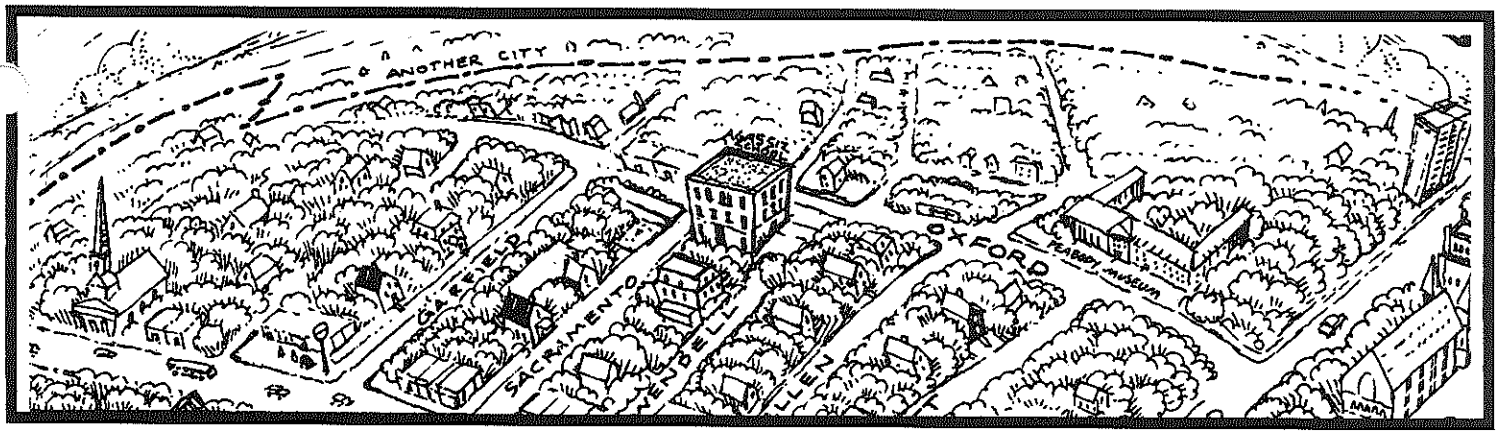
The Whistler

October 1994



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Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

ANC Meeting Notes

The September 27 ANC meeting was opened by Chair JoAnn Hoffman, who turned the meeting over to Janet Rustow for an update on **Agassiz School Construction.** Rustow scussed the closing of Oxford Street between Sacramento and endell to through traffic beginning October 3 until Thanksgiving. She also summarized information from the meetings that led up to the closing. For the complete report, see Construction Update page 5.

Jim Rita joined us from the School Department. Concerns were raised regarding the safety of the fence around the perimeter of the excavation, and Mr. Rita agreed to look into the fencing. He also agreed to check with Marilyn Tomkins, who routes the school busses, to be sure she is aware of the schedule. He will also be sure the truckers delivering steel are aware of the school bus hours. Parking is now available for construction workers at the lot next to the playground at 105 Oxford Street. He told us that when the crane comes in, it will be a tight fit and it will most likely arrive in the very early morning hours before dawn (tentatively scheduled for 10/17).

Janet said that when Oxford Street is closed there will be observers and police details to cope with problems. She anticipated a meeting to deal with any problems that need further discussion, and turned the meeting back to the Chair.

Next it was agreed to confirm Tuesday, October 18 as the next Council meeting when Alan Fein, Vice President for Finance and Administration, will come to discuss Lesley's purchase of Porter Exchange, see Lesley College page 7.

People were invited to attend a meeting set for 10/28 to discuss the crime situation in the Forest/Oxford St. area: what the police are doing and what the neighbors can do to help the police.

Astrid Dodds brought up the problem of **general and rking for handicapped at the North Prospect Church on lection Day.** There was particular concern regarding the illegal parking on the sidewalk. Community activities in the church also have parking needs. It was agreed to put this issue on Lesley Porter Exchange agenda, to request that Lesley consider community parking needs.

Adrienne Bishko presented **a parking petition on behalf of residents in the area of Mellen St.** who wanted to convert three non resident 24 hour free parking spaces to resident only parking. She advised the council that Bernie Flynn, Assistant Director of Parking told her if the community would support the petition, it would be possible to convert the spaces to resident only parking. The council agreed to send a letter to Mr. Flynn in support the petition.

