

Doug Klime, attended as a representative of the bicycle committee. He was concerned about pejorative comments toward bicyclists in the Agassiz traffic plan. Astrid assured him that her slant was not anti bicycle but pro pedestrian. The meeting included two other bicycle commuters who felt that education was critical, and all agreed that bicyclists
should be part of our planning process.
Astrid Dodds has agreed to take your calls about
problem traffic spots in the neighborhood. Call her
at 354-6563. It was agreed at the meeting to keep
our own statistics on neighborhood accidents, since
the city does not perceive Oxford as a dangerous
street. Call the council at 349-6287 to report
accidents.

**Neighborhood News**

**ANC seeks new board members**

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council seeks
nominations and applications for board membership.
The new board is installed in June for active service
beginning in September. If you are interested in
becoming a member of our non profit community
service organization, you can send a resume with
your qualifications to the Nominating Committee,
ANC, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138.
For more information on our organization and board
duties, contact Terry DeLancey, ANC Neighborhood
Coordinator at 349-6287.

**Open House May 20th**

_The new Community Room, located at 1651 Mass. Ave. in the former Quality Inn, is open until May 22. The space is for our exclusive use, and the main room is 800 square feet with a divider to create two small rooms. It has separate rest rooms, a storage room and a small kitchen. An excellent baby grand piano has been donated, and it will be moved in two weeks. Agassiz Neighborhood Council can now host community events that were never before possible._

We will have a [PREVIEW OPEN HOUSE on May 20 at 7:30. We would like you to come and bring everyone who would like to see the room. You can also help us “warm” the space with a kitchen gadget or other small supplies for our kitchen. We will have refreshments, and we expect to have our piano available and tuned by that time, which will allow our community musicians to show off their stuff! Please mark your calendar with the date. (The space will be closed by Harvard Law School to complete the last phase of construction on Memorial Day Weekend. The room will permanently open in September.)

We are in the middle of a fund drive to supply the room. We will need chairs, tables, and other furnishings for the various programs and events that will be scheduled. If you can, we would appreciate any donation for that purpose, and you can send your tax deductible donations to

**Preventive and Restorative Dentistry**

**QUALITY CARE WITH A GENTLE TOUCH**

Elliot Kronstein, D.D.S.
492-6070

181 Concord Avenue Cambridge MA
located at the intersection of Huron and Concord

**Community Room Fund, Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge, MA 02138. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP in creating a new community space in the Agassiz neighborhood.**

**Agassiz School Landscaping MAY 16**

Eva Paddock, new principal of the Agassiz School, will hold a LANDSCAPING DAY to beautify the grounds of the Agassiz School on Saturday MAY 16 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Anyone who would like to help is encouraged to participate.

You may come and work. Laborers are needed. Also needed are flower box carpenters, path builders, rotational, diggers, planters and support workers for drinks and snacks.

You can donate flower boxes, plants, shrubs, loam, cobbles, flagstones, bulbs, fertilizer, sand, snacks and drinks. If you are able to get a donation from a business that could supply these things, please do. Goods can be stored at Agassiz until that day.

This is your chance to help beautify a community site that has long needed our care. For more information, call Mrs. Paddock at the Agassiz School 349-6287.

**Beacon St. Bridge**

Information on the Beacon St. bridge project has been provided to us by the State Executive Office of Transportation and Construction, Department of Public Works:

The subject bridge was built in 1850 and has never been reconstructed. The bridge was inspected in February, 1991 and the following is the Rating Report:

1. AASHTO Sufficiency rating = 27.1 which is less than 50 hence, the bridge is considered structurally deficient.

2. The superstructure condition is 3 on a scale of 0-10, 0 being the worst, and 10 being the best.

3. An inventory rating of 11 tons is posted on the bridge.
The Community Meeting to discuss site options has been set for:

**Wednesday May 13**
**7:30 PM**
**Baldwin Hall Agassiz School**

The discussion at this meeting (which will be videotaped) will be considered by the City Manager who will eventually make the final decision on the site. Neighborhood input will be an important piece in that decision. If you take interest in the future of the Agassiz School, please make a point to attend this meeting.

The most useful community input would be to prioritize these options. Clear and positive neighborhood input at this time is critical.

The plans are on display at the Agassiz Community Center in the Sacramento St. Gallery weekdays from 9-6 until May 13. Please drop in and take a look at them.
The average daily traffic (1990) on the bridge is 7,654 of which 6% are trucks.

The purpose of this project is to replace the existing structurally and geometrically deficient bridge over the MBTA/Commuter Rail.

The new bridge will be constructed at approximately the present location, and will meet current design and safety standards.

The proposed replacement bridge will be a rigid frame, single span structure 72' -0" wide with a skew angle of about 21.5 degrees. The bridge deck will accommodate a 50 foot roadway width curb to curb with 10 foot sidewalks on each side. A high barrier coping with chain link fencing will be provided at the back of sidewalks.

The proposed work will include the reconstruction of the Beacon Street and Somerville Avenue intersection.

The work will also include the alteration of utility lines in the vicinity of the bridge, construction of driveways and sidewalks, installation of chain link fence, traffic signs and signals, pavement markings and other related roadway items.

