ANC News

24th Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Nov. 21

Join the community from 6-8 p.m. in the Agassiz School for our 24th Annual Pot Luck. You bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert; the ANC provides the turkey and the ambiance of our new school cafeteria. (Use the 28 Sacramento St. door.

Turkey Cookers Wanted!!! We will purchase a medium size turkey and deliver it to your door Monday November 20. Anyone willing to cook a turkey or for more information, call the council at 349-6287.

Notes from the October 17 ANC Meeting

Miscellaneous Business

Two Cambridge Candidates Nights were announced. School Committee candidates were scheduled to come together in the Agassiz School on October 18, and City Council Candidates were scheduled for October 24 in the Peabody School. There was a reminder to visit the Open House and Dedication scheduled for Sunday October 22 at the Agassiz School.

Althea Buckley send the council a letter regarding the procedure known as Cleaning and Lining of pipes. This is done by the Water Department to rid iron deposits from the water. It was agreed to look further into the issue.

Astrid Dodds submitted a letter intended for National Car Rental to request they trim their overgrown trees and shrubs so that pedestrians can have safe access to the sidewalk. It was agreed to send this letter in the name of the ANC.

The Cottonwood Cafe located in Porter Exchange, has requested an entertainment license for one non-amplified instrument. Although no objection was made at the meeting to this request, it was specifically stated in the licensing agreements obtained by the developer of the property many years ago that there would be no entertainment licenses in the building. The council agreed to look into the license to be sure it was specifically written for one instrument and no amplification. The licensing hearing was scheduled for October 24.

News Letter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Thank you to TAGS HARDWARE for the generous donation of paint and materials for use at City Year Work-A-Thon October 21 held at 20 Sacramento St.

Kathleen Manion spoke of the variance requested for 1794 Mass. Ave., the big purple house across the Avenue slated for renovation as multi-residence. The request is for relief from side yard setback requirements to allow three dwelling units in Residence B Zone. She advised that the hearing was scheduled for October 26.

Renovations to Langdell Hall and Bence Block

Sandra Coleman, Administrative Dean from Harvard Law School and Happy Green, Director of Community Relations from Harvard joined us to discuss renovations to Langdell Hall, which serves as the Law School Library.

First, Sandra advised the group that there were no plans for the Bence block, which now includes Three Aces Pizza, Looks, Crimson Cleaners, and Central Barbershop. She said that this year Harvard had given three year leases to tenants. She promised to advise the neighborhood in the early stage of planning, when Harvard does decide to go forward on that property. Sandra said they would proceed as they had in the development of North Hall, which included the neighborhood early in the process. She has not forgotten from earlier discussions that the neighborhood wants that strip of Mass. Ave. to remain retail.

The renovation of Langdell Hall will begin with the construction of an underground electrical vault in November which should be completed in May. Truck traffic for this project will enter and exit from Mass. Ave. The main renovation will begin after the vault is completed and will proceed on a tight schedule for one school year. Collections and offices will be displaced while systems are replaced and updated. The work will be to the interior of the building.

Next Meeting
Agassiz Neighborhood Council November 28, Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento Street
Agenda: Mass. Ave. Planning
Call 349-6287 for specific information
Update on Sewer reconstruction

Steve White, Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Public Works, visited the council for an update on the massive sewer reconstruction project, known as Phase VI Combined Sewer Separation Project. This project is currently in progress, and it involves construction of approximately 57,000 feet of new sewers and storm drains to separate the combined sewerage and rainwater flows to the Charles River Basin.

Steve advised us that one of the three contracts for this phase has been completed, and the second contract is just about to be bid out. It will begin construction in the spring. The third contract (our neighborhood) begins at the Harvard end of Oxford Street and works its way up Oxford St. ending at the City Line. This phase should begin in a year from this spring and take approximately two years for completion.

Sacramento St. sewer lines from Mass. Ave. to Oxford St. will be renovated this spring. It will take 6 months, but the street will remain open during construction. Gas lines were moved this summer in preparation for this work.

