ANC NEWS

October 15 ANC Meeting Notes

Art Visitors

Janet Rustow, ANC Chairperson, opened the meeting and introduced Pat Dixon, Consultant and Pallas Lombardi, Executive Director for the Cambridge Arts Council. They joined the ANC meeting to learn more about arts programs in the Agassiz neighborhood. This summer two neighborhood representatives, Faith Chase and Mary Jo Clark, met with representatives from all Cambridge to discuss arts in the Cambridge neighborhoods. Also in attendance was Wendy Prellwitz, neighborhood artist and board member of the Cambridge Arts Council. They have been visiting all the neighborhoods, and they will use the information to better plan for the arts in Cambridge.

Pat and Pallas were aware of the arts programs that go on in the neighborhood, and congratulated the ANC on the receipt of a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant. Pallas reminded the neighborhood that the Cambridge School Committee had initiated an arts advisory council to deal with the issues of arts in the Cambridge Schools. Terry DeLancey said she planned to attend as the ANC representative.

Participants suggested the possibility of transportation to arts events, especially for children. Pallas and Pat learned that Lesley College has opened visual arts gallery space in the Porter Exchange building on the third floor. Pallas said that the neighborhood had little public art and asked neighbors where they might like to see public art in Agassiz. Pallas also suggested that the Arts Council would be happy to work with the neighborhood in finding suitable performances and artists for activities and events in the Agassiz neighborhood.

Lesley College Variance Discussed

Alan Fein, Lesley College Vice President, was in attendance when Janet Rustow read a letter from Lesley to the Board of Zoning Appeal regarding their variance application to convert residence use to office use on Mellen and Wendell Streets which would impact four units of housing. The letter includes promises to sell the dormitory at 10 Sacramento St. as a residence within 5 years; modifications to the parking plan for the backyards of the buildings on Wendell and Mellen; and an agreement to meet with the ANC at the November 19 meeting to come up with a plan that will relieve the Mellen St. residents of the noise and congestion caused by the shuttle bus that travels between Mellen St. and Porter Exchange.

Housing Issues

Affordable housing was the main topic at the meeting. There was some overlap discussion regarding Lesley College, and their commitment to affordable housing. Alan Fein assured us that Lesley has been in negotiations with Community Development.

Next Council Meeting

November 19, Tuesday

7:30 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall

28 Sacramento St. Entrance

Agenda:

Discussion of Lesley Shuttle Bus Route

between Mellen Street and Porter Exchange. Guests include:

Sue Clippinger, City traffic representative, and Alan Fein, Lesley College representative.
on this issue. Harvard will be selling 48 units of housing in the Agassiz neighborhood to the City of Cambridge, many of the units on Sacramento St. This caused Sacramento St. residents to question the need for Lesley to convert more Sacramento St. housing as affordable. Lesley also has units on Roseland St. and Oxford that they expect to divest in time. There was some discussion that this housing could be used for affordable housing. However, no affordable housing was linked to the requested variance.

There was widespread concern regarding the loss of protection as of December 31 for former rent control tenants. Joanne Preston reminded the group that there were many protected tenants in the Agassiz neighborhood. She stressed the urgent and immediate need for affordable housing. Long time residents will have to leave their long time communities when rents go up if no housing can be arranged. She asked that the Agassiz neighborhood create a letter of support for tenants that could be sent to landlords. Joanne agreed to write the letter, and Janet agreed to review and sign it.

Janet then introduced Roger Herzog, Housing Director from Cambridge Community Development Department. He represents the City department that will plan and coordinate affordable housing and programs to aid tenants. He was first asked to provide an update on the 100 affordable housing units that Cambridge will acquire from Harvard in 9 buildings, 48 of which are in the Agassiz neighborhood. He said that the deal was proceeding slowly but should be finalized within 60 days. When that happens, there will still be minimal opportunities for displaced tenants, since most tenants in the buildings have leases that will be honored by the City. There are approximately ten vacant units in all. Since rent control was abolished, the Agassiz neighborhood will lose 1,000 rent control units.

Community members had a wide variety of issues to discuss. One widespread Agassiz concern was a neighborhood preference for affordable housing. Roger was asked if some relief in the form of neighborhood preferences could be created so the new Harvard units could be given to qualified Agassiz residents. Roger and Peter

**Neighborhood News**

**Agassiz Floods in the October 20 Storm**

Many residents called in to report flooding throughout the neighborhood on the weekend of October 19-20. Flooding was reported on Carver, Crescent, Wendell, Oxford, Gorham and Sacramento Place. The ANC keeps a record of flooding, so flood victims should please call 349-6287 and provide a brief report that includes answers to most these questions: how much water came inside your house, how long was the water in your house, in what part of your house did it flood and what was damaged, how did it get into the house (from doors, windows or plumbing fixtures), if you have flooded before, how would you rate this one, if you called the City what was the response?

