Neighborhood Council Notes........
Notes from the summer
1). 2nd Tuesday is new meeting day for Agassiz Council
After many years, the Agassiz Neighborhood Council has
decided to change meeting days from the second Wednesday
to the 2nd Tuesday. We hope this will encourage all the
talks who couldn't make it on Wednesdays to come to our
regular meetings. The time is still 7:30 p.m. and location
is in the upstairs meeting room at 20 Sacramento St.
2). New Officers of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council
selected in June:
   Chairman       Karen Vaters       Crescent St.
   Vice Chairman   Ken Basler        Sacramento St.
   Secretary       JoAnn Hoffman     Gorham St.
   Treasurer       Karen Zahn        Traymore St.
3). Agassiz Harvard Planning Meetings
   The committee has been meeting regularly at the Agassiz Community
   Center all summer. For an update on progress this
   summer or to be on the mailing list contact the council
   office at 498-9056.
4). Renovations to Community Center
   Harvard Real
   Estate Inc., owner of the building at 20 Sacramento St., has
   announced extensive exterior work including porch repair and
   painting. We do not anticipate any major inconvenience
   to building users, but please contact the council office
   at 498-9056 if you encounter any problems.

Danahy Park Opens September 15th
   The City of Cambridge is planning a grand opening for its
   new multi-use recreational area on Saturday September 15th
   from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A parade will organize at the Cambridge
   Common at 9:30 a.m. and march to the park via Garden St.
   The dedication ceremony will commence at noon, and
   festivities will include games and tournaments, arts and crafts,
   stage entertainment and roving performers. Bring a cold
   lunch, chairs or blankets.

To be known as Mayor Thomas W. Danahy Park, the
recreation facility is located on the former landfill near the
Fresh Pond Shopping Center.

next council meeting...
September Council Meeting
Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
TUESDAY September 11TH at 7:30 p.m.
   Sacramento St. (call 498-9056 for information)
7:30 p.m. General Business
8:00 p.m. Representatives from the FUTURE OF AGASSIZ
   SCHOOL COMMITTEE will discuss plans so far for the
   renovation of the school. We will discuss how the
   neighborhood fits into the planning process.
   PLEASE NOTE: council meetings will now be held on
   the second Tuesday of each month

Agassiz Community News
Community Mural to be installed
   Artist Wen-Ti Tsun has finished the mural design, and
   he is now preparing the 6" tiles that will cover the 13
   panels of the Alden Tot Lot wall. (The Alden Tot Lot is
   located at the corner of Sacramento and Oxford Streets,
   and the wall separates the blacktop area from the
   playground area.) The design is based on pictures created
   by Agassiz school and community children this winter.
   The theme of the pictures is the Agassiz School and
   community: the past, present and future.
   After the tiles are fired, the 13 panels will be
   assembled. Volunteers will help with this project on a
   Saturday tentatively scheduled for late September. (We
   cannot definitely schedule this work until the tiles are all
   ready.)
   The weekend after the mural is assembled it will be
   installed onto the wall in the tot lot. We will combine the
   installation with a celebration at the Tot Lot. Anyone who
   would like to receive information or volunteer for either
   project should call Terry DeLancey at the council office at
   498-9056. She will mail the information as soon as a
   definite date is set.

Harvard Advisory Committee
   We have had a communication from Mayor Alice Wolf
   requesting that the City Manager seat an Agassiz resident
   (and a mid-Cambridge resident) on the Harvard Square
   Advisory Committee when existing terms expire. Anyone
   who is interested should submit their name and address to
   the council office at 20 Sacramento St. or call 498-9056.

Do you know what to do each month to make your financial dreams come true? Receive a free financial planning consultation with this ad.

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Registered Representative

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Alden Tot Lot committee to meet with DPW

The Alden Tot Lot is likely one of the heaviest used parks in the city of Cambridge. Not only is it the main playground for the Agassiz School and afterschool, but it is filled with adults, children and teens from early morning well into the evening seven days a week.

