Neighborhood Council Notes.............

Update on Licenses:
The proposed compromise on the licenses for the site of Lenora's Restaurant, 1812 Mass. Ave. (across from the old Sears site) have been approved. The agreement calls for a restaurant with a full liquor license with seating for 225 people. There will be no dancing. The entertainment license will allow one instrument with no amplification. This license will have a one year probationary period.

The liquor license for a package store at University Wine has been transferred to the new owners who have also gained control of the lease for the building which also houses the stores Arsenic and Old Lace and International Expressions.

The new owners have been advised by the license commission that the current square footage (1,390) of retail sales cannot be increased, and when they take control of the rest of the space, it cannot be for liquor sale.

The license commission advised the applicant that a chauffeur license at 59 Garfield Street would not be granted until neighbors were met with over concerns regarding business growth on a residential street. Since then the applicant has not responded and no license has been issued.

Candidates Nights
Candidates Nights were held in October—One on 10/8 for city council candidates at Peabody School and one on 10/14 for school committee at Agassiz School for the benefit of both neighborhoods.

Committees for the Council
The neighborhood council has organized a number of ongoing committees to take us through the upcoming year. Some include Development Issues and Zoning, Barn Renovation, Tot Lot Renovation, Traffic and Safety, and Dog Leashing. If you are interested in working on one of these committees, please call the office at 498-9056

next council meeting...

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
November 11, Wednesday
7:30 PM Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento Street
AGENDA:
7:30 General Business
8:15 AIDS Information Night

Curb Cuts [The Office of the Clerk, City of Cambridge sends the neighborhood council information on all petitions for curb cuts in our neighborhood. They requests feedback within ten days. When this information is received in time for the Whistler, it will be printed for your information.]

There has been a petition to request a curb cut for a driveway at the premises numbered 4 Arcadia Street. Please contact the office of the neighborhood council at 498-9056 with any comments.

Family Folk Dance NOVEMBER 15
Come join us at
with Jill Gleim, Michael Punzak and other guest artists from 7:30 to 9:30 PM in the Agassiz School Gym. Everyone is welcome. Cost is $2 for adults and $1.50 for kids (children must be accompanied by adults).

There will be other family folk nights December 11 and January 8, same time, same place. These events sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. For more information please call Debbie at 628-5077 or Carol at 666-2855

Thanksgiving Pot Luck
Come and join us on Tuesday NOVEMBER 24th between 6-8 PM for the Annual Agassiz Thanksgiving Pot Luck Feast to be held in the Agassiz School Gym. For new folks, that's on the corner of Sacramento and Oxford Streets.
We will supply the turkey, you can bring any side dish or dessert (ethnic or old family specialties are especially welcome)! Parents can take children to the library for films after the food.

If you only attend one neighborhood event this year, make it this one! All community members are welcome. For information call 498-9056.
Lelsey College Events

★ A special note of Thanks to Lesley College for the work done to cover the dumpster on Oxford Street near Mellen.

November 13-14 Middle School Mathematics and Science: A Day for Teachers. This conference will focus on the integration and uses of technology, sponsored in part by Lesley, Apple Computer, and Mass. Dept. of Education. Keynote speaker will be Mary Budd Rowe, President of the National Science Teachers Association.

November 19-21 New England Kindergarten Conference. This conference hosts 2,500 early childhood educators from all over New England. Held in part in Randolph and in part on the Lesley campus.
For more information contact Jane Sullivan 868-9600 x117.

Group Figure Skating Lessons are available at the MDC Rink on Somerville Ave. in Somerville, about a mile from the Beacon Street Bridge.

The Metropolitan Figure Skating School presents lessons for adults and children ages 6 up, taught by Arlene Rachins, Professional. Lessons will be held Saturday and Sunday Noon to 1:45 PM beginning November 14. This is privately rented ice, and only the school will be using it.

The cost will be $70 for 24 sessions. You can register at noon on November 8 at the skating rink or for more information and an application call 332-4352.

Programs of interest to Agassiz

Yoga Classes Available in Agassiz Neighborhood

Danielle Levi Alves will instruct classes in Kripalu Yoga at Jillsville, 354 A Beacon St. near Oxford St. Classes will be held on
Thursday 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Participants should bring a blanket and wear loose clothing. New classes will be formed as interest grows. Classes cost $6 each or $42 for 8 weeks. For more information call Danielle at 354-2113.

The Thanksgiving Pot Luck Needs Helpers

We need a dozen volunteers to help cook turkeys for the Thanksgiving Pot Luck Feast to be held on November 24 at 6PM.

If you will be able to cook a turkey for this event, won't need to bring another pot luck dish, and we will purchase the turkey and deliver it to your door on the Monday before the event. You can even take the bones home for soup!

