The Whistler
October 1997

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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❖ ANC News ❖

Notes from the September 17 ANC Meeting

Janet Rustow, ANC Chair, opened the meeting with a
welcome to Ms. Peggy Averitte, new Agassiz Principal, and
members of the Agassiz School Council including Parent Co-
Chair Julianne Bond-Shapiro, Agassiz School Parent Liaison
Paula Azzam, Paul Antonopoulos, and Joe Costello.

School Council members met Agassiz Board Members
and other neighbors. Introductions were made all around,
and several residents vied for longest residency in the neigh-
borhood. Kathleen Manion was the only one brave enough to
give a date- she moved to Agassiz in 1949. Ms. Averitte
learned that Mary Donaldson’s children (and late husband)
graduated from the Agassiz School, as did Fred Willey’s and
Ed and Faith Chase’s children.

Terry DeLancey reminded everyone that the ANC com-
community included more than Agassiz residents. Anyone with a
child in the Agassiz School or in ANC programs is a stake-
holder in the ANC and automatically entitled to membership.

Ms. Averitte thanked the neighborhood for the warm wel-
come she had received so far. She told the participants that
collaborations already have begun with the community. The
Alexander Kemp Play Day was in the planning, and she
expected more to come. In all, Ms. Averitte expressed a strong
commitment toward working with the community.

Various suggestions regarding ways the school and
neighborhood could collaborate were discussed. That included
school representation on neighborhood issues that effect
school quality of life. Sewer reconstruction will impact traffic
and pedestrian patterns for years on Oxford Street. The
October council meeting will address this planning and its
otional for traffic calming. The school should be a partner
in this planning.

Terry DeLancey said that the ANC in cooperation with the
Neighborhood 9 Association and the Porter Square
Neighbors Association, was planning a City Council
Candidates Night for October 28 at the school. She suggested

Alexander Kemp
Play Day
Saturday October 18
Cambridge Common Playground
1:00 p.m. - Dedication
The Playground will be dedicated in memory of
Alexander Kemp
A dear little boy who loved to play
November 7, 1990 - September 29, 1995
1:30-3:30 - Events for Children
Face Painting, Crafts
Balloon Sculpting with Aaron Hsu Flanders
Bonaparte the Magician
Storyteller and Rapgiper Jennifer Armstrong
Light Refreshments
All activities Free of Charge

that the school help coordinate a candidates night for
School Committee with the ANC. [The positive response
to this suggestion has resulted in a Candidates Night for
School Committee to be held at the Agassiz School on
October 22.]

Information on ANC Meeting
The next ANC monthly meeting will take place on
October 21 (see box below for information). The agenda
will be devoted to traffic issues. Steve White will begin

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, October 21
7:30 p.m.
Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda: TRAFFIC ISSUES
Guests will include: New Traffic Calming Project
Manager Katherine Watkins, Cara Seideman from
Community Development, and Steve White from the
Department of Public Works.
Come to Agassiz Candidates' Nights
City Council School Committee
Tuesday, October 28 Wednesday, October 22
7 p.m.
Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento St. Entrance
This City Council night is sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council,
Neighborhood Nine Association and Porter Square Neighbors Association. The School Committee
night is a collaboration of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council and the Agassiz School Council.
Call 349-6287 for more details.

with information on the sewer renovations scheduled concurrently for Agassiz and North Mass. Ave. (See page
three.) Updates will be provided on Porter Square Renovations and Truck Traffic on Kirkland St.
The council will meet the new Traffic Calming
Project Manager, Katherine Watkins. With her and Cara Seideman, we will discuss Oxford Street intersections
and how they can be made safer. (See page 3.)

Lorraine Brewer Resigns
Newly elected ANC Board member Lorraine Brewer
has resigned with regret. She has moved to Boston.

❖ Neighborhood News ❖

"JoAnn's Tree" Planted
A small ceremony is planned to celebrate
the planting of a tree on Sacramento Field
with a stone marker in JoAnn Hoffman's memory.
The ceremony will take place October 21
on Sacramento Field, prior to the ANC Board
meeting at 6:30 p.m. For exact time and more
details, call Terry Delaney at 349-6287.
JoAnne was the Chairperson of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council when she died in April
1996. The tree is a sweet gum that will grow to
be a very large tree, and it will be known in
the community as "JoAnn's Tree".