Furthermore, the work includes the maintenance of traffic during construction, the maintenance of vehicular and pedestrian procedures for a safe and efficient movement of traffic.

The stage construction of the bridge and intersection consists of three phases. In general all southbound traffic wishing to access the Beacon St. bridge will be detoured away from the project area. All appropriate construction signs and detour routing signs in accordance with MUTCD, the MDPW and City of Somerville will be installed prior to the beginning of work.

**CHAMA Closes**

We have been advised by Jill Herold, City Assistant Manager for Human Services, that CHAMA, an agency serving the Cambridge Haitian community has closed. She has advised us that the City has hired Roland LaForest as the new Haitian Services Coordinator. Specific services he will provide include information and appropriate referrals, Kreyol interpretation, arrangement for written translation as required on a fee basis, immigration counseling and related assistance. He will be located at the MultiService center on 19 Brookline St., and he can be reached at 349-6351.

**Police Appreciation Parade May 17**

The month of May is being declared "Police Appreciation and Awareness Month" in the City of Cambridge. Noelle Serpa, Chairman of the Police Appreciation Committee has advised us that there will be a Police Awareness and Appreciation Parade on Sunday May 17 at 1 PM. The parade will march from the old Polaroid parking lot onto Magazine Street to Mass. Avenue and end at the Cambridge Common in Harvard Square.

Due to enormous support from the business community, FREE refreshments and food will be served after the parade on the Common.

**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 are free of charge, and residents will accompany Outback Summer Camp to the beach each week. Last summer we visited Crane Beach in Ipswich, Wingaersheek Beach in Gloucester, and Singing Beach in Manchester. People meet in front of the school, and board busses at approximately 9 AM. Once at the beach, community members must only meet back at the bus at the time specified by the trip leader, usually about 1:30 PM.

If you are interested in joining us for trips, call for more information or a brochure at 349-6257. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by adults who will be responsible for them.

**Outback Summer Camp**

There is still space available in the Outback Summer Camp which offers eight weeks of summer camp activities for school age children, as well as a Counselor in Training program for students entering grades 7-9. Camp hours are 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM with an extended day option until 5:30 PM. Weeks do fill
up early, so call right away to guarantee your choice of weeks. 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 stage craft, scenery design and other adjacent 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, and to register call Steve Winter at 349-6287.

AFTERSCHOOL FALL REGISTRATION

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

Clothing Needed in Cambridge.

The MultiService Center of Cambridge located at 19 Brookline St. (behind Hi-Fi Pizza) needs clothing, especially kids clothing to distribute to families in Cambridge. Call Macy deLong at 349-6340 between 9-5 PM if you can drop clothing off to them.

Sacramento St. Condo for Sale

6+ Sunny Rooms/1,475 Sq. Ft. 2nd and 3rd Floors of Victorian 2 family. 1.5 baths, Modern Kitchen, Deck. 1/2 driveway $195,000. Call owner at 491-4684.

Cultural Happenings

Gospel at Agassiz May 24

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is proud to sponsor The Cambridge Gospel Ensemble and Friends in Baldwin Hall, Agassiz School on Sunday May 24 from 6-7:30 PM. The student choir, under the direction of Deborah Brown, will sing gospel selections. There will be reading from the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Valerie A. Stevens will recite her poetry. There will also be a dance number by students from the Agassiz School.

Admission is free, and there will be snacks available during intermission. Bring the family, and enjoy the program.

Thanks to a donation from the Massachusetts Cultural Council the Agassiz Neighborhood has offered a city wide gospel choir for youth in grades 5-8 since November. Anyone interested in the choir should give the council a call at 349-6287.

Playwrights Platform Presents

Playwright’s Platform will present a May offering at the Agassiz Community Center located at 20 Sacramento St. At 7:30 on May 31 we will hear “Square Pegs” a play by Jeralyn Horton, well known Boston playwright. Admission is free and the public is invited. For information call 354-5118.

Ads and Announcements

Summer Jobs for 14-15 year olds
The Mayor’s Summer Youth Program

For ages 14 and 15. No income eligibility requirements. Work 5 days a week, 4 hours a day for 6 weeks. First come, first serve, so register now. For Information call the Mayor’s Office at 349-4321.

*Please note- Outback Summer Camp welcomes applications from this program.

### Community Calendar
**MAY 1992**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 13, Wed</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Meeting to review Agassiz School Sites</td>
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<td>Baldwin Hall Agassiz School</td>
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<td>28 Sacramento St.</td>
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<td>May 16, Sat</td>
<td>8:30-11:30 AM</td>
<td>Landscaping at Agassiz Oxford St. Door</td>
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<td>Agassiz School 28 Sacramento St.</td>
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<td>May 20, Wed</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Preview Community Room Open House</td>
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<td>1651 Mass. Ave. (former Quality Inn)</td>
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<td>28 Sacramento St. Admission Free</td>
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<td>May 25, Mon</td>
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<td>Memorial Day No School</td>
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<td>May 31, Sun</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Playwrights Platform Presents</td>
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<td>Jeralyn Horton's &quot;Square pegs&quot;</td>
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**MAY 1992**

The Whistler
Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St.
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