This heavy use takes its toll, and there are many complaints from users regarding maintenance of the park. These concerns were discussed in a committee meeting this summer, and a letter was sent out to Commissioner Wm. Sommers of the Department of Public Works. He advised us in a letter dated 7/9:

I have checked our records ad found that, in fact, our Parks and Forestry Division has made frequent maintenance trips to the tot lot and have responded many times to complaints on broken equipment and clean up. In my recent inspection the only place I note graffiti was on the traffic controller box and this will be taken care of as soon as our crews get their temporary replacements for summer work. We have placed two smaller garbage cans near the picnic tables. The shower and water bubbler have been a problem since installation and there is not much that we can do in increasing the water pressure. However, the bubbler was nearly plugged with material and that I believe has been corrected. We will consult with the water department respecting the overall water pressure in the tot lot. The fact is that almost weekly the bubbler is deliberately plugged with sand particles or other matter making it difficult to maintain a regular pressure.

The drain has been cleaned out and is functioning. Part of the problem is the collection of sand in the drain trap in the center of the playground. We intend to clean this out on a more regular schedule...

I suggest that we arrange a meeting with myself, my parks and forestry staff and the Tot Lot committee to discuss these problems...

Any one who wishes to join the tot lot committee can contact the council office at 498-9056. Committee chairperson is Marcia Miller.

Jimmy Mac's smoke troubles neighbors on Rustic St.

Neighbors on Rustic Street have been concerned with wood smoke and odors from the Beacon St. barbeque restaurant.

They have sent a petition to Somerville requesting some action on building code, zoning and health violations because complaints have gone unanswered.

RECYCLING NEWS

RECYCLE on Saturday SEPTEMBER 8. Locations are Sherman St. behind St. Peter's Field and 147 Hampshire St. The time is still 9 a.m. -3 p.m. every 2nd Saturday. For information call 498-9078.

Correction on a phone number: Lisa King had volunteered to pair drivers with those who need a ride to recycling, and her number was incorrectly listed in June. The correct number is 854-0860.

Remember to clean cans! Only aluminum - which means they should NOT stick to a magnet.

OIL recycling committee seeks members. Committee members will establish a motor oil recycling program for the general public and city vehicles. They will also look into the feasibility of asking the Cambridge Electric Light Co. to use recycled oil as a fuel supplement and work with other communities. Interested candidates should contact City Manager Robert Healy at City Hall, 795 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 02139 with a resume or letter of interest.

Land Bank Proposal

Throughout this summer City Councillor Ed Cyr, as chairperson of the Housing and Community Development Sub-Committee of the City Council, has been working to create an Affordable Housing Land Bank within the City's affordable Housing Trust. Hearings were held in August, and the proposal should go before the full city council in early September.

Committee on Public Planting offers trees

The client tree purchase program begins its tenth year of service providing shade trees for Cambridge.

You can order a 2-2.5 caliper tree for your sidewalk. Deposits must be received by September 14th to reserve a tree for next spring planting.

In the fall City Arborist Jack Kelly will approve your chosen site, and it will be marked. If there is a problem with the site you choose, Jack will be in touch with you. In early spring the tree will be planted.

Trees offered cost $140 each: 1) Red Sunset Maple, 2) Princeton Sentry Ginko, 3) Thornless honeylocust, 4) Regent scholar tree, 5) Zelkova "Green Vase". The price includes planting.

Every year the Agassiz Neighborhood Council purchases a tree for the neighborhood. Residents may request a site, but consideration is given to recommendation from the City Arborist and overall need for trees on a given street.

Renovations begin at 71 Hammond St.

The Cambridge Housing Authority has advised the neighborhood that construction began at 71 Hammond Street in early August and should be finished in late December. This is the final step in a carefully planned project to provide a residence for 8 chronically mentally ill adults.

When the project is complete there will be an Open House. There is an ongoing committee with four neighborhood representatives to keep the neighborhood informed of the project. If there are any issues regarding construction, or for more information call the council office at 498-9056.
Of interest to the Neighborhood

Vote in the PRIMARY ELECTION SEPT 16th

This primary will determine the republican and
democratic nominees for important offices including
GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, TREASURER,
ATTORNEY GENERAL and DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

Bill August, Chairman of the Ward 7 Democratic
Committee, has advised us that the Massachusetts primary
election will be held on Tuesday September 18th. The polls
will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Residents of Ward 7,
precincts 1 and 2 vote at the North Prospect Church -Roseland
St. entrance (this is the Agassiz side of Mass. Ave.) Precincts 3
and 4 vote at the Peabody School.