Sacramento St. Construction Complete
Eight trees have been planted at the Mass. Ave. end
of Sacramento St. This is the last work item in the
Sacramento St. Sewer Renovation Project.
Thanks go to Louis Kustwan from the Cambridge Department of Public Works for acting as a Site Manager
throughout the project and making the job easier on residents.

Star Market Responds to Kirkland St. Concerns
Last month members of the Kirkland-Washington St.
Corridor Committee reported their concern in The
Whistler over the growing noise and disruption on their
streets from trucks.

Star Market, immediately upon reading the newsletter, contacted the group to be sure that their trucks
would not be part of the problem. Thanks to Keith Shaw
of Star Market for his action on this issue.

Housing Issues
Garfield St. Housing Open House October 8
Residents of the new housing on the corner of Mass.
Ave. and Garfield St. are ready to move in. They have
been ready for some time, but federal red tape delayed
the closing until late September. The property is now
legally owned by Cambridge Housing Authority.
The wait is over, and residents should be in by early
October. A dumpster will be visible while tenants are in
the process of moving. It will be removed as soon as possible.

Trees will be planted along the sidewalk across the
street on Garfield. This is property that recently had a
curb cut shortened and sidewalks improved. It is the Gulf
Station site.

The Open House originally scheduled for October 9th
has been rescheduled for October 8th at 4:00 p.m. For
information, please call Terry Lurie, Cambridge Housing
Authority, 520-6263.
Legal Services Can Help Fight Evictions

Is your landlord trying to evict you? It is illegal without a court order. You may be able to stop eviction, and you have a right to go to court and tell your side of the story before you are evicted.

With help on evictions or any other tenant legal issue, call Community Legal Services and Counseling Center at 961-1010.

Traffic and Transportation

Sewer work on North Mass Ave.

The City of Cambridge is planning to begin construction along North Mass Ave. on sewer separation and street surface restoration. This will occur at the same time construction is planned for Agassiz sewer reconstruction. To learn more about how this will effect the neighborhood, come to the council meeting on October 21 (see front page for details) when Steve White will explain the project more fully. Below is information from the fact sheet provided by the Cambridge Department of Public Works (DPW) on the project.

The DPW will replace the existing single sewer pipes with two separate pipes, one for storm water and one for sanitary sewage. The DPW will install 32,000 feet of storm drains and 27,000 feet of sanitary sewers.

In some areas, this will be done by digging up the pipes and replacing them. In other areas, the DPW will use trenchless technology. This technique allows pipes to be replaced without digging up the street or sidewalk.

When construction is complete, the road surface and sidewalks will be restored in construction areas. In addition, improvements will be made to sections of the street which may include redesign of traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle accommodations, as well as selected urban design and landscaping. The goal of this project is to make North Mass. Ave. and especially its major intersections safer and more attractive.

The construction will begin during the summer of 1998 and will take 24 months to complete. Design and planning have begun and will continue through 1997.

Porter Square Design Options Meeting October 8

The Porter Square Citizens Advisory, a City Manager appointed committee, will meet on October 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the North Cambridge Senior Center 2050 Mass. Ave.

Design options for the Porter Square intersection and preliminary design review of the entire project area will be the focus of the meeting. Agassiz resident William Bloomstein is a member of this committee, and he has advised the council that these are final options for consideration by the advisory committee and will include auto, pedestrian and bicycle recommendations.

The meeting is open to the public.

Meet the Traffic Calming Project Manager Katherine Watkins at the October 21 ANC Meeting and discuss Oxford Street Intersections

This is an opportunity for Agassiz residents to give the Community Development Department feedback on the streets we all use every day as motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Help them to see where the danger is: blind spots, obstructions, poor visibility, pedestrian risks, area of high speed for cars, frequent accident sites, illegal parking, bicycle traffic patterns. Help the City understand the problems, so the planning will be meaningful and Oxford Street can become a neighborhood friendly street.

(See Box Page One for meeting details.)

Thanks to Dennis O'Reilly for donating recycled paper to the afterschool programs so the kids can draw as much as they like!

DONORS

Below are listed additional donors to our ANNUAL FUND DRIVE. We have received over $5,700 in donations to date. All donations are tax deductible, and they support the many programs and public services the ANC provides including this newsletter, monthly performances for children, a fund to finance volunteer projects and now a new fund to plant trees in our neighborhood. These are just a few of the many services provided to Agassiz community members. You may send donations to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA. 02138.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Linda Caswell • Kent Greenfield
Mary, David and Charles Groark
Stewart Kemp
Judy and Steve Leff
Claire and David Leslie
Skip Schiel
Agassiz Community
School Programs

Can You Help ???