There will be extensive community participation when the project nears the neighborhood, and Steve promised to be in touch with us. Streets will be individually evaluated for specific needs, but the neighborhood will have new, larger pipes for rainwater to drain into the Charles directly. Sidewalks, curbs, pavement and water lines will be replaced.

Floodings, long a problem in the neighborhood, was brought up by the many resident who came to express their concern. The flooding consists of backed up sewerage mixed with rainwater, and often comes into homes through bathtubs, toilets and other plumbing fixtures. There were pictures of knee deep water on Carver St., and one resident explained how her husband had contracted hepatitis from cleaning up this backed up sewerage water.

Resident from Hammond, Carver, Sacramento, Wendell, Crescent and Oxford Streets provided stories of ruined cars, broken furnaces, and children playing in this unsanitary standing water. It was generally agreed that this kind of storm occurs about once every two years, damaging property and causing a health hazard.

Although Steve agreed to do something to clean the streets after a storm like that, residents pointed out that this summer when it happened, there was no response and no clean up after repeated calls to the D.P.W.

Further concern was that this project may not be the panacea for flooding. Size of pipe, water originating in Somerville (at the Star Market parking lot), and the original swampy condition of the area also may confound the problem.

There were many individual issues that Steve agreed to check and see if he could help reduce the risk to individual residences. He gave his card to many individuals, and he can be reached at 349-4810.

Correction

In last months Whistler, some people were given the impression that Harvard Law School intended to purchase residential property in the Agassiz neighborhood. Harvard Law School has no intention of purchasing any Agassiz residential property at any time.

Neighborhood News

Traffic and Transportation

Traffic Committee Reconvenes

The Traffic Committee held its first meeting since school construction closed down Oxford St. The meeting was held at 20 Sacramento St. on October 10, chaired by David Valetin. The group is committed to work toward improvements that will make Oxford St. a more pleasant neighborhood street. Solutions to that end might include ideas such as "neck down" sidewalks, which stick out at corners. This prevents illegal parking, causing poor visibility and accidents.

The committee plans to work in concert with sewer renovations to be sure sidewalks and streets are reconstructed with neighborhood plans in mind. Trees and other amenities will also be discussed then.

The next traffic meeting will be held on November 28 in the Agassiz School Community Room at 6:30 p.m. just prior to the ANC meeting in the Cafeteria. Call 349-6287 for info.

City Wide

Porter Square Neighborhood Association

Sixty five residents and business owners gathered on September 28 to launch the Porter Square Neighbors Association. Concerns to address include pedestrian and traffic safety, litter, liquor and late closing licenses, and Cambridge-Somerville cooperation.

Stuart Dash of Cambridge Community Development advised the group that route 16 is slated for major renovations in fiscal 1997, and the city will be asking the neighborhood for input on planning. Community help will also be sought for renovations to Porter Square Shopping Center from owners, Gravesar Inc., said John Civlinsky, Director of Real Estate Planning and Investment.

A meeting is planned to "Envision Porter Square" for Saturday December 2, time and place to be announced. The results of participants visions for Porter Square will be sent to the owners of the Porter Square Shopping Center prior to their planning. This session is open to all people interested in Porter Square. To receive details on that meeting, call the council at 349-6287.

For more information on Porter Square Neighborhood Association, call Paul Myers, Chair, at 547-2531.

Agassiz Public School

Noisy Fan to Be Fixed

By the time you read this piece, the fan that has bothered neighbors should be fixed. The problem was found, and parts to correct the noise problem were ordered. It is hoped that the solution will be in place by the Gala Opening of the Agassiz School on October 22.

Other construction odds and ends are due to be finished by the end of October. You can still call the Hot Line at 497-4388 if there are outstanding details to report after October.
### Agassiz Community School

Contact Jody Garber at 349-6287 for additional information.

### Agassiz Afterschool

**Open House for Afterschool Kindergarten parents** will be held at 20 Sacramento St. on Tuesday November 14 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

### Other ANC Programs

**Evening Sports**

**Monday night Basketball for Teens** will begin on November 6 from 6-7:30. The cost will be $2 per session. Come to the Sacramento St. door.

