Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

May 3 Meeting-Kathleen Manion, Board Chair, opened the meeting and introduced Julie Schlack who represented the Nominating Committee. She announced the Slate for ANC Board of Directors and Officers. For a complete list of candidates, see page 2.

The meeting was handed over to Janet Rustow who announced a subcommittee to discuss dog walking during construction of the field, headed by Bonnie Solomon. She then introduced the guests—Rich Rossi, Deputy City Manager; Lou DiNapoli, Clerk of the Works; Jim Rist, School Department; and George Metzger, Architect from HMFG. Other representatives in the audience included Cam Patek and Steve Kirby from the general contractor, Eastern; Ray Hamway from C.J. Mabardy who will be doing the excavation; and Bill DiBartolomeo, who will be working with the Clerk of the Works.

Rich Rossi addressed a neighborhood concern beginning with parking. An agreement has been reached with the abutters of the lot lot on Oxford St. to use the land as parking for teachers. It must be developed with paving, drainage and lighting, and it may be used by the contractor.

The next concern related to the physical inspections of property to provide documentation in case of structural damage caused by construction. Only one property in the predetermined "zone of influence" could not be accessed. One property, 25 Sacramento St., currently owned by the bank, has structural foundation problems. The city has begun to monitor the foundation. When the construction work begins, the everyday data will be compared to the construction vibrations, and if any structural damage seems likely, there will be some action taken to brace the foundation. The contractors said that this will not delay the work.

Rich Rossi addressed the controversy regarding hiring and prevailing wage practices that many people had read in the Cambridge Chronicle regarding Eastern. This is a non union company which is legally acceptable if the company pays prevailing wages. The Attorney General did not disqualify them, and at this time there are only allegations. Rossi said that Cambridge is always very careful about references, and all the references for them to do public work and build schools were excellent.

The next concern Rossi addressed was the matter of access to Sacramento Field through what is now the Guidance Center parking lot. Rossi began by saying that there had never been any formal plans from Harvard to upgrade the parking lot. The City and Harvard had assumed throughout this process that the City owned some access to the field from Sacramento St. but it does not. The only property the City owns that provides access to the street from the field is Sacramento St. Garden.

Mr. Rossi referred to a letter he received from the Sacramento Field subcommittee requesting a meeting with Harvard, the City and Agassiz residents to discuss the issues related to the access plan, most notably a reduction in sidewalk size from an anticipated 15' down to approximately 8'. He expressed a willingness to attend the meeting but was negative regarding the possibility that Harvard would relinquish the entire roadway as a pedestrian only way. Harvard has indicated support for pedestrian access through the parking lot that would not disrupt vehicular access or parking. (For background on this issue see Sacramento Field, page 6.)

Various questions were then answered. Trucks will be routed as described in the previous meeting (see page 5). Trucks will turn into Sacramento the wrong way, but only when police hold up traffic. New crosswalks have been placed to help pedestrians. Trucks will be told to avoid Sacramento entirely. Work will be done between 7:30-4:30. Driving of the sheathing will begin immediately, and last for about three weeks. The earth excavation will then begin and last for 2.5-3 weeks. At this time there will be 40-50 truckloads of earth removed daily. The concrete will be poured, and more excavation will occur for another 2-3 weeks, although not as much. The steel will go up about July 1.

Other answers provided the following information: Dust will be maintained using hoses and calcium chloride. Sidewalks will be concrete with brick detail and granite curbing. There has been no sign of rats, demolition crew baited the site. If artifacts are found during excavation, they will be reported to proper authorities.

Mr. Rossi agreed to look into the possibility of parking relief for Sacramento St. residents, a sign that warns of construction on Sacramento St. and excludes non residents, and the repainting of crosswalks near the construction site. He agreed to let us know the history of the site as well. (See page 5-6 for more information.)

Upcoming
Council Meetings
Next Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell St.)
Come to the Annual Meeting
May 24, Tuesday at 7:30
Election of Officers and Presentation of the Agassiz Survey
by Atlantic Marketing & Community Development
Refreshments immediately following
Meet ANC board members and visit with your neighbors
For more information call the council at 349-6287.
Meet the Candidates

The Candidates to be elected at the Annual meeting on Tuesday May 24 at 7:30 p.m. are:

**Chairperson**  
JoAnn Hoffman  
JoAnn lives on Gorham St., and has a son at Agassiz School. She received a Masters Degree last year from U. Mass. Boston’s McCormack Institute. JoAnn has been on the board for four years. This year she is the Vice Chair, and she has just stepped down as the Agassiz representative on the Joint Harvard-Neighborhood Committee.