Former Cambridge Mayor Alice Wolf was introduced as guest speaker. She had been invited to help the neighborhood understand Proposition 9 and stimulate discussion on the issue. Alice first provided some history. Rent control came into effect in the late 60's to protect tenants when rents were increasing at a rapid rate. It has always had a stormy history, and it was actually lost for a few days. In the 70's changes were made. The changes stopped the new "condo conversion" phenomena. In the late 80's Cambridge voted on and defeated Proposition 1-2-3 that would have markedly undermined rent control in the City.

Wolf said, "Who lives in rent control?" She read professions of residents from one rent controlled building from the Cambridge Street Directory. The list included students, homemakers, research assistants, designers, editors, lawyers, youth workers and musicians. She said that rent control tenants reflect the residents of the neighborhood. Some are professional people but largely they need rent control. She referred to the ABT Study of 1987 that showed that 70% of tenants in rent controlled

ANC has an E mail address:
74372.1770 @ Compuserve. com

Upcoming Council Meetings

Next Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell St.)
7:30 p.m.

October 18, Tuesday

Agenda to include:
Lesley College represented by Alan Fein,
Vice President for Administration and Finance
Discussion of Issues regarding Porter Exchange
(See page 7, Lesley News, for more information)

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apartments were at or below the median income, 20% were above the median but would not be able to afford comparable housing at market rate, and 10% were able to afford market rates. [Call the ANC at 349-6287 for a copy of this independent study.]

There are several things the City Council can do to reinstate rent control if Proposition 9 is passed. Several alternative home rule petitions will most likely be developed. "Home Rule" allows Cambridge to ask the state legislature to pass rules on behalf of the City. Alice believes this will be a hard to sell to the legislature. There are also legal challenges to the validity of removing rent control, which is now a Cambridge home rule. If the voter turn out in Cambridge is strong against Proposition 9, that would be good evidence to support any home rule petition for rent control. Alice was asked how soon a home rule petition could take. She answered as quickly as a week or as long as 3 months, depending on the legislature. **Wolf said Bolger and Flaherty have not taken a position on this issue**, but they have the power to hold up a home rule petition.

She wanted tenants not to be excessively worried, because there are steps the City can take if the measure is passed, but she did not want to give false hopes that everything will be fine. To keep everything as it is now Proposition Nine must be defeated. If passed, communities that have it must end rent control and new communities must never instate it. Wolf believes this denies communities the right to home rule, and the defeat of Proposition 1-2-3 was a mandate for rent control in Cambridge.

Rent control effects three communities: Boston, Brookline and Cambridge. There are 100,000 units affected. The vote is state-wide, but the impact of all rent control tenants voting would make a difference.

Wolf said there are about 30,000 units in Cambridge, approximately 14,000 are rent controlled, another 3-4,000 subsidized public housing, and the rest do not fall under rent control.

Alice was frankly against Proposition 9. She suggested that people who want to make a difference should call the press and tell their own story. She urged people to get everyone registered to vote, and to contact people in other parts of the state to say what this Proposition means to them.

Joanne Preston from the Agassiz Tenants Association stood up to provide people with information on how to support the No on Nine initiative. She can be reached at 354-0655. There was no one in the audience who participated in the discussion that spoke in support of Proposition 9.

Neighborhood News

Tenants organize to defeat Proposition 9

Submitted by Joanne Preston

The Agassiz Tenants Association met again on September 8 to discuss Question 9. Scheduled Speakers **City Councilor Frank Duehay** and housing attorney **Jeff Purcell** informed over 150 attendees of the political and legal ramifications of this legislation. In attendance were **Mayor Ken Reeves and City Councilor Kathy Born** who also spoke to the tenants.

The tenants discussed plans to register voters before the October 11 deadline, reach out to community and religious organizations, raise money for the campaign and contact their federal and state representatives. Another meeting is being organized for mid-October.

Any Agassiz resident who would like to work with the tenant's association or would like additional information should call 354-0655.

The next meeting is October 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. at Wendell. The group will discuss strategies for defeating Question 9 and preserving affordable housing in our neighborhood if the question passes. All tenants will loose all rent control if the question passes. Elderly tenants are especially at risk.