**Wednesday Night Adult Pick up Basketball** will begin on November 8 from 6-7:30 p.m. **Open Sports** will begin the same night from 7:30-9, and it will include basketball and volleyball. The cost will be $2 per session. Come to the Sacramento St. door.

### Election Section

**Candidate Statements**

The following statements were solicited by the ANC from candidates for Cambridge City Council and Cambridge School Committee. Candidates were asked to state their four highest priorities for Cambridge in 150 words. If no statement was provided we have just listed the candidates name and address.

**City Council Candidates**

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<tr>
<th>Kathleen Leahy Born</th>
<th>3 Walnut Avenue</th>
<th>02140</th>
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<td>My top priorities for this Council term are: 1) Affordable Housing: With two decades of experience in the housing field, I can state with confidence that our neighborhood is facing a housing crisis. I will focus my energy on helping the many tenants who are faced with the loss of their long-term homes. We must increase our $2 million annual allocation to affordable housing and revisit the idea of subsidies for immediate relief. 2) Neighborhood Preservation: As former President of Neighborhood Nine, I understand the value of community input into planning for development. Massachusetts Ave. can’t become a strip of coffee shops and bars. 3) Public Safety: People need to be safe and feel safe on the sidewalks of our neighborhoods. 4) Traffic: Cars and trucks are choking our neighborhoods. With the reopening of the Agassiz School, we must prevent trucks and cars from using Oxford St. as a shortcut and a speedway.</td>
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<th>Martyt Connor</th>
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<th>02139</th>
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<td>Balance the costs of economic development with the benefits— I will vote for those projects whose benefits, like job creation, provision of food, and addition to the taxbase, outweigh their costs, particularly to nearby neighborhoods. Keep the schools strong— I will advocate to fund the schools so that children, no matter what their backgrounds, have the chance to succeed in school and in life. I endorse a national search for a new superintendent. Increase affordable housing in the city— I endorse the $10 million plan which takes the savings and increase in revenue generated from the end of rent control and applies it to low and moderate home ownership and rental housing opportunities.</td>
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| Henrietta Davis | 120 Chestnut St. | 02139 |

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<tr>
<th>Anthony D. Galluccio</th>
<th>86 Buckingham Street #1</th>
<th>02138</th>
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<td>Housing—I initiated a first time home buyers program and I was a strong supporter of the City Home Housing Program. I should be focused on the 1200-1300 tenants currently under protected status and to help more tenants get into ownership and limited equity situations. I have successfully encouraged Harvard to extend the tenant protected period. Schools—A proud and recent graduate of the public schools, I use my experience to suggest the following—1) An alternative high school focused on needs of disruptive students 2) S.A.T. focused curriculum 3) Expansion of successful programs (ex. Core Knowledge). Controlling Taxes—We must get control of our budget to give residents tax relief. I have pushed for prioritizing our needs</td>
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and appreciating the commercial sector which provides 2 of our 3 tax dollars. My first budget consisted of property tax rate reduction and the smallest budget increase since 1983. Youth: I realize from experience the importance of Community Schools, Youth Centers, and job programs for youth. I have initiated resume and interview workshops in Youth Centers and stressed the correlation between public safety and our ability to nurture youth.

William C. Jones 160 Norfolk St. 02139
Paul T. Kearn 5 Gerry St. 02138
Craig A. Kelley 78 Porter Road #41 02140

The Four Most Pressing Issues for the City of Cambridge:
*Development is the number one issue in Cambridge. The world's best schools, crime prevention and social welfare programs will ultimately fail if Cambridge turns into a community dominated by traffic, parking lots and impersonal, large developments. All development proposals must adequately address neighborhood and city concerns.
*Affordable housing is of prime importance to Cambridge. Any money saved or earned by Cambridge because of rent control's end must go towards helping needy tenants.
*All Cambridge schools must be safe and effective places for our children to learn. It makes no sense to send eight-year-olds across town because certain schools are perceived to be better or worse than others.
*Public safety means that all of the public is safe. Safe from assault, safe from burglary and safe from accidents. Many areas of town need more lighting or police presence. Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters and automobile drivers cannot compete in a transportation free for all.