**Vice Chairperson**  
Steve Kosslyn  
Steve lives on Garfield St. He has a son at the Agassiz School and is a psychologist at Harvard. He has been active on the Long Range Planning Committee and the issue of public housing to be developed at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Garfield St. Steve is in the first year of his two year term as a director.

**Secretary**  
Sue Bergin  
Sue has two children in Agassiz School, and she has been active on the Agassiz School Council as well as on the Agassiz School Building Committee this year. Sue works in a photo lab in Boston, and she has done extensive photo documentation of the old Agassiz School. Sue is in the first year of her two year term as a director.

**Treasurer**  
Fred Levy  
Fred was appointed to the board this winter, when Andrea Averill resigned. He is a 17 year Agassiz resident living at Frost Terrace, and he has two children at the Agassiz School. Fred is a member of the Agassiz School Building Committee, he is on the board of the Cambridge Civic Association and Temple B’Nai Brith, where he is treasurer. In the early 80’s Fred led the Mass. Ave. down zoning effort. Fred is also a small business owner in Cambridge.

**Parent Representative**  
Janet Rustow  
Janet is a resident of Sacramento St. where she has lived for three years. She has been on the board for two years and has a daughter at Agassiz School. Janet is the Assistant Director of Social Work and Continuing Care at Newton Wellesley Hospital. This year Janet has assumed the role of Chairperson of the committee dealing with construction of the new Agassiz School. Janet is in the first year of her two year term as a director.

**Director**  
Kathleen Manion  
Kathleen Manion will step down as Chairperson this year. She has lived in the Agassiz neighborhood for 45 years, currently on Newport Road. Kathleen has worked with most ANC committees, as well as Harvard and Lesley during her two years in office, and she has attended Board of Zoning hearings on many Mass. Ave. issues, most notably the very successful agreement between Noelle’s and the neighborhood concerning their liquor license.

**Director**  
Fred Willey  
Fred lives on Sacramento St. and has been a resident of the Agassiz neighborhood for 35 years. He was President of the PTA when Ed Crane was Mayor and made the first push for a new Agassiz School. He was active in the most recent [and successful] push for the new Agassiz School. Fred is a retired English teacher who taught at Boston University and U. M. Boston.

All candidates will be elected for two year terms. The officers are reelected each year. Richard Griffin of Howland St. and Terry Conway of Sacramento St. are both in the first year of a two year term as director. A second Parent Representative will be elected by the Parent Steering Committee in June.

Ads and Announcements

Matthew Smith is interested in doing carpentry. Call him at 354-4726.

Dan Weller is interested in doing yard work including weeding, cutting grass, odd jobs, painting. Call him at 576-0674.

Landlord Workshops sponsored by Just a Start presents: Managing Buildings, Rehab planning and Affordable financing resources. It will be held free of charge on May 26 from 6-8 p.m. at 432 Columbia St. #12. Call 494-0444 to register.

WANTED:
Assistant Counselor for Outback Summer Camp. Aftemoons 2:30-6 p.m. $6-8 per hour. Please send resume to 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge 02138.

The Agassiz Community Center could use a refrigerator in good condition for the kitchen. Your donation is tax deductible. Call Jody at 349-6287.
Neighborhood News

Harvard Representative Wanted
The Joint Harvard-Neighborhood Committee needs a new Agassiz representative to replace JoAnn Hoffman, who is stepping down from that position. The committee includes Harvard representatives from Real Estate, Planning and Community Affairs as well as representatives from all Harvard abutting neighborhood organizations and Cambridge Community Development. The Agassiz representative is expected to attend both Joint Harvard Neighborhood Committee meetings and monthly ANC meetings and act as a liaison between the groups. A good knowledge of Agassiz is critical, and interested people should call Terry DeLancey at 349-6287.

Sign at Holyoke Center
Harvard has redesigned the controversial sign that was erected in Holyoke Center for the Shops by Harvard Yard. It will be replaced by a much smaller one located at the existing light fixture at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Dunster St. The area of the new sign is 13 square feet vs. the old size of 156 square feet.

Harvard will need a variance and has asked us to support the design for the new sign. Please contact the ANC if you would like more information or to express your opinion.

Starbucks Wants to Locate on Mass. Ave.
We have just heard from the attorney representing Starbucks Coffee, a West Coast based coffee and coffee product retail purveyor. They would like to open at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Shepard St. in the former Shepard Pharmacy, which is on the Agassiz Neighborhood Nine line.

They will need a license hearing and possibly a hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals. No applications have been filed yet, and representatives would like to meet with the neighborhood prior to those hearings.