Rusty Water in the Neighborhood

In September a Sacramento St. resident called to ask why the water had been so rusty. A call to the Water Department found Ed Darling with the answer. He said it was actually rust. **In order to disinfect the water, additional chlorine had been added** to the entire Cambridge water supply. The addition of the chlorine causes an increase in iron and manganese that causes the rust.

The next day there were three calls from residents complaining about rusty water, this time extremely rusty water. Another call to the water department revealed that a pipe had burst under Oxford St. the night before (9/13) causing repairs (and traffic jams) during rush hour. The pipe was fixed about 10:00 p.m. This caused additional discoloration of the water.

The Water Department says the condition harmless, but if you are laundering clothes, the rust can discolor them. The solution is to run the water until it runs clear.

For more information, call the Water Department at 349-4770.

photo by Andrew Brilliant

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Crime and Safety

Problems on Oxford Street

A shooting incident on Oxford and Forest Streets at 4:00 a.m. on September 17 ended residents hopes that the worst of this summer's disturbances were over. According to the *Cambridge Chronicle*, **a young man in a gray Toyota fired three shots at several men on Oxford St**. The police advised that no one was hurt, and there were no suspects. Neighborhood witnesses said that Oxford was closed off by police, ambulances and four police cruisers were at the scene, and the four men shot at were questioned. Residents hoped after a community meeting in late August, that the situation would improve. **A September 28 meeting** with neighbors and police was immediately planned following the incident. Look for a report in the October *Whistler*.

The night before, **a woman was mugged on Forest Street** near Oxford-her purse snatched and her arm hurt, according to the Police. A Prentiss St. man called the neighborhood council on September 7 to let us know **he awoke at 4:00 a.m. to find someone attempting to steal his car.** He told the council he knew of three other car thefts or house breaks in the Prentiss St./ Frost St. area in the past few months.

Other residents of and around 132 Oxford Street had called the ANC throughout the summer with various complaints regarding disturbances in the area. A meeting was organized to discuss the problems that had been escalating. Some problems have stretched back for several years. While fear of crime was t motivated the meeting, residents of 132 Oxford Street had bitter complaints regarding poor maintenance and insufficient garbage pick up. Residents believed that there were some tenants in the building, subsidized by Section 8, who were causing disturbances that had led to the many police calls. There was fear of drugs, violence and other criminal activity in and around the building. They wanted to know why the Cambridge Housing Authority was not dealing with these problem tenants.

In response the Agassiz Neighborhood Council called the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) and Cambridge Police and invited them to a tenants meeting held on August 23. In addition to **Sgt. Leonard DiPietro and Sgt. Joseph McSweeney**, Housing Authority representatives and approximately 40 neighbors and building tenants came out. Representatives from Investments Limited (the landlord's agent who manages the property) Michael Goode and Tom Monaco, were also on hand.

Dan Wuenschel, Executive Director of the Cambridge Housing Authority, explained that CHA was legally powerless to deal with the tenants because this was not Public Housing. The difference is that Public Housing is managed by the CHA. Stringent requirements demand a criminal check, a credit check, and a good housing record for five years. Section 8 simply provides subsidies to people that are income eligible. The building at 132 Oxford Street has 32 units, 13 of which are subsidized through Section 8 (9 by Cambridge and 4 by Metro Housing Partnership in Boston). In August a new law went into effect that will allow CHA to make a criminal background check on future applicants.

Results from the Whistler Questionnaire will appear in the November edition

In cases of Section 8, it is the sole responsibility of the landlord to make the proper checks on tenants and to see that the tenants live up to their responsibilities as tenants. For Section 8, once the agreement is made between the tenant, CHA and the landlord, CHA no longer has a role other than to provide the subsidy. If a tenant is convicted of criminal activity, they will loose their subsidy.

After Mr. Wunschel explained the situation, tenants of and neighbors around 132 Oxford provided a long list of concerns that included fears of guns and drugs, noise, threats, litter, dog feces, overflowing garbage, ice build up in the winter, bicycle thefts, poor maintenance and frequent calls by police due to disturbances often late at night.

The point was made that all the residents with subsidies were not at fault. Concerns were only regarding the few tenants who caused the problems. Repeated requests to them for quiet were unheeded, as were tenants' complaints to the landlord.