Please call the office at 498-9056 to let us know.
Agassiz School:
Problem identification/solving report

[The following is taken directly from a report filed in September by John Cawthorne, a facilitator who was hired by
the school department to assist the Agassiz School Community
with problem identification and solving. A complete copy of
this report is on file in the school office, or call the
neighborhood council for a copy]

TO: MRS. MARY LOU MCGRATH
DIRECTOR OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

THE AGASSIZ SCHOOL COMMUNITY

FROM: JOHN CAWTHORNE

RE: PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION/SOLVING REPORT

During the week of August 31, 1987 I spoke with a
number of parents and faculty at the Agassiz School. The goal
of the interviews was to gather information about now
individuals perceived the problems which erupted at the end
of the 1987-88 [sic] school year and to plan for the Friday,
September 4 Workshop.

The interviews were surprisingly candid; surprisingly
because none of the individuals had ever met me and,
therefore, had to place a great deal of trust in the school
administration's ability to select someone who was capable of
helping the school community sort through and begin to solve
its problems.

The interviews were very candid, and it was clear that a
lot of feelings had been hurt; it was even clearer that there
had not been an opportunity for parents and faculty to talk
with one another, to listen to one another, and to clarify their
understandings of what had transpired.

I think it would not be helpful to summarize the
interviews although I kept my notes in case I, or someone
else, needs to refer to them. Instead, it must be understood
that everyone I spoke with was hurt, disillusioned, and angry.

FRIDAY'S MEETING

The four hour meeting was divided into three parts:
identification of the origin of the conflict and reaching
consensus on several statements to describe the origin,
listing activities which might address the statements, and
brainstorming where do we go from here.

[The section of Mr. Cawthorne's report which states the
origin of the conflict has been skipped, and what follows is
the consensus on several statements to describe the conflict]

1. Everyone involved in the Horace Mann grant did not
have sufficient opportunities to check out rumors and
assumptions.

2. While there had been a significant number of
attempts to address the issues of a diverse student body, no
consensus was reached on how to meet the needs of all
children.

3. Some faculty and parents had lost some trust in one
another's ability to identify and solve problems.

4. Despite the Superintendent's policy on community
involvement, there is not a widely shared consensus about the
role of parents in the Agassiz School Community.

5. The school lacks a structure for on-going
communications among parents, faculty and students to
facilitate school improvements and increase the satisfaction
of the school community.

6. System support for new teachers, specialists, and
teachers in general is not sufficient, including a process to
support new teachers, support teachers in crisis, and
support for parents and teachers working together.

7. Last spring there were unresolved issues among the
faculty and between parents and staff about academic
standards and pedagogical approaches, especially in the upper
grades.

The above process took longer than anticipated but the
"extra" time was necessary in order for those present to
begin hearing each other; also, participants had an
opportunity to check out assumptions and to listen to how
others felt; the consensus reaching exercise helped the
participants to recognize and accept that the several groups
(is the principal a group?) could reach agreement on
important issues.

This exercise was designed to help participants think
about specific activities which might help to address the
seven issues listed above; there was no evaluation of any
suggested activity nor any attempt to rank order them.

1. It was agreed that those involved in the Horace Mann
grant should meet to design activities to conquer statement #1

2. "Meeting the needs of a diverse student body"
   a. School fair
   b. Second Annual Gala
   c. Parents and staff identify area of interest and
   through visits to other schools, discussions, and workshops
   examine alternatives and report back
   d. Educate and organize parents and staff to examine
   the structures used to communicate.
   e. On-going support from the system
   f. Identify small groups to work on specific tasks
3. 'Re-establishing Trust'
   a. Develop ritual to dramatize that Agassiz is a school
      founded on trust and open communication
   b. acquire skill of being "gentle and clear" at the
      same time
   c. Establish informal and formal channels of
      communication
      Unfortunately, we were not able to complete this task;
      time was just too limited.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE
1. Inform (assure) other active parents and staff that
   the issues are being dealt with.
2. Strike and maintain a constructive tone
3. Open future sessions to all parents and actively
   recruit other parents to participate
4. Schedule continuation of the process
5. Continue with Steering Committee while examining
   possible structural changes.
6. Select a group of parents and staff to establish a time
   line and structure for recruiting parents, disseminating
   information and developing a series of proposals for
   addressing issues.
7. More work on reaching consensus on various issues
8. Continued support from the Central Office
9. Need for a way to reach closure

CONSULTANTS ASSESSMENT
I felt the week and especially Friday was very productive; the
participants may have come to Friday’s meeting with low
expectations but I believe they left feeling that progress could
be made and that the issues were not insurmountable. There
seemed to be a real commitment to make the Agassiz a "model"
school community. I, also, sensed a willingness to collaborate
on defining and achieving goals. [Here the facilitator
suggested a schedule for a series of meetings which were
subsequently scheduled throughout the fall for 10/8, 10/29,
11/12, 12/10]