To obtain an absentee ballot, you must fill out an absentee
ballot application form or send a card or letter to the Election
Commission office giving the voters name and address, reason
for the absence, address where the ballot should be sent and
voter's signature. Call the Election commission at 498-9087.

Just a reminder that the Ward 7 Democratic Committee is
seeking associate members, and if you are interested contact
Bill August at 491-1018.

Boston Harbor Clean Up and YOUR Water Bill

A TAB editorial from August 14th deals with the issues
around the harbor clean up:

It is one thing to say that the Boston Harbor cleanup
will cost Cambridge homeowners as much as $1,400 a
year is sewer and water bills by the year 2000.

But it's another to spell out what such bills from the
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority [MWRA]
mean.

Apply it to a house on Shiarappa Street in East
Cambridge here. The $241 bill in 1984 has more than
doubled to read $350 this year. By 1995 it will be $965
and by 2000, the owner will pay $1,400. Those are
MWRA statistics.

That's serious. How does a person stretch low
incomes to pay such bills? Isn't it ridiculous that we
still talk ohh,sholudy about the effect of such costs on
people trying to own their own home in a city where
only one in four persons can afford to think about
home ownership?

Then after three years of doodling around, the only
thing the MWRA has managed to spend on harbor
 cleanup is for hundreds of millions in high-salaried
executives and super office equipment right down to
waste baskets and water coolers.

Forty two other communities share Cambridge's
plight... communities closer to the harbor have
contributed more to its pollution [say the others] so
why shouldn't those communities bear the brunt of
skyrocketing rates?

But in Cambridge and adjacent communities this is
the question: Why should residential ratepayers pay as
much as the industrial users whose pollutants clog the
drains as they have for decades . . . .

If you think those water/sewer rates are
outrageous, now is the time to kick the
MWRA-242-5000.

A group known as the National Toxic Campaign Fund has
sent us some interesting information on the harbor clean up
and some ideas about reducing the individual homeowners
share of the cost. Below is an excerpt from the 2/14/90 Boston
Globe:

"A national environmental group charged yesterday
that the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority rate
structure is illegal and unfair, because homeowners
end up subsidizing companies that dispose of toxic
materials through the sewers.

In its report: "The Boston Harbor Cleanup: Who
Should Pay?", the National Toxics Campaign Fund
reports that many companies pay the same sewer use
rates as homeowners, even though the toxic materials
they dump into the sewers are making the harbor
cleanup more difficult and costly...

The Toxics Campaign is proposing a two-part fee
system, which would make it roughly eight times more
expensive for companies using the sewers to dispose of
toxic materials...

"The Toxics Campaign is 100 percent on target,"
said Environmental Affairs Secretary John DeVillars,
who is also chairman of the MWRA board...

The report also calls on the Bush administration
to pay for more of the cleanup costs. "The federal
government has cut and run on Boston," Lewis
[attorney for the fund] said. "Most of the country has
received 75%, Boston is receiving less than 10%. This
is the hardest hit area of the whole country with the
phase out of the Clean Water Act grants."

DeVillars heartily supported the call for more
federal assistance ...

The National Toxics Campaign Fund is a national network
of grassroots groups fighting toxic threats in their
communities, and working to make polluting companies
accountable. They have begun organizing meetings in
Cambridge, and they have sent us their above mentioned
report.

Anyone who is interested in receiving more information
should call the council at 498-9056 or the fund itself in Boston
at 232-0327. We hope to have a representative from the fund at
an upcoming neighborhood council meeting.

Rent Control subcommittee to hold public meetings

A series of meetings are scheduled to begin on September
6th and will be held every Thursday through December at 5:30
in the Sullivan Chamber of City Hall to discuss rent control
reform. Vice Mayor Ken Reeves chairs the subcommittee,
and it is hoped that by December recommendations for rent control
reform can be made to the city council.