Agassiz children's programs can use the following items in good condition for heavy use:
BOOKS - preschool 2nd grade level
BOARD GAMES
Matchbox cars
Silverware
Electric Frying Pan for cooking projects
Wheelbarrow
Call Michael Brown at 497-4284 if you have any donations, and thanks for your continued support with donations!

Agassiz Afterschool

First through Fifth Grade Program and Staff
Our afterschool programs are off to a great start. The first through fifth grade program is located in the basement of the Agassiz school. We use the community room as our center and have access to the cafeteria, gym, music room, ensemble room, as well as the field and playground across the street. This year we have some new teachers who bring their own strengths into the program. Beth Friedland has joined our staff with a drama background along with a concentration in the arts. Tina Kidd Jacas comes to us with a background in music, she will also be involved in some dance and art. Erin Maher has moved from an assistant teacher to a lead teacher and will be focusing on crafts along with a class for our younger children on bookmaking. Dave Flood, our most experienced teacher is back for a fifth year. He will be taking over some sports, continuing our science curriculum, and keeping his popular art class.

This year we have brought on two new assistant teachers. Sophie Sikowitz comes back to us after attending our afterschool program as a student, from Cambridge Rindge and Latin; and Cristy Monahan is a student at Lesley College. Craig Hyland is now the Site Director with Michael Brown and Dawn Greene sharing Afterschool Director responsibilities.

There are many specialists who bring drama, dance, visual arts, martial arts, writing, crafts and much more to our programs. Look for information on them next month.

This year we have limited enrollment in order to keep the quality of the classes high. Currently only Friday is available for new students. There is a waiting list for the other days. For information call Michael Brown at 497-4284.

Kindergarten Program
Our kindergarten program is located in our community center at 20 Sacramento St. There are three rooms available as well as a spacious backyard. Dawn Greene runs this program with the support of two new teachers. Betsey Shultz joins us this year with an emphasis on arts and crafts. Zelda Menard is our other Kindergarten teacher who will bring her enthusiasm for cooking and sports.

Jonah Larkins Ford is an assistant teacher who grew up involved in the program and is now a high school student at Cambridge Rindge and Latin. This program still has openings, so call Dawn Greene at 349 6287 for more information, to visit or to register.

CAMBRIDGE YOUTH SOCCER AT AGASSIZ
The Agassiz Afterschool will have soccer practice available through the Cambridge Youth Soccer League every Tuesday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in an attempt to bring soccer to kids in afterschool who otherwise could not get to their practices. For kids in afterschool grades 1-5, grouped by grade for practice. If the collaboration is successful, a team will be created. Thanks to Paul Antonopoulos and Craig Hyland for making this happen.

Sacramento St. Preschool
Our preschool is running smoothly under the direction of Diane DiMaina. This program provides a developmental preschool experience in a cozy, individualized atmosphere. Helping Diane with this is Trisha Pina. Trisha taught in the afterschool last year and has moved on to preschool.

The program serves children from age 2 years, 9 months to kindergarten age. The program runs from 8:30-1:30 five days per week with many part time options. For more information or to visit, call Diane DiMaina at 349-6287.

Middle School Activities
There are three courses currently being offered to the students in grades 6-8 that began the last week in September:

Cooking with Lisa Beaudin on Monday
Illustrative Drawing with Cortney Skinner on Wednesday
Creative Writing with Ellen Morrison on Friday
For more information on these classes, or future classes, please call Michael Brown at 497-4284.

Evening Program
Basketball will begin in November for adults and teens.

There is some planning for a possible school age parent-child basketball program.

Our Yoga teacher has left, so the start of Yoga classes has been postponed until we can find another teacher.

We still hope to arrange community computer workshops and use the Agassiz Computer Lab.

For more information on any of these programs, please contact Michael Brown at 497-4284.

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Personal Office:
48 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617/661-3060
HARVARD

Planning Moves Ahead for New Computer Science and Electrical Engineering Building

After six months of site preparation and design work, Harvard is moving forward with plans to construct a new building at 33 Oxford Street to benefit the University's Computer Science and Electrical Engineering programs. The building, financed from a $20 million gift of Microsoft's Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer, will be named Maxwell Dworkin after the two donors' mothers, and will be located across from the Peabody Museum on the site of the former Aiken Computation Laboratory.