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People asked the landlord's agent, Mr. Goode, how prospective tenants are screened by the landlord, and suggested that CHA may be able to help with screening methods.

Mr. Goode denied any charges of poor management. He said that he did respond to neighbors' complaints, and that drug addicts were people. He did not want to see anyone lose their housing. At that point Wunschel said that CHA would disagree, and any drug use or distribution would be cause to put a tenant out. Other tenants were entitled to a safe place to live.

Lt. McSweeney from the Cambridge Police said they had been to that site 44 times last month alone. He believed that drugs were involved, and said that either the landlord would remove the tenants or the police would take care of it for them.

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In the end Mr. Goode said he had begun eviction procedures for four tenants and one other tenant had agreed to leave willingly. It is expected that these tenants will be out by the end of October. CHA said that no further vouchers would be given until the situation had improved. Goode also agreed to improve the garbage pick-up at 132 Oxford Street.

It was suggested by Sgt. DiPietro that an active tenant's association would provide the organization necessary to deal with these problems in an ongoing way. It was agreed that this group would meet in two months time to assess the situation.

Cambridge Police Crime Report

Below you will see the crime report for the six months ending June 30, 1994. It does not include the summer statistics referred to above.

CRIME	1/1/93 TO 6/30/93	1/1/94 TO 6/30/94
HOUSEBREAKS	9	2
STREET ROBBERY	2	2
AUTO THEFT	16	13
LARCENY FROM MVS	9	9
MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION	20	13

Summary for the quarter: All neighborhood . . . target crime totals fall well below those of other city neighborhoods. Purse snaps once concentrated in the Mass. Ave. corridor are almost nonexistent. Housebreaks have reached an all time low of only two incidents thus far in the year. Auto theft continues to decline, larcenies from motor vehicles have held steady, and malicious destruction of property remain low. However, incidents of graffiti have picked up and are being closely monitored to execute the arrest of an suspect defacing property.

City Wide News

Agassiz Has Voter Registration Forms

The Cambridge Election Commission has advised us that the new "Motor Voter" law makes it easier to register to vote. As of July 1, a person who is eighteen years of age, a US citizen, and a resident of Massachusetts can register to vote by simply filling out a mail in affidavit form and returning it to the election commission. This form also allows a person to change his or her name, address or political party designation. These mail in forms are available at the Agassiz Neighborhood Council office, 20 Sacramento St. They are also available at the library and other City locations. **You must register by October 11 to vote in the November election.**

As of January 1, 1995, registration will take place at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Of course, there will still be in-person registration at the Cambridge Election Commission that can be reached at 349-4361.

City Manager responds to Proposition 9

The Cambridge City Council, in an order dated 8/1, requested the City Manager to prepare recommendations for a home rule petition, present contingency plans for protection of tenants if Proposition 9 passes, and report whether litigation opposing the anti rent control ballot would be feasible and advisable on any grounds, and what options are available to the City.

A response was prepared for the 9/26 City Council meeti that discussed the City's legislative strategy including vario alternative home rule petitions: vacancy decontrol, modification of existing system, and a petition for rent control in its current form. They will choose one that will in most likelihood obtain favorable action from the legislature. The City Manager says it appears that Brookline and Boston also intend to seek home rule legislation.

Modifications of the existing system include resolving the status of ordinanced condos, addressing the low rent units, streamlining of and time limits on case proceeding, and rent escrow requirements for rent withholding. They are also looking at possible models for decontrol of some high rent units, additional exemptions for small properties and targeting of units to those most in need.

For a copy of the City Manager's complete response, call the ANC at 349-6287, and the council will send it out to you.

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Agassiz School Construction

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New Agassiz School News

Hot Line Calls

9/14 Two calls regarding rusty water and concern that construction had caused it. Called water department to find that rust was caused by addition of chlorine to the water system. This was confounded by a broken water pipe under Oxford St. that caused excessive rust after being fixed. The construction did not cause the pipe to break, but excessive vibration from construction may have increased the possibility of damage. Callers were informed of the problems.

9/14 One call regarding the traffic jam that resulted after a water pipe had broken and construction continued without a police detail. Water department explained that traffic was a result not of the construction but of the water pipe repair and it was the water department's responsibility for safety. Informed caller.