The first meeting will focus on enforcement, but other
topics up for discussion include minimum rents, means tests,
eviction proceedings, distressed buildings, vacancy decontrol,
fair net operating income and reforms from Brookline. Reeves
has invited suggestions for topics at meetings.

For more information contact the city council office at
498-9084.
Cultural News and Events

Programs for Children

In our neighborhood we sponsor the Agassiz Afterschool Programs, directed by Carol E. Huntman, the Agassiz Neighborhood Youth Chorus, directed by Ada Snider, art classes through afterschool taught by Conney Skinner and video classes taught by Sarah Doherty, all described above in "Community School Programs This Fall." In other neighborhoods the City of Cambridge offers programs in theatre, dance, and percussion.

Known as THE PERFORMANCE PROJECT, various classes including dance, creative movement, creative drama, playwriting and more are offered for children from 5 through 14 years. Classes are in a number of locations - the Graham and Parks, King, Maynard, Kennedy, Tobin and Fitzgerald Schools. A special class in percussion for 8-12 year olds will be held in the Community Arts Center at Newtonville Court.

All classes begin the first week of October, there is a sliding fee scale, and they are sponsored by the Cambridge Department of Human Services. For a brochure or more information contact Judy Bibbins at 498-9072.

Chekhov Theatre Co- USSR Exchange to begin

The Chekhov Theatre Co is scheduled to leave Sept 17 for a two week visit to Leningrad. They will return October 1. While in Leningrad they will perform Thumbelina and the Wood Demon. Thumbelina was performed in the spring at Lesley College, then again at the Peabody School. The Wood Demon was performed this summer in the Agassiz School.

A Leningrad theatre company is scheduled to visit the US for two weeks in mid to late January. They will perform for local audiences at that time. The Chekhov Theatre Co is looking for families who would like to host members of the Leningrad company, or to take them on cultural excursions. If you are interested contact Martin Cafasso at 864-2691 or the council office at 498-9056.

The Chekhov Theatre Co is directed by Alexander Chirkov and based in the Agassiz Community Center. They rehearse at the Agassiz School and perform in and around Cambridge.

Boston Women's Voice 1990

Boston Women's Voice is now accepting demo cassettes of women who are performing original work as:

- Singer/songwriters/Musicians (all styles)
- Storytellers
- Poets

They are looking for local women's work in the arts to record a compilation tape for fall of 1990. The proceeds from their tape will benefit local women in need. Contact Boston Women's Voice, Now or Never Productions, 95 Washington St. #246 Wakefield, MA 02188, phone 472-1686.

They will answer all replies but they cannot return tapes.

Seniors

Volunteers Needed

The Cambridge Council on Aging Volunteer Program enables elders to maintain some independence and interesting lives within their community. The Council is seeking volunteers to serve as weekly visitors to the homebound elderly. It's an opportunity to offer friendship and companionship to a elderly person and enrich their lives and yours. Please call Sandra Kahn at 498-9038 if you would like to join the Volunteer Visitor Program in Cambridge.

The Cambridge Homes

There is a non profit retirement residence located on Mt. Auburn St., next to Mt. Auburn Hospital and available to anyone who is in reasonably good health, but can no longer live independently. Established in the late 1890's, Alice Longfellow was one for the founders.

In addition to a permanent residence, there is a Visiting Respite Program available. This is designed as a temporary residence for up to 8 weeks for those recently released from the hospital who need additional care before returning home.

Interested people should contact Lorraine Nichols, Director of Nursing at 876-0369 for more information.

Health Tests for $1

Cholesterol and blood pressure screenings for $1 will be offered to the public by appointment on Thursday September 13 from 7-7 at Mt. Auburn Hospital. To schedule an appointment, call the hospital between 9 and 5 at 499-5543.

Want Ads Want Ads Want Ads Want Ads

Kripalu Yoga taught by Danielle Levi Alvares, neighbor and certified teacher. Classes begin September 11th, 12th and 19th and run for 12 weeks. This yoga is for every age and condition. For more information and fees contact Danielle at 354-2113.