**Ground Breaking on Garfield St. November 8**

More than ten years in the planning, Cambridge Housing Authority has finally cut through the red tape, and construction is ready to begin. The public housing slated for the corner of Mass. Ave. and Garfield St. will be celebrated with a ground breaking ceremony on Friday November 8 at 11 a.m. at the site. City officials, Cambridge Housing Authority officials, the developer, the architect and the contractor will be on hand for this event. All community members are welcome.

First a fence will be put up, then the foundation will be built. The remainder of the work will wait until the spring after the threat of freezing. Call the ANC at 349-6287 for further information.

**TAGS donates materials for Workathon**

Tags Hardware has donated more than $3000 in materials to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council for use at the City Year Workathon on October 26. Staff and City Year volunteers will work together painting, repairing and cleaning the Agassiz Community Center located at 20 Sacramento St.

Thanks to Simon Shapiro of Tags, and to Dennis who helped so much!
Star Market Joins ANC in a Food Drive

There will be a food drive to aid the homeless during the whole month of November. Just purchase an extra few cans of food at the Star Market on Beacon St., then place them in the containers that will be marked and in the front of the store. Donations will be given to St. Paul’s Food Pantry located in Harvard Square. Do your shopping on November 17-19, and Star will donate cash to the ANC.

*Buy from Star on November 17-18-19 to aid ANC*

If you shop at the Star Market on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday November 17-19, Star will donate cash to the ANC equaling 5% of your purchases. You must have a coupon which will be distributed through and available at the Agassiz School and available in the Community Center as soon as it is issued to the ANC. Look for this coupon in the coming weeks. Thanks to Star Manager Keith Shaw, who worked with the council for this drive.

Sacramento Place House for Sale

Harvard Real Estate and Planning has advised the ANC that they have 21-23 Sacramento Place on the market for the neighborhood price of $860,000. It is the last house on the street bordering the field. Harvard has agreed to notify the community as houses in the Agassiz neighborhood go up for sale. The description follows:

This Victorian, side by side mansard duplex has over 1,500 square feet on each side. Currently assessed as separate properties, #21 is assessed as a two family (at $214,900); #23 is assessed as single family house (at $248,900).

Both have four bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bath. #21 has an additional half bath. The house needs substantial work, but the potential is fantastic. High ceilings with medallions, hardwood floors, bay windows, period detail.

#21 is vacant, and #23 is leased at $1,187 per month through 6/97. For details call Amy Tyson at 497-4155, Vesta Real Estate.

Lesley Converts Residences on Mellen & Wendell

As mentioned in the ANC News meeting notes above, Lesley College has received a variance to convert residences on Wendell and Mellen Streets into office buildings. This, and other Lesley planning issues continue to be discussed in regular meetings that include Lesley officials, Agassiz and Neighborhood Nine Association residents.

Concerns regarding the shuttle bus that travels between Porter Square and Mellen Street will be discussed with the help of Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation at the November 19 ANC meeting. Mellen residents would like to see the route moved off Mellen Street, since it is such a small, congested street with many children and heavy institutional traffic. Lesley would like to keep the bus ridership as high as possible, which means convenience to staff and students located on Mellen Street.

Are you interested in participating in the Lesley Planning Group? All are welcome when Lesley and Agassiz sit down and discuss issues of Lesley planning around the Mellen and the Porter Exchange campus areas.

Sewer Construction Strains Sacramento St.

It is a sample of what everyone will experience in the Agassiz neighborhood in the near future: the sewer reconstruction that will separate sanitary sewer lines from the storm drains. This project has been most impatiently awaited by many residents, since it is promised to relieve the terrible flooding experienced by large numbers of people who live from the Oxford Street area to the Somerville line.

The worst part of this construction should be finished in the early part of November, when both sewer and water lines will be installed. Sidewalks will then be done, and the street will be paved, although the final paving will take place in the spring.

The construction has been a trial for residents, with muddy, closed streets, poor access getting on and off the street and very limited parking. These inconveniences are what goes with this kind of construction, and the City has been very responsive to residents needs where possible. A temporary water line (those hoses going into each house) has been placed in case water had to be shut off.

Sacramento St. has its own site engineer, Louis Kustwan, who has made a real effort to keep in touch with the residents, and who has worked with the construction company on every issue of concern. This has been a major help, since residents have learned to walk out and find him when a problem presents itself. (He also returns calls.)