9/14 Caller complained that there was only one lane open on Oxford Street after the water pipe was repaired. Called City Manager's Office to request that hole be repaired, which it was before 5:00 p.m.

Construction Update

General Information

Excavation is completed, the foundation floor and walls should be completed by the time *The Whistler* is published, and steel will soon be erected for the New Agassiz School. A crane, operating from Oxford Street, will be used to erect the steel. **Oxford Street between Sacramento and Wendell Streets will be closed to traffic beginning October 3,** Monday when utility work will begin under Oxford. The crane will soon follow and begin the steel work. **Oxford is scheduled to reopen to traffic around Thanksgiving.** The project is currently 2 weeks behind schedule, but the contractor is confident the time can be made up. The framing should be done by winter.

In August the contractor asked that Sacramento and Oxford Streets each be closed for three weeks this fall. Thanks to good communication and cooperation between all parties, the contractor was able to take the neighborhood suggestion that they close only Oxford St. and erect the steel from there. Sacramento will be closed to through traffic from time to time during the day, but not on a permanent basis.

There was a community meeting to discuss the Oxford Street closing on September 21. Visiting us for the first time was the new Director of Parking Traffic and Transportation Susan Clippinger, as well as Traffic Director Lauren Preston. Also in attendance were Rich Rossi, Deputy City Manager, Lou DiNapoli, Clerk of the Works and Bill De Bartolomeo, Assistant Clerk of the Works.

Routing of Traffic

Lauren Preston explained that External traffic will be routed completely off Oxford St. out of the neighborhood-down Beacon to Inman Square going southbound, and from Quincy Street though the tunnel to Mass. Ave. northbound. Internal traffic will be routed down Wendell or Garfield toward Mass. Ave. There will be a sign to indicate construction ahead at Sacramento St.

Suggestions from residents were accepted, and Rich Rossi told the neighborhood that if the traffic plan presented problems, other methods or routes could be tried. There will be observers to help spot the problems when the street closes. A meeting will be planned if problems persist. He urged neighbors to report traffic problems or any others to the Hot Line who will report them to the City Manager's office. He asked that neighbors not call the architect directly.

Sacramento Field Update

Work began on the field 10/27 with the removal of dead trees and debris. At press time work was just about to begin on the field itself. Steve White from the Department of Public Works is coordinating the project with the community garden and Jack Kelly, Arborist, has also been working with the community garden to ensure that the placement of the utilities through the garden will not adversely effect it.

The major work will be completed on December 1 by Mabardy, contractor for the project. Equipment for the new tot lot will likely be installed in the spring. The new tot lot and the basketball court will be available for use next summer, but the field will be off limits so the grass will have ample time to become established.

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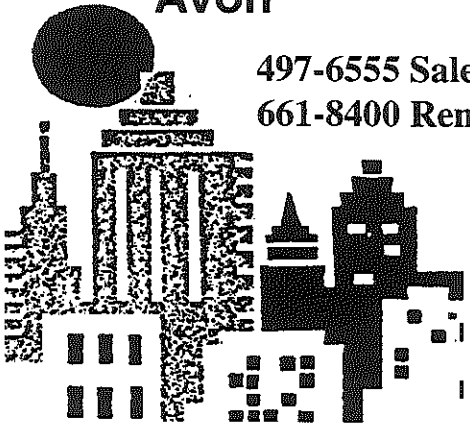
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Cultural Happenings

Friday Noon Concerts Return

A monthly Noontime concert series resumes **October 21** at North Prospect Church next to Porter Exchange. ***The Brahms Violin Sonata in G*** will be performed by Morton Hyams, piano, and Greg Vitale, violin. The 45-minute concert begins at 21:10. A reception follows the concert. Handicap accessible from Roseland Street. For more information call 547-1448.

Cafe Teatro Presents the Best of Latino Artists

Papo Vásquez October 21 AT 8:30 P.M.- Angel "Papo" Vásquez, trombonist, arranger and composer whose compositions bring together traditional Puerto Rican and the harmonic and melodic freedom of Jazz. He has performed, recorded and collaborated with Salsa greats such as Eddie Palmieri, Tito Puente, and Ruben Blades. **At the Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, 85 West Newton St. Boston. Tickets $10.**

Boston Rhythm November 5 AT 8:00 P.M. - Three outstanding Boston traditional ensembles. INCA SON, with music from the Andes, CELIA AYALA Y SU BALLET FOLKLORICO CULTURAL, the foremost Bomba ensemble of the East Coast, and SUNSTEEL, featuring the sounds of Trinidad, Tobago and Venezuela using steel drums. **AT MIT's Kresge Auditorium, 84 Mass. Ave. Cambridge. Tickets $15.**

For more information on this Fall Series call Alex Alvear at 262-1342.