ANC has contacted Neighborhood Nine association, who actively plans to take the issue up at its May 12 meeting. As the Whistler goes to press this date is not firm, so call the council office at 349-6287 for more information on that meeting or to receive further information on that issue.

Garfield St. Housing Prompts Letter
For many years there has been a plan for housing at the corner of Garfield and Mass. Ave. The development, as currently planned, is for five to eight units of three-bedroom rental apartments which are to be developed by Cambridge Housing Authority.

A recent letter has been sent to the CHA signed by Garfield St. residents requesting that their input be considered in the development process. They list three concerns: the number of children that may be sited in the development, the parking and traffic issues on a busy corner, and the design with respect to the fact that most of Garfield St. is in an Historic District.

Cambridge Housing Authority has pledged in the past to work with neighbors in planning this development.

TRAFFIC

Everett and Oxford St. Traffic Light
We have been advised by the Department of Parking and Traffic that the traffic light, which the City had begun to install prior to the winter snow, will be in soon. Work was scheduled to begin the last week in April and should be completed in several weeks.

City Wide News

Growth Policy Meetings
City Councillor Frank Duehay, Chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee, has scheduled a series of Thursday evening public hearings at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the Growth Policy document. Hearings will be held in the Sullivan Chamber of City Hall, 795 Mass. Ave. on the following dates:

May 19
May 26
June 2

The first hearing will be a presentation by Community Development and testimony from public officials. The second and third hearings will be devoted to
receiving public testimony. Written comments are also welcome.
To obtain a copy of the Growth Policy, contact the
Community Development Department at 57 Inman St.
Cambridge 02139 or call 349-4648.

Demographics and Economy
How is our economy changing? What will we look like in
twenty years? What are the implications for families and for human service providers? Join the seminar and learn the broad demographic trends that will influence our work and our community, and how we can best prepare ourselves to meet the challenges of the future on Thursday May 19th.
The seminar, PREDICTING THE FUTURE: Changing Demographics and the Economy, will be held at the Com Energy Conference Center, One Main St. Networking will begin at 4 p.m., presentation between 4:30-5:30 p.m.
This is the third seminar in the “Fresh Approach” series sponsored by Cambridge Community Services and Cambridge Foundation.

Cultural Happenings
Central Square World's Fair
Cambridge Arts Council in cooperation with the Central Square Business Association is holding the Central Square World's Fair on Saturday May 21 between Pearl and Brookline Streets along Green St. and Mass. Ave. It will include ten performance stages (with a total of ten bands), food vending, craft vending and roving performers.
For more information call Matt Jensen at 349-4380.

Portraits of Multiracial Families at CMAC
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center presents an exhibition of multiracial families through June 30.
The personal and social issues faced by 30 multiracial families, some bridging cultures through marriage, others through the adoption of biracial and foreign-born children, are revealed through this intimate exhibition of photographs by Gigi Kaeser and interviews by Peggie Gillespie. Forging new meanings for today's "family," these candid portraits provide insight into a world fragmented by various forms of discrimination while offering hope for a creative and diverse future.
The gallery is located at 41 Second St. in East Cambridge. It is open from 9-5 weekdays and during evening events. For more information call CMAC at 577-1400.

ART '95
21st Century Art is pleased to announce its ART '95 annual open multimedia competition. All artists are invited to take advantage of this exciting and innovative opportunity to win and exhibit their art work in New York City
- $55,000 in prizes and awards
- Judging will take place in March 1995
- "Top 70" Winners Exhibition at Art 54 Gallery, New York

Requests for official application forms must be received by July 28, 1994. Call 800-278-7000 or mail to ART '95, Art Department, 275 Route 304, Bardonia, NY 10924.
Hot Line Log

3/30 Caller asked if brick sidewalks were to be brought back after construction of school and hoped they would be. Referred to 5/3 meeting for discussion.

3/30 Caller concerned with the condition of sidewalk at the Sacramento St. corner. Contacted DPW for repair.

4/4 Caller was concerned with the lack of parking at the end of Sacramento St. due to construction, and asked how long parking would be banned. Referred to 5/3 to ask contractor how long parking would be banned.

4/8 Caller was in the zone of influence and had not heard from the company who was to do inspection of house prior to excavation. Referred to City Manager’s office.

4/11 Another caller in zone of influence had not heard regarding inspection. Referred to City Manager’s office.

4/19 Caller let us know that garage cans for the Oxford and Sacramento St. Tot Lot had been enclosed in the fence surrounding the construction trailers. Called the City Manager who had the DPW take garage cans out.

4/20 Another call regarding inspection of property. Referred to City Manager’s Office.