Plates will discourage dumping in the sewers

The idea of putting plates on sewers was brought to the attention of the ANC by Susan Redlich. These are plates that fix in the storm drains and say "Don't Dump-Drains to Charles River," and they are used in Boston. We contacted the DPW, and they have an OK from the contractor to install them. Thanks to Susan for the good idea and the research she did on it.
Traffic and Transportation
ANC meeting 11/19 will take up the Lesley Shuttle bus
See "Lesley Converts Residences on Mellen and Wendell" page 3 for more information on this issue.

Frank Duehay Assists Traffic Committee
City Councillor Frank Duehay met in October with members of the traffic committee to discuss the planning and next steps for the neighborhood in helping to plan for traffic calming on Oxford St. when the streets and sidewalks are reconstructed after the sewer work. Although the sewer work on Oxford St. is a long way off, planning must be done now to be included in the plans.
Frank has sent a letter to the City Manager requesting that he follow up with the various departments involved in the planning in order to provide the neighborhood with ample time to review their plans and provide input for the final plan which will be included in the sewer specifications.

Sacramento St. Sewer Construction
The worst is almost over. For an update on the project, see "Sewer Construction Strains Sacramento St." page 3.

Get Parking Permits by Mail or at 57 Inman
For the past three years, the Traffic and Parking Department has been providing Cambridge Resident Parking stickers in the Agassiz neighborhood each fall. Last year the numbers were down, and permits by mail increased by 300%. So this year, you can either go to Traffic and Parking at 57 Inman Street for your permit, or you can send for one by mail. Information on that will be available soon, or call Traffic and Parking at 349-4700 for the information. You will need to provide the proper paper work, which includes a current utility bill and the car registration.

Crime Watch
Police Liaison Assigned to Agassiz
Officer Anthony Santiago, bicycle patrol, called the ANC to advise the neighborhood that he had been assigned by the newly appointed Police Commissioner Ron Watson as the liaison to the Agassiz. It is his job to notify the neighborhood whenever there is an unusual or pattern crime in Agassiz. In this way we will get immediate and accurate information regarding local crime.
The new Cambridge Police Commissioner, Ron Watson, has scheduled a series of neighborhood meetings in all parts of the City. He will be visiting our area in early spring.

City Wide
Library 21 Holds Meetings
Library 21 is a city-wide Library Advisory Committee established by Cambridge City Council order and appointed by the City Manager, Robert Healy. Its function is to develop and implement a city-wide process for identifying the roles and services for the library system and translating these into physical requirements for the city's library system into the next century. Public participation is desired and encouraged.
Some of the questions that must be answered include:
• When do residents use the library?
• Do children use the main library? the branches?
• What new materials and services might attract non-users?
• How should computers and internet access be distributed?
There are six meetings scheduled in November at various branches. For a schedule of these meetings, you can call the ANC at 349-6287 or contact the library via email: library21@ci.cambridge.ma.us or write the Library 21 Committee c/o City Manager's Office. 795 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, 02138

Porter Square
Porter Square Shopping Center Agreement
On October 22 the Porter Square Neighbors Association disseminated an agreement that will be signed by the association, the Porter Square Shopping Center owners, and the City of Cambridge. This agreement, known as the Memorandum of Understanding, is the result of a year of discussions on the renovations and six weeks of discussion to address the concerns neighbors had with the plans. These concerns include parking and traffic; trucks and deliveries; litter and maintenance; Star Market's expansion plans; and the need for written commitments to address the above concerns. The agreement deals with all issues but Star Market's expansion plans.
The agreement outlines the planned improvements, and specifies various issues including off site parking, an advisory committee, shopping center maintenance, a traffic plan, improved sidewalks, and the addition of public art. Improvements to the Shopping Center include:
• an expanded, renovated and updated Star Market
• construction of a building at the corner of Mass. Ave. and White St. with an improved urban street face. It will contain additional retail space including small store space targeted for new business development in the City of Cambridge.
• a community bulletin board
• new facades on existing stores
• a completely landscaped parking lot that exceeds zoning requirements
• the addition of a plaza
• improved pedestrian amenities including wider sidewalks with awnings
• expanded facilities for bicycles
• an improved Davenport St. facade including screened disposaI facilities, screening at McDonald’s/Liquor World and Tag’s loading areas, elimination of the existing dairy loading door, and improved and expanded Star Market loading dock with screen wall along Elm Street.

A meeting on October 30 will provide neighbors an opportunity to respond to the agreement. For more information or a complete copy of the agreement,call the ANC at 349-6287 or Porter Square Neighbors Association at 547-2531.