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Lecture Series at St. Paul's Parish

The Third Annual Fall Luncheon Lecture Series entitled ***SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE CITY, THE WORLD AND THE NATION*** will be sponsored by the Harvard Square Churches Association for the relief of hunger and famine. It will be held at St. Paul Parish, 29 Mt. Auburn St. in DiGiovanni Hall at 1:15 on Sundays.

On **Sunday October 16,** Jennifer Widner, professor of government at Harvard University will present the second lecture entitled **"Politics and Food in Africa."** Professor Widner manages the African Seminar at the Harvard Center for International Affairs, and research had taken her to Kenya, the Ivory Coast, Uganda and Zaire.

Tickets are $20 at the door. For more information and special prices for senior citizens and students, contact Joan Dunton at 491-8400

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Community School News

Agassiz Afterschool Programs

After school programs for children in grades K-8 are almost full to temporary capacity. Please call Jody Garber at 349-6287 for which programs and days of the week are open.

There still are openings for 6-8th graders in Theater Games and Creative Writing classes Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Come and express yourself. Great classes, great teachers, and great fun!

Thank you to everyone who has coped with our outpost locations over the past year continuing on this year. When the New Agassiz School opens in the fall, we look forward to more activ[illegible] and less bussing headaches!

Woodworker Still Needed for Afterschool Program

If you have experience working with children and working with wood, we need you for a new carpentry program in the Agassiz Afterschool Activities Program. Call Jody at 349-6287.

Sacramento Street Preschool

The preschool located at 20 Sacramento St. operates five days a week for preschoolers 2 years and nine months to four years of age. It now has part time spaces (2 and 3 days per week) available.

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Councilor Kathy Born
Bruce Posner and Betsy Rudnick
Linda and Steven Brion Meisels
Cynthia Smith and Steve Imrich
May Waugh Amelia Rechel-Cohn

AGASSIZ Neighborhood Council also welcomes non cash donations that are also tax deductible. We are now looking for more computer items for our lab. Please call Jody Garber at 349-6287.

- Games for Apple II series computers
- Games for an IBM 640K PC compatible
- Dot matrix printer for an IBM computer
- Color Macintosh
- EGA or CGA monitor with a card for PC Compatible
- Modems (preferably 9600) internal or external for PC Compatible
- Analog jack w/DB 9(9 pin) male connection for IBM monitor

We would like an old vacuum cleaner for the community center.

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Lesley College News

Lesley Agassiz Joint Clean Up

Members of the Agassiz Afterschool and students at Lesley College will comb the neighborhood with a clean up on October 19. Armed with garbage and recycle bags, mixed groups of Lesley and Agassiz students will pick up trash and recycle materials all over the neighborhood, with special emphasis on the Lesley campus and the Agassiz Tot Lot.

Groups will assemble at Lesley after the clean up to meet the dignitaries and eat a "make your own sundae." For more information on the event, call Terry DeLancey or Jody Garber at 349-6287.

Porter Exchange Discussion 10/18

We have planned to have Alan Fein, Vice President for Administration and Finance of Lesley College, visit our October council meeting to discuss several areas identified as important issues for our neighborhood including current status of the unoccupied first floor space, the parking lots across the street, and an in lieu of tax agreement.

The meeting will be held on October 18. Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at 1651 Mass. Ave. on the corner of Wendell St.

Ads and Announcements

FALL FAIR

The North Prospect Church next to Porter Exchange (1803 Mass. Ave.) is holding its Annual Fall Fair on Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Some of the features of the fair will be: Thrift Shop, Book, Record and White Elephant Tables, Sally's Subs and other sandwiches, corn chowder, Baked Goods and Farm Produce Tables. For more information call 547-1448.

Crescent St. resident seeks off street parking for compact car. Please call 441-3323.