4/27 Caller wanted to know the time line for construction. Caller was advised school planning to open fall 95. Since start has been delayed suggested attending 5/3 meeting for a realistic end date.

Caller reported that upstairs door to the house that had just been moved (26 Sacramento St.) was open. Referred to Harvard.

SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

Agassiz Meets the Contractor

On March 29 members of the Agassiz community had the opportunity to meet representatives from Eastern Construction, General Contractor for the new Agassiz School project. Guests included:

- Cam Patek, Project Manager of Eastern Contractors
- Ray Hamwey, Project Manager for Excavation, C.J. Mabardy
- George Metzger, HFMH Architects
- Martin Ullman, HFMH Architects
- Lou DiNapoli, Clerk of the Works
- Jim Rita, Cambridge School Department
- Steven Kirby, Eastern Construction
- Frank Marino, Eastern Construction

The initial phases will include excavation and foundation work. The major impact on the neighborhood during this phase of the work will be noise and vibrations from the placement of the sheet piles and traffic congestion from the trucks. The excavation and foundation work will be handled by C.J. Mabardy Trucking Co., a local Cambridge company. Mr. Hamwey said the newest equipment will be used, to decrease the problems from noise and pollution.

The representatives from Eastern Contractors gave some background on the company. They are 16 years old, bondable up to $100,000,000. They have done multiple buildings for the Lowell School Department. This will be their first project in the inner city. They are a non-union company. The City of Cambridge conducted thorough background checks on the Company.

Details from the evening’s discussion included:
- A temporary fence will be constructed first. The permanent fence will be an 8’ high chain link with two gates, locked when work is over.
- The fence will eliminate the sidewalk around the school.
- Parking will be eliminated on both sides of the streets around the school.
- The sheet pile placement will begin in April.
- Beginning in early May there will be 2-3 weeks of heavy trucking while dirt is removed.
- Trucks will enter onto Sacramento St. from Oxford the wrong way if approved.
- Trucks will leave the neighborhood via Oxford St. alternating between Wendell and Garfield. Before 9 a.m. the school bus stop at Wendell will be avoided.
- There will be 3-4 trucks waiting on Sacramento St. during earth removal but traffic may proceed.
- There will be a police detail to assist with traffic.
- Vibrations will occur from the placing of sheet piles lasting 5-6 weeks. Neighbors are requested to remove valuables from walls, and back up computers frequently. Vibrations will be monitored by an independent company.
- Mr. Hamwey and his staff will survey basements of houses in the zone of influence.
- Work is scheduled between 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Some workers may be on site Saturdays, but no noisy work will be done then.
- The concrete pour will last 10-14 days, sometime in May-June. During the pour it may be necessary for work to extend beyond 4:30. Residents agreed that working until 6:30-7:30 p.m. was acceptable during that period.
- There will be up to 60 workers per day on site. Eastern is exploring parking options.
- There will be a storage trailer on the tot lot, and other neighborhood space is being explored.
- Concerns should be forwarded to the hot line at 497-4388.

Thanks to Chair, Janet Rustow, who provided the notes on this meeting.

UNIVERSITY REAL ESTATE

**"Houses Near Harvard"**

Fred Meyer, C.R.B., C.R.S., G.R.I., REALTOR ® (617) 876-1200
Personally owned and managed for 31 years
Office: 5 J.F.K. St., overlooking Harvard Square
Home: 83 Hammond Street 876-1213
Sacramento Field

There was a meeting held April 5 to discuss the upcoming field renovations, and notes were provided for the Whistler by Susan Sills. Guests included George Metzger, Architect for the Agassiz School, Randy Sorensen, landscape architect, and Paul Ryder from Cambridge Recreation Department.

George Metzger provided the schedule of construction will be from August 15 to December 1994. The field will be inaccessible and unusable until September 1995 to allow for seed to grow.