This past spring, Harvard hired the architectural firm of Fayette Associates, Inc. to develop options for a four-story, approximately 90,000 gross square foot facility that will contain classrooms, offices and laboratory space. The building will replace the 1946 Aiken Computation Laboratory which was demolished over the summer to accommodate the new construction. Maxwell Dworkin's exterior facade will be a mix of glass, masonry and brick to bridge the Neo-Georgian style of the Pierce complex with the modernist style of Harkness Commons and the Gropius dorms. A number of site improvements are also planned, including: landscaping, removal of surface parking fronting Oxford Street, and relocation of the existing access driveway which will redirect traffic further away from the Oxford-Everett Street intersection. Site utility and earth retention work will occur this fall. Construction of the building is expected to begin early next spring and take approximately 15 months to complete.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

- friendly neighborhood church
- sacred music of many countries and cultures
- adult Christian education
- racial, ethnic and economic diversity
- Sunday School and child care
- thoughtful sermons
- love of Jesus Christ
- All are welcome!

ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1991 Massachusetts Avenue, Porter Square
617 547 4070

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHEDULE
8:00 am Traditional chapel service
10:30 am Main Sanctuary

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED
CITY YEAR
Serve-a-Thon
Saturday, October 25
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
20 Sacramento Street

City Year, ANC Staff and Community Volunteers will join forces for a workday at the Agassiz Community Center to paint, clean, rake and generally help improve the building inside and out. Light breakfast and lunch provided. Come all day or for part of it. Call us at 349-6287 to add your name to the list.
Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street
Weekdays 9-5

ENGAGING OBJECTS
Oil Paintings by Sarah Gutwirth
The Sacramento Street Gallery is proud to present a show of oil paintings by Sarah Gutwirth. Sarah's work has been influenced by the history of still-life painting. She exploits the charged enigma of objects, both natural and human created, while eschewing the traditional table top for a more ambiguous modernist space. Some objects in them are wholly invented, some partially or not at all. Her subject is the drama of things: their suggestive form and relationship to each other. The poetry of objects lies in their metaphoric nature as an extension of our imaginations. These paintings seek to free objects from obviousness and to recuperate their evocative powers.

Gutwirth teaches painting at Potsdam College SUNY and lives in Vermont. Her work was shown most recently in the Buffalo area, and has been exhibited in Los Angeles, Atlanta and Portland.

Other Local Cultural Events

Gallery 57 - 57 Inman Street
Ceramic Work of Judith Motzkin in October
Opening reception on October 2 from 5-7 p.m.

The exhibition engages audiences with assemblages of teapots, each bearing Motzkin's signature calligraphic ornamentation; placed amongst teacups, branches, wire and ceramic shapes atop ceramic shelves and peeking out of wooden boxes.

For information call Judilee Reed at 349-4380.

PEAL - Poetry at Lesley College
On Tuesday, October 7 enjoy "25 Years of Poetry and Friendship with Elizabeth and Judith" at 7:30 p.m. in Welch Auditorium. Poetry written and read by Elizabeth Gordon McKim and Judith Steinhergh, both members of the Lesley College community. For information call Peggy Barrasso at 349-8634.

C.D. Collins Slow Burn at Ryles October 5
Writer/performer C.D. Collins performs Sunday at 7 p.m. with other local female poets including Crasta Yo & Wordsworth, Stephanie Landry, Eve Stern, Lisa King and other special guests. Admission is $5. The show highlights the release of Slow Burn, a cassette with musical accompaniment by Pincurl. For information call 666-2778.

FRESH POND BALLET
Nina Alonso Hathaway
Studio
1798A Mass. Ave. • Cambridge
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• Classical Ballet
• Pre-Ballet to pre-professional
• Adult Classes

Introducing Art:
A Performance Series for Children
Thursday, October 16
Tony Toledo - Storyteller
2:00 p.m. Agassiz School Stage
Admission $1.00- For information call 349-6287

This series celebrates its third season this year.