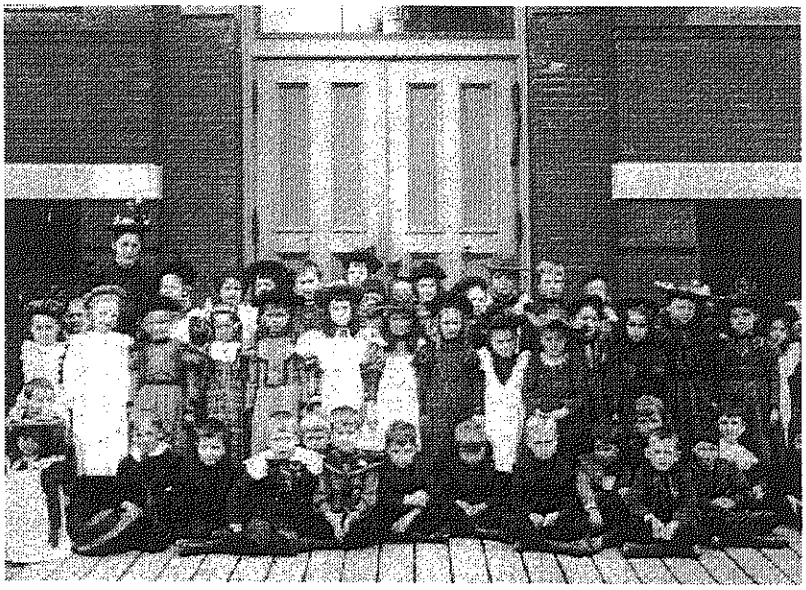
Older Women's Support Group

Doris Tanner, M.A. LMHC, who both lives and works on Oxford Street, is offering a support group for women over 45, who face issues of loneliness, isolation, loss, transition or relationship difficulties. It will begin on Tuesday, October 18 at 7 p.m. (Wed. is an alternative) and run for six weeks, at a cost of $15 per session. The group will be limited to 6 and she will serve as facilitator. Doris Tanner has trained at the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy. She may be called at 497-0259.

Responsible, eager 9 year old seeks work. Reasonable rates. Call Michael Akula, 547-4488.

ANC was honored at a luncheon for various employers who have had a long relationship with Harvard Community Health Plan. The ANC received a plaque for having used HCHP as our agency health care provider for twenty-five years!

Agassiz Neighborhood Picture of the Month



An 1890's First Grade outside the first Agassiz School
Picture donated by the late Gertrude Shaw
The original can be found at 20 Sacramento Street

Community Calendar
October 1994

October 6, Thursday	**7:00 p.m.**	**Agassiz Tenants Association Meeting** **Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (corner of Wendell St.)**
October 10, Monday		**Columbus Day-Schools Closed**
October 18, Tuesday		**Agassiz Neighborhood Council**
	6:30 p.m.	**Board Meeting - Open to Public**
	7:30 p.m.	**Neighborhood Council Meeting** **Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (corner of Wendell St.)**
October 19, Wednesday	**3:00 p.m.**	**Lesley-Agassiz Neighborhood Cleanup**
October 21, Friday	**12:10 p.m.**	***Brahms Violin Sonata in G*, N. Prospect Church 1803 Mass. Ave.**
October 26, Wednesday		**Agassiz School closed-Teacher Professional Day**
October 29, Saturday	**10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**	**Fall Fair North Prospect Church 1803 Mass. Ave.**
October 30, Sunday		**Daylight Savings Time Ends**
October 31, Monday		**Halloween**

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.

mass. CULTURE MONTH
OCTOBER 1994
In conjunction with National Arts and Humanities Month

Did You Know?

Massachusetts is home to over 1,500 arts, sciences, and humanities organizations; 336 local cultural councils; and thousands of artists.

Did You Know?

The state's nonprofit cultural industry generates $1.5 billion in annual economic impact.

Did You Know?

A Common Core of Learning for all students that includes the arts, along with science and technology, social studies, English, mathematics, foreign languages, and health has been adopted by the state's Board of Education.

Did You Know?

Public support:
- fosters programs of excellence;
- promotes public access;
- provides innovative educational activities for children and adults;
- celebrates cultural diversity; and
- strengthens communities.

Get involved in your community.
For information, call 1-800-NCA-8888.

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