Lester P. Lee 6 Agassiz Street #1 02140

As a lifelong resident of Cambridge and a progressive candidate for the Cambridge city Council, I share with you the many concerns about the future of our city. I am concerned about the rights of all Cantabrigians to live, work, be educated, and feel safe in our community. I am concerned about how to make our city government and policies accessible, accountable, and responsive to the needs of the people. And I am deeply concerned about the need to reaffirm our shared goal of a tolerant, compassionate, open, and diverse community.

Because of these concerns, I have put before the voters a candidacy that is committed to activism. I am activist, a citizen activist. I believe that it is not enough to claim membership in a community and then, fail to actively participate in its affairs. Only through active participation can one re-affirm his or her belief in the community. And my candidacy is predicated upon a profound belief that Cambridge is a good place to live, work, be educated, and feel safe in.

My past activism includes being President of the Cambridge Community Center, Chairman of the Cambridge Arts Council, Chairman of Safe Our Communities Coalition and Co-Chairman of the Committee for a Just Supreme Judicial Court.

Ralph A. Lopez 66 Pearl Street #5 02139
My priorities for City Council are to continue the direction of positive reform instituted by Commissioner Anderson for the Cambridge Police Department, to provide real leadership on tenant issues such as the $10 Million Plan, to act as a bulwark against overdevelopment and inappropriate development, and, by a combination of these and other policies, to preserve the kind of neighborhood stability and integrity which is a precondition for a crime-free community. I think it is important to realize that Commissioner Anderson's reforms will be under attack by Independent/Alliance Councillors who have made no secret of their displeasure with Mr. Anderson's administration, which has given us more officers on patrol and fewer behind desks and more officers on foot and on bikes. For this reason it is important to get out and vote for Councillors who are supportive of the direction which he has imparted to the department, and who will oversee the selection of a new police commissioner who is as forward thinking as he has been.

James J. McSweeney 29 Harrison Ave. 02140

As we move toward the 21st Century, it is imperative that Cambridge begins to come up with innovative ways to solve today's problems. As a City Councillor, my top priorities are: public safety, education, support of our seniors, and responsible economic development.

Statistically, crime may be on the decline in Cambridge, but ask yourself, do you feel any safer? Unfortunately, many people will answer NO. We must do what we can to make Cambridge a safer place. This includes fighting violence in the home. We MUST put an end to domestic violence.

Cambridge spends upwards of $11,000 a year per student, twice the state average yet scores well below state and federal averages on standardized testing. We are cheating our children out of a quality education and ensuring that they will be unable to compete in the 21st century.

Cambridge seniors are concerned about health care. I have proposed that Cambridge create an ombudsman who would act as a liaison between the city and the community to assist senior citizens.

In order to maintain the current level of services without tax increases, Cambridge needs to create a well thought out, economic development plan. We must work to attract responsible businesses that will not decrease property value or adversely effect the environment.

Barbara J. Pilgrim 39 Jay Street 02139
Kenneth E. Reeves 11 Everett St. #2WG 02138

Priorities for the City for the 1996-97 Council term should be:
1. Focus on public education to assure that all schools function in successful academic environments where students are presented with talented teachers and challenging curriculum. All Students must learn the joy (and difficulty) of serious academic rigor. Cambridge could have the best schools in the U.S.A. Let's get them there.
2. The City must develop and fund a housing program which will retain working poor and moderate income people and families in Cambridge. I strongly support the $10 Million Plan. Cambridge must focus on workforce development and school to work transition. May citizens of this city need assistance in acquiring the skills and job advancement strategies that will make them competitive in the 21st Century. The City must play an active role in this important area. Workforce development must be the partner of economic development.

4. I frankly believe that a city has a "soul" and that the City is much inspired and energized by the dynamism of its arts community. In the wake of rent control—housing is more expensive. Where and how will artists live. My priority is to assure the city has an active arts community.