Art Classes for Children:
taught during afterschool hours by experienced artist/teacher in neighborhood studio. For more information call Carolyn Boriss Krimsky @ 547-8444.
Sacramento Street Gallery
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Weekdays 9-5

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More Local Cultural Events & Programs

Cambridge Community TV
675 Mass. Ave. Cambridge 661-6900

Independent Short Film Festival at CCTV
"Local Sightings"
Series #1 - Wednesday, October 8th at 7:15 p.m. $5
   I Remember Barbara - Kevin Burns
   The Big Fiesta - Max Conigli
   Man About Town - Kris Isaakson & Matt Gunn
   Leaving the Post - Will Lyman
   Meditations - Robert Todd
   Join in the discussion with film makers, critics, and fans after the screening.

Fall Classes Starting Soon at CCTV
On Monday October 6 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a free Orientation. At that meeting you can find out what CCTV has to offer, and how you become a member.
Training includes video production and computer training, and facilities for video and computer production.
Call CCTV at 661-6900 for further information.

Interns Wanted for CCTV
CCTV has spaces for interns who will receive free CCTV membership for the duration of the internship, training in all CCTV facilities, ability to produce one access program at a time for no charge using CCTV equipment.
For these benefits, interns must attend an orientation, make a four month commitment, work 3-10 hours per week (approx.), perform office work, attend trainings, meetings, and socials.
There are a variety of internships: Cablecast, Production, Technical, Graphics, Computer, Special Projects.
Volunteers are also needed. For information please call 661-6900.

❖ Announcements ❖

Boy Scouts Wanted
Troop 73 of Cambridge is looking for Boy Scouts age 7 and older to share in the adventure of boy scouting. Meetings are held on Thursday nights from 7-9 p.m. in the Masonic Hall on Mass. Ave. just north of Porter Square.
Adults are also encouraged to volunteer and help out with the troop. For more information call Jim Hazlett at 492-8519.

Survivors of Sexual Abuse:
   Evening Gatherings
   Workshop for (non-offending) Mothers
   Sexuality Group for (female) Survivors
   Reclaiming Your Body

Workshop for Survivors of Sibling Abuse
Long Term Support Group for Survivors
Call Marcie Mitler, M.Ed. at 497-5283 for more information.

Getting Started In Business
Cambridge Business Development Center located at 675 Mass. Ave. in Central Square will provide a three hour workshop on October 20 from 6-9 p.m. in business basics including: forms of business organization, legal requirements, marketing strategies, business planning and financing. For more information call 349-4690.

Multi Family Yard Sale
Come on Saturday October 4th between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to this sale at 73 Wendell St. that will benefit the CRLS Russian Club Exchange with School 238 in St. Petersburg, Russia.
Clothes, sporting goods, furniture, housewares, and some new gifts will be on sale.
Rain date Sunday October 12. No early birds, please.
If you have something to contribute, a bike, a lamp, a piece of furniture or household items, call 354-6553.

NEW PARENT LIAISON AT AGASSIZ SCHOOL
Welcome to Paula Azam, who began her job as Parent Liaison this fall. Paula provides prospective parents with information on Agassiz School, she coordinates and plans parent involvement, and she sits on the Agassiz School Council.

Elizabeth Browning
Lisa J. Drapkin

Your Neighborhood Realtors
COLDWELL BANKER
1730 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
864-4430
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| Friday, October 10| 5 - 7:00 p.m. | Engaging Objects - Paintings by Sarah Gutwirth (through 11/21)  
Opening Reception - Sacramento St. Gallery, 20 Sacramento St. |
| Thursday, October 16| 2:00 p.m. | Tony Toledo Storyteller Admission $1.00 Public Welcome  
Agassiz School Auditorium 28 Sacramento St. Entrance |
| Saturday, October 18| 1 - 3:30 p.m. | Alexander Kemp Play Day - Cambridge Common |
| Tuesday, October 21| Call for time | Dedication of Tree in Memory of JoAnn Hoffman  
Sacramento Field-behind the Community Garden  
ANC Board Meeting- Public Welcome  
ANC Monthly Meeting - Traffic Agenda  
Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance |
| Wednesday, October 22| 7:00 p.m. | School Committee Candidate's Night  
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| Saturday, October 25| 10 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. | City Year Serve-a-Thon Community Work Day  
Agassiz Community Center 20 Sacramento Street |
| Tuesday October 28| 7:00 p.m. | City Council Candidates Night  
Agassiz School Auditorium, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance |

Agassiz School and Afterschool Closed: Oct 2-Rosh Hashanah,  
Oct 15-Columbus Day, Oct 29-Professional Day

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.