Randy Sorensen presented the schematic design for the field, as follows:
- The Basketball court will be resurfaced and new hoops will be provided.
- The field will be re-graded, seeded and a new drainage and irrigation system will be provided.
- The existing backstop will remain, and the vine on it will be saved. The top portion will be removed. A new backstop with a canopy will be installed inside the running track.
- Two or three minor trees will be removed. One weed tree will come down on the fence line.
- The budget for the field is $300,000.
- The new play area for toddlers is 30"x90", and it will have "..." structure, sand box, and some narrow aluminum benches. The ground surface will be rubberized tile for fire safety and wheelchair accessibility. There was considerable discussion about benches, with some preferring more comfortable and attractive benches, others feared that might invite sleeping. A picture of the benches will be submitted soon.
- Fencing will be replaced on all but the south side. The fencing is rusted, and if not replaced will become a safety and security problem soon. It will likely be black vinyl coated.
- The access from Sacramento Place will remain.
- The new entrance at Sacramento St. is designed as an 8' wide sidewalk of concrete pavers, with a 2' planted buffer zone along the east side, adjacent to the row houses, for a total of 10'. This will be a pedestrian only access (no vehicles) and will have an 8" curb (above the level of the Guidance Center parking lot) along its west edge. Emergency and maintenance vehicles will access the site through the Guidance Center parking lot, entering the field at a gate between the basketball court and the toddler lot. This is a considerable change from what was agreed upon at the last meeting and has been undertaken for the following reasons:
  1. Harvard does not plan to redo the Guidance Center parking lot. It would cost too much and the Guidance Center would be (according to its lease with Harvard) required to pay 60% of the construction cost.

For a detailed copy of the notes from this meeting, please call the council at 349-6287, and we will send them out to you.

There was another meeting on April 25 to discuss the Sacramento St. access issue, and as a result of that meeting a letter was sent to Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, requesting that agreement be made on: a plan that will provide "..."; wide, welcoming, child-safe, pedestrian-friendly access to Sacramento Field", clarify the legal status of the access property and not impede the renovation. They proposed that the plan return to a 15' right of way, and that the City and Harvard sit down with Agassiz representatives to clarify the access issue.

Community School News

Outback

Outback Summer Day Camp is filling up for the summer. Be sure to get your registration in now so your child can come for all the weeks you want this summer. Call Jody or Dawn at 349-6287 for a brochure and information, or stop by 20 Sacramento St. and pick up a brochure.

Agassiz Afterschool for Fall

The full time (five days per week) after school program for children in grades K-5 is now accepting registrations for the fall.

Bussing is provided by all Cambridge Public Schools, and children come from every public school to attend this excellent program. For a monthly tuition fee, children may participate in dance, drama, sports, art and a wide variety of clubs and special interest activities.

"Agassiz Afters" has been around since the 70's. Our teachers traditionally stay with us for many years because it is a good place for kids and staff. Their backgrounds and education are varied, including education and the arts. Specialists are hired to teach specific disciplines such as dance, drama, and visual arts. Scholarships are available.

The part time program (up to three afternoons each week) begins registering in September. Call Jody at 349-6287 to register or for more information.

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Your Neighborhood Realtor

ELIZABETH BROWNING
864-4430 BUSINESS
497-4511 RESIDENCE
HUNNIEMAN AND COMPANY COLDWELL BANKER
1720 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE MA 02138
Whistler Questionnaire

Please take a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire. Your responses will help the Long Range Planning Committee determine the effectiveness of The Whistler. The more responses we get, the better we can determine community wide news needs, and respond accordingly. Please feel free to comment on any question.

How did you receive this copy of The Whistler?

How long have you read The Whistler? Do you read at least some of it every month?

Do you live in Agassiz neighborhood? What is your street?

What do you like most about The Whistler?

What do you like least about The Whistler?

Does The Whistler give you the neighborhood information you want? What type or information is that?

Has the Whistler inspired you to get active in neighborhood issues? Explain:

What kinds of new or different things would you like to see in The Whistler? (School information, city wide information, broader calendar listings, opinion pieces, etc)

**PLEASE CIRCLE**

Newsletter length is: too long too short about right

Newsletter is issued: too often not often enough about right

Articles are: too long too short too detailed about right

Format suggestions: Add photos add graphics larger print keep as is

Other Comments:

To return this questionnaire, rip this page out and fold at the two heavy lines on the back of this sheet. Tape closed, stamp and put in the mail. Thank you for taking the time to help.
## Community Calendar MAY 1994

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Through June 30</th>
<th>9-5 Weekdays</th>
<th>Exhibit: Portraits of Multiracial Families</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center</td>
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<td>41 Second St. East Cambridge. Call 577-1400</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>New Agassiz School Ground breaking. See Box below for details.</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>11 a.m.- 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Central Square World's Fair</td>
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<td>Between Pearl and Brookline Sts. Call 349-4380</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Agassiz Neighborhood Council Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell)</td>
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<td>May 30</td>
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<td>Memorial Day Holiday</td>
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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.

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### You are cordially Invited

**Agassiz School Ground Breaking**  
May 10, Tuesday at 10 a.m.  
corner of Oxford and Sacramento Sts.  
Reception immediately following at the Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.  
(Rain date May 17)

**Annual Meeting**  
May 24, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.  
Election of Directors and Officers  
Presentation of Agassiz Survey  
Refreshments