Sheila T. Russell 5 Hawthorne Park #2 02138
If I am re-elected to the Cambridge City Council, I will focus my work in the following four areas: 1. Public Safety—especially supporting and expanding community policing and dealing with issues of pedestrian safety. 2. Senior Citizen Services—with a special concentration on expanding and increasing service delivery through the new Citywide Senior Center; 3. Controlling City Spending through aggressive accountability; and 4. Constituent and Neighborhood Services with attention to funding for new sidewalks, street construction and maintenance.

The Boston Globe wrote last year that I am a "tireless worker who spends long hours in City Hall lending a sympathetic ear to citizens in need. Constituent service is her trademark and she gets things done." I pledge to continue to live up to that endorsement. Thank you.

Jonathan T. Spampinato 209 Allston St. 02139
Michael A. Sullivan 28 Putnam Avenue 02139
The following are the top four priorities I see for the City of Cambridge and the City Council in the coming term: Crime, Education, Housing, Economic Development

Crime
I believe we must continue to build upon the community policing program currently in effect and to work to become more proactive in all our neighborhoods. We have made great strides in the Community Policing Program, but frankly we are not there yet—I am committed to community policing not just in concept but in practice. Although, I believe that it would be better named "Neighborhood Policing" in the sense that we need to start on a much more grass roots bases and bring neighbors together and restore safety in our neighborhoods. Only as a team—police and neighbors together can we make a difference, as a former Assistant District Attorney and Assistant Attorney General, I know this first hand. We must give our police the appropriate staffing and support not only to eradicate crime but also the fear of crime, which can cause paralysis in a community. I have not simply talked the talk, but walked the walk, I have participated in a number of Community Policing initiatives; I am a member of the COP Leadership Council and Steering Committee and am presently enrolled in the Cambridge Police Civilian Police Academy.

Katherine Triantafillon 90 Reed Street 02140
I have worked for honest, efficient government and been a consistent advocate for integrity and openness. If reelected, I will build on my record of progressive activism in:
Public Safety - I will promote long-term plans to eliminate domestic violence and support greater coordination among city departments on issues of public safety.

Housing: We must provide affordable housing options, promote negotiations between landlords and tenants to keep rents down and develop zoning policies which reward the building of affordable units.

Budget and Finance-Our city should adopt mission-driven budgeting and produce a service oriented budget.

Diversity, Youth and the Elderly- The diversity of Cambridge must be recognized and supported in city government. We must provide our children with a rigorous and joyful education and help our families face the contemporary challenges of raising children. We should support our senior citizens and work with the Council on Aging and the new senior center.

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. 88 Sixth Street 02141
For the past six years, I’ve had the honor and privilege to serve as your City Councillor. As I now campaign for re-election, I believe I have been the effective, responsive and visible City Councillor you expect and deserve. My primary goal is to make government work for you rather than against you. Constituent service is, and will continue to be, my most important responsibility.

As a City Councillor, I demand an increase in the city’s public safety budgets so our residents can feel safe from crime. I have worked to ensure that large scale developments do not destroy our neighborhoods, while continuing to bring a balance between proper business developments and neighborhood concerns. My goal is to make Cambridge a safe and comfortable place to live and work for all our residents, not just the select few from Brattle St. and Coolidge Hill Rd. I have also proposed a Residency Ordinance for city employees. City employees have a greater interest to excel in their jobs if what they do affects their own quality of life and that of their neighbors on a daily basis. My Residency Ordinance is an excellent way to show the citizens of Cambridge that we care about them.

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35 Sacramento St, Cambridge, MA 02138
Robert Winters 366 Broadway #2 02139
My top four priorities are:
  Building social capital in the neighborhoods of Cambridge through improved community school programs, public celebrations, and shared resources from playgrounds to grocery stores. Safe neighborhoods result from neighbors who know each other and who work together to solve local problems.
  Steering city government away from ideological solutions and towards fair, practical solutions. While extremists on both sides of the rent control issue fought each other on ideological grounds, compromise was not an option. In the future, compromise should be the rule.
  Environment and infrastructure. I have been a driving force in developing our recycling and home composting program. I serve on the committee overseeing the revitalization of Central Square, with the pedestrian environment as our top priority. I can be even more effective as a City Councillor.
  Equitable distribution of services. Having more people traveling greater distances to shop at fewer grocery stores is a burden to all. This is a problem that we must solve now.