These meetings would require a consultant, either a system
person or an outside consultant; the Agassiz community needs
a "neutral" observer to assist it in moving forward. Also, if
each meeting identified specific tasks to be accomplished by
the next meeting, parents and staff would have even more
opportunities to work together on solving common
problems. In conclusion, there is much work to be done but
everyone seems willing to give the time and energy needed to
move forward. I hope that the central administration and the
participants at Friday’s workshop share my optimism.
Federal Information Center Can Help

Every day people suffer needless frustration because it is so difficult to find answers to questions about the Federal Government. Efficient, thorough help through the government maze is as close as your telephone...as close as the Federal Information Center. The experienced staff will either answer your questions or put you in touch with the experts who can help you. Information about bank regulation, small businesses, national parks, Peace Corps, job opportunities, copyrights, travel outside of the US, protections for consumers, programs for seniors, government publications, social security and armed forces.

Just call 565-8121. (The above was taken from a flyer given out by the General Services Administration in Boston)

Information for Kindergarten Parents - Fall 88

There are two Parent Information Nights scheduled so far by the school department for parents who will have a child entering kindergarten next fall (1988).

It is very important to understand that Cambridge has an open enrollment policy. This means your child is eligible to attend any public school in Cambridge—you will not automatically be assigned to your local school. Some schools have long waiting lists, and your first preference for a public school is not guaranteed. It is important to know your options and you can find out about them at the information meetings. They will be held at the following times and locations:

November 5 Thursday
7:30 PM at the Harrington School, 850 Cambridge St.

November 9 Monday
7:30 PM at the Peabody School, 44 Linnaean St.

These meetings are informational only. You will not be able to register your child for school at these meetings. As The Whistler went to press, dates for registration were not available. For more information call 498-9250

Volunteers wanted to help the homebound......

The Cambridge Council on Aging seeks volunteers to serve as visitors to the homebound elderly to chat or take short neighborhood walks. Meet an interesting new friend who will really value your companionship. The volunteers offer friendship, enrichment, and assistance to older people on a one to one basis. They receive training, supervision and on-going staff support. Call Sandy at 498-9039

agassiz reading series presents:

Poet Carl Sesar November 20 at 7:30 in the gallery at 20 Sacramento Street

Carl Sesar, poet and translator, will read from his translations which include Poems to Eat a work of the modern Japanese poet, Ishikawa Takuboku, selected poems of Catullus, and he will also read from Hey, a collection of original poems.

Anne Hyland in Sacramento St. Gallery
through November 14 showing porcelain grids and games. Admission is free, public is welcome between 2-5 PM Tuesday-Saturday

Art from the Agassiz Afterschool Programs

Curated by Rich Curran will be shown from December 5 through the Holiday Season. There will be a reception on Saturday December 5 beginning at 2 PM, and at the same time Robin Winter, our former afterschool artist and teacher will be back by popular demand to tell stories to all the children and their guests.

ADS *** HELP AVAILABLE *** HELP WANTED

Office Manager’s Position in sales office of rapidly growing electronics co. in Kendall Square Cambridge. Responsibilities include work processing, telemarketing, bulk mailing, trade show assistance $20-25,000 per year, medical insurance, 2 wks vacation, flexible hours, paid parking, walk to Red Line. Opportunity for outside sales. Send resume to Autosparc Northeast, One Kendall Sq. #320, Cambridge, MA 02139
November CALENDAR

November 3, Tuesday ........................................ Election Day--Public and Community Schools Open
GET OUT AND VOTE

November 4, Wednesday ....................................... "Counteracting Native American Stereotypes"
Community Forum at King School 7-9 PM
For more information call 623-5096

November 11, Wednesday ...................................... Veterans Day--Public and Community Schools Closed

November 11, Wednesday ...................................... Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
7:30 PM Agassiz Community Center
20 Sacramento Street (see pg. 1 for agenda)

November 12, Thursday ......................................... Agassiz School meeting (see article)
7-8:30 Agassiz School Library
28 Sacramento St.

November 13, Friday ............................................. Family Folk Dance with Jill Gleim, Michael Punzak
7:30-9:30 PM Agassiz Gym $2 Adults, $1.50 Kids

November 19, Thursday ......................................... Forum on Health Issues in Cambridge
2:30-4:30 PM Cambridge Hospital (see article)

November 20, Friday ............................................. Agassiz Reading Series presents Carl Sesar
7:30 PM, 20 Sacramento St. (see article)

November 24, Tuesday .......................................... Annual Agassiz Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner
6-8PM Agassiz Gym -- Community Invited!

November 26, Thursday ......................................... Thanksgiving Day--No Public or Community School

November 27, Friday ............................................. Thanksgiving Break--No Public or Community School

December 5, Saturday ............................................ Agassiz Reading Series presents ROBIN WINTER who will tell children's stories at 20 Sacramento St. 2 PM for the opening of a children's art show

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

THE WHISTLER
November 1987