Agassiz Community School

FOR A BROCHURE, TO VISIT, TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE AGASSIZ PROGRAMS, CONTACT JODY GABER AT 349-6287.

Agassiz Afterschool

Many day are now filled, but there are some part time spaces available in the Afterschool. Call for more information.

Sacramento Street Preschool

There are just a few spaces available in the preschool which provides a half day program with part time options for children ages 2 years 9 months to until kindergarten.

Evening Programs and Events

Basketball Drop In

Basketball is in full swing now, with teen drop in on Tuesday nights and adult drop in on Wednesday nights in the Agassiz School gym. 28 Sacramento St. entrance. The cost is $8 for teens, $12 for adults. The sessions are run this year by Craig Hyland, and they begin at 6:00 p.m. There is no advance registration required.

Yoga Classes

Yoga at Agassiz is taught by Tasha Hansen, whose training in Iyengar yoga infuses the gentle meditative qualities of her Sivananda background with further attention to correct alignment in postures. Ms. Hansen was certified by Sivananda Ashram in Val Morin, Canada in 1992.

Classes are held on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 in the Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St. door, Community Floor, at a cost of $6 per class. You may register at the door or in advance by calling Jody at 349-6287.

A Winter Dance is in the Planning

The Embraceables will provide music for a winter dance to be held in the Agassiz Dining Hall sometime in late January or February for all adult members of the Agassiz Community. Look in upcoming editions of The Whistler for more information on this event.

Candy Drive in Miss Kelly’s Kindergarten

If you are frustrated by too much Halloween candy, Ms. Kelly’s kindergarten has the answer for you. Bring your excess candy in on Friday November 1 and Monday November 4, and it will be donated to local area shelters.

A Celebration to Honor

Eva Paddock, Agassiz School Principal who retired this summer

will be held

November 12 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Cocktails and Hor d’oeuvres
$25
Oakley Country Club, Watertown
To Reserve, contact Joanne Berger
Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St.
349-6525
Cultural Happenings

Visual Art for Kids

CAROLYN BORISS-KRIMSKY, artist, registered art therapist, and director of ARTSPACE, is teaching children's art classes in her neighborhood studio during after school hours. Classes are also held for adolescents and adults. For more information or an ARTSPACE brochure, call 547-8444.

A NEW GALLERY at Porter Exchange

Lesley College has dedicated space on the third floor in the Porter Exchange Building at 1851 Mass. Ave. for a gallery that will show art solicited from the Lesley College community. The premiere show is entitled Diversity, and it opened on Monday October 21 with a reception. The show will run through December, and the hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Images of Berlin at Gallery 57

Gallery 57, located on the second floor of 57 Inman St. and run by the Cambridge Arts Council, will host a show of documentary photographs entitled “Berlin Graffiti and City Views” by Camila Chavez Cortes this November. Both the descriptive views of the City and the rich colorful, hand tinted images of the graffiti on the Berlin Wall represent the visual impact of unification and the imminent relocation of the central government from Bonn to Berlin.

The show begins on November 4 with a reception November 7 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The gallery will be open Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. through November 29.

Create a Logo and Win $1,500

A competition, sponsored by the Water Department and the Cambridge Arts Council, will be held for adults eighteen years of age and older to design an identification logo for use by the Water Department on trucks, letterhead and other departmental items. The Water Department’s mission is to provide a safe, uninterrupted supply of water of the highest quality to the City of Cambridge.

Professional graphic designers, artists and design students are encouraged to apply. The winning design will be selected by a jury of design professionals. The award will be $1,500 to the artist, and the design will be the property of the Water Department.

To submit an entry, call Michelle at the Cambridge Arts Council, 349-4381. The deadline is November 20. A winner will be announced in early December.

Piano and Voice Lessons

Ada Park Snider, long time Agassiz resident, is offering lessons for children and adults in her home studio on Prentiss Street, just two blocks from the Agassiz School. Ada has a broad range of interests in music, and works with each student in the student’s choice of style(s). Individual and group lessons are possible. Piano/keyboard technique, voice, ear training, and electronic keyboard sequencing are available. Call Ada at 661-2961.

Beau Jest comes to Agassiz November 21

Beau Jest Moving Theater will be on the Agassiz School stage on Thursday November 21 at 2 p.m. The performance, part of the monthly Introducing Art Performance Series, will introduce children to the magic of live theater. An adaptation of Mark Twain’s “The Prince and the Pauper” will be presented which deals with the value of friendship. This performance is funded jointly by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The December 12 performance in this series will be storyteller Valerie Stephens. Look for more information next month on that event.