School Committee
Christine Arruda 3 James Way 02141
My four priorities are:
1. To set a height level of achievement in the curriculum. Enforcing basic skills in the earlier years will give our children a solid foundation of knowledge on which to build. Also we need to hold students and staff accountable for achieving the goals in the curriculum.
2. Address the needs of middle school students (competitive sports programs, academic encouragement, strong administrative leadership). We have to rebuild the traditional core to be challenging and rewarding.
3. Review and eliminate duplication of services and programs in the schools and at Thorsdike St. based on the needs of the children.
4. Give parent considerations priority.

Alfred B. Fantini 4 Canal Park #203 02141
Joseph G. Grassi 391 Cambridge St. 02141
My top four priorities for the school system would be to ensure safe schools, equity, academic excellence and fiscal responsibility. I want to provide our children with safe buses, facilities as well as a disruptive-free and violence-free learning environment. I also want to endure equity between all schools and programs including the distribution of classroom aides and technology. I want to continue to bring additional resources to the five focus schools. It is important that we challenge our students to achieve academic excellence by giving them the best curriculum, resources, teachers and high expectations. I truly feel that the School Committee must do a better job of managing the $85 million budget. I feel that spending $10,000 per pupil is an appropriate amount to spend on the education of our children, but we must continue to prioritize the budget and adequately fund the most important line items assuring excellence in education.

Robin A. Harris 23 Hew St. 02139
"Put your child in the hands of an educator." This is my slogan. What does it mean? I am an educator, first and foremost, committed to the education of Cambridge's children, and not the latest polls. Too often the School Committee becomes an arena for politicians looking for a "stepping stone".
During my two-year term, I brought issues to the forefront that are important to parents, staff, students and the community. Issues such as, bilingual education, faculty diversity, curriculum, special needs and parental involvement.
I intend to serve you and your children. With your support we can work together to ensure that education is the only item on the agenda.

Anthony Knopp 9 Culver Ave. #2 02138
Tony Knopp is committed to: clarifying school expenditures, empowering principals and local School Councils, making the system parent friendly, providing all students access to technology education.
Tony Knopp became active in school affairs five years ago, when his daughter entered Tobin's School of the Future and discovered she was using 12-year-old computers-the technological equivalent of the horse and buggy. Tony Knopp organized parents and educators across all Cambridge schools. Today TECH 2000-a comprehensive plan to address technology education issues for the entire Cambridge school system-is being implemented and bringing equity to all our schools.

During this fight Tony Knopp realized that a lack of leadership, planning and accountability is endemic throughout the administration. This shortsightedness affects all school issues; from special needs, curriculum development, and staff hiring and evaluation, to dilapidated furniture and dirty bathrooms.

Tony Knopp will work hard to expose and change this.

David P. Maher 120 Appleton St. 02138
I will continue to work to develop standards for student performance; set high expectations for all schools; reconnect disenfranchised parent groups; support comprehensive professional development and demand that actions like the Focus School Initiative move forward with curriculum development, program design, and financial support. Cambridge is in the unique position of dedicating two new schools this year, as well as moving forward with the Morse and Fitzgerald projects. However, we must continue to address legitimate concerns of inadequate space in all our aging buildings. As chairman of the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee, I have worked hard addressing space issues and concerns, successfully calling for a comprehensive space study and audit of all school buildings. I co-chair the special commission on the High School of the 21st Century. I am the Director of Development for Cambridge Family and Children's Services, Vice Chairman of the School Committee and the only elected member who lives North/West of Harvard Square.

Jon Maddox 9 Ellery St. 02138
My name is Jon Maddox. I have a master's degree in education from Harvard. I'm a lawyer. And, yes, I am the...