Admission will be $1. Although this performance is aimed at a school age audience, everyone is welcome to attend. Groups should contact Kelly Tyler at 349-6287.

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FRESH POND BALLET
Nina Alonso Hathaway
Studio
1798A Mass. Ave, Cambridge
491-5865

- Classical Ballet
- Pre-Ballet to pre-professional
- Adult Classes

Next Month - Valerie Stephens, Storyteller
December 10 on the Agassiz Stage
Sacramento Street Gallery

Cambridge Photographer presents “History Lessons”

The Sacramento Street Gallery is pleased to exhibit photographs by Ron Morris, November 4-29. There will be an opening reception on November 15, Friday, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Gallery, located in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. Gallery hours are weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Entitled “History Lessons: Photographs 1969-1996,” the show features early work by Mr. Morris, comparing it with more recent images, thus chronicling a span of 27 years of photography.

Mr. Morris is a Cambridge resident and teaches photography at Newton North High School and the Massachusetts College of Art. His images are contemplative documents of everyday people, places and objects and the exhibition will draw parallels and contrasts between older photographs and newer photographs as a kind of history lesson from years of image making.

The photographer Harry Callahan has said that Morris has always been making the same photograph over and over. These photographs are a testament to one artist’s effort to reduce that endeavor to a single sheet of light sensitive paper, over and over.

Donors

The ANC has received more donations. Many thanks to Peter and Diane Sullivan and Michael and Meg D’Ambra. It is not too late to send us a donation for this year’s Annual Fund. All donations are tax deductible, and can be sent to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA, 02138.

Announcements

Sibling Abuse Discussion Group

Sibling abuse is very unique in the damage it leaves behind. Knowing how to negotiate family relationships can be very difficult. Who to blame; how to maintain some relationships and separate from others; when to disclose and to whom. These are some of the issues that will be discussed.

Contact Marcie Miller, M. Ed. at 497-5283. The group will meet on 11/16 from Noon to 2:30 p.m., and the cost will be $50.

Girl Scout Leader Wanted

for a troop to be based in the Agassiz School. Training is available. Interested girls in grades 4-6 also wanted. Call the council at 349-6287.

Too Busy to Clean? Honest, reliable woman available to clean your house or apartment. Experienced, efficient, with very reasonable rates and excellent references. Darathea 441-3053

World AIDS Day December 1

“One world, one hope” is the theme this year’s World AIDS Day. Cambridge Cares About AIDS, Inc. has added to that theme with “Voices from the community.” There will be many events and activities to support AIDS awareness and education. To become involved, call Cambridge Cares About AIDS at 661-3040.

Vote on November 5 Agassiz Neighborhood Ward 7 Precincts 1 and 2 Vote at the Agassiz School

Your Neighborhood Realtor

Elizabeth Browning For Your Real Estate Needs

COLDWELL BANKER
1730 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02138
HUNNEMAN & COMPANY 864-4430 x 354
Agassiz Community Calendar for
November 1996

November 5, Tuesday
Election Day - VOTE!

November 11, Monday
Veteran's Day No School

November 15, Friday
Ron Morris “History Lessons”
Opening Reception, 20 Sacramento St.

November 19, Tuesday
ANC Board Meeting (Open to Public)
ANC Monthly Meeting (See Agenda Page One)
Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance

November 21, Thursday
Beau Jest Moving Theater
Agassiz School Stage, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance

November 26, Tuesday
Thanksgiving Pot Luck Feast
Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance

November 28, Thursday
November 29, Friday
Thanksgiving Recess

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Call 349-6287 to be on the mailing list. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration to address below, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler November 1996

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 349-6287
Fax and Hot Line 497-4388
EMail Agassiz@concentric.net

DO NOT FORWARD

Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Feast November 24

It’s our 25th Annual, and you better not miss it. You will enjoy this major Agassiz event, a pot luck feast held in the Agassiz School Dining Hall. This year it will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on November 24, the traditional Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

Everyone in the Agassiz community is welcome: Agassiz School and Community School families, Agassiz neighborhood residents and friends.

The ANC provides the turkey, and volunteers cook those 12 turkeys. Everyone else can bring a big pot luck side dish. Ethnic specialties are especially welcome, as are casseroles, vegetables and desserts.

You are guaranteed to see your neighbors. Get there early because the food goes fast. Kids must be accompanied by an adult, but adults can come alone.

Remember to donate to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council Food Drive to aid the homeless during the month of November. Donation cans will be placed for your convenience in Star Market, who is working with the ANC on this project to aid the hungry.