Classes at 25 Carver St.:
- Tuesday 6-7:15 p.m.
- Wednesday 6:30-7:30 a.m.; 5:30-6:45 p.m.; 7-7:15 p.m.
- Thursday 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Classes at 11 Garden St.:
- Tuesday 12:30-1:45 p.m.
- Thursday 5:30-6:45 p.m.
Agassiz Community School Programs Fall 1990

Community School Programs This Fall

Afterschool will begin this year on Monday September 10th. The preschool will begin on Wednesday September 12th. Programs are open to all children, and if your child attends a public school other than Agassiz, your child can be bussed here. For more information contact Steven Winter, Director of Agassiz Community School programs, at 498-9056. You can also drop by the office upstairs at 20 Sacramento St. for a brochure.

An Open House is planned for Tuesday October 2nd at 8 p.m. for parents to meet teachers and board members, ask questions, and have a chance to talk to other parents.

Agassiz Afterschool Childcare - This program provides children in grades K-4 with childcare every afternoon afterschool, on half days, and full days during school vacations. Younger children are located in the community center at 20 Sacramento St., older children are located in the Agassiz school. Spaces are limited, so call as soon as possible to enroll. Cost is $215 per month and scholarships are available, but limited.

Agassiz Afterschool Activities - The afterschool activities program provides children with childcare for 1-3 days per week, including all half days. Vacation week care is optional. This program will hold registration on the first two days of school (September 6th and 7th), from 2:45 to 5 p.m. at 20 Sacramento St. Activities include drama, art, sports, a special day for young children, cooking and much more. Children can begin after the first day if space is available. Costs vary depending on number of days and terms.

Agassiz 5-6th Grade Afterschool Activities - This year's activities for the first term include: Video Production on Mondays, Roams and Trips on Tuesdays, Cooking on Wednesdays, and the "Agassiz Afterschool Players" (see below) on Thursdays and Fridays. The Agassiz Neighborhood Youth Chorus (see below) will meet on Fridays. Costs vary for each activity.

Sacramento St. Preschool - The preschool is fully enrolled for this year. It follows the Cambridge School calendar. All children enroll for 5 days per week, and the hours are 9 a.m. to noon. The ages served are from 2.9 to 4 years, and the cost is $215 per month.

The Agassiz Neighborhood Youth Chorus, directed by Ada Snider, meets at Lesley College. It was formed to provide an opportunity for children ages 8.5 and older to experience the joy of singing together, as well as to learn and perform music in a variety of styles. The rehearsals are for one hour on Fridays at 3:30 p.m. First term there will be a performance at the Children's Museum the Friday after Thanksgiving, and for the second term an original musical in conjunction with the Agassiz Afterschool Players is planned. Cost for the first term is $55. For more information contact Ada Snider at 661-2961.

The Agassiz Afterschool Players, directed by Carol E. Hantrman, is a theatre program that will be available each term for both older and younger children. Children help write, then perform an original theatre piece each term.

Grades K-4 will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday afterschool until 5:30 p.m. although we wait for all buses to arrive before beginning the activities. (If you are enrolled in the afterschool activities program on the correct days this can be a choice).

The older group (grades 5-7) will meet Thursdays and Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the second term the older group will produce an original musical in conjunction with the Agassiz Neighborhood Youth Chorus. Cost is $270 per term for both age groups and spaces are limited. For specific information on the Agassiz Afterschool Players contact Carol Hantrman at 354-5118.
September COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Sept 3 Monday .................. LABOR DAY
Sept 6 Thursday .................. First Day Cambridge Public Schools
Sept 6-7 Thurs and Fri .......... Registration for Agassiz Afterschool Activities Programs
2:45-5 p.m. Call 498-9056 for more information
Sept 8 Saturday .................. Recycling at 147 Hampshire and at Sherman St. behind
St. Peter's Field every 2nd Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For directions
or info on what you can recycle call 498-9078.
Sept 10 Monday .................. First Day Agassiz Afterschool Activities and Childcare
Sept 11 Tuesday ................. Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
7:30 p.m. 20 Sacramento St. -agenda pg 1
Sept 15 Saturday .................. Grand Opening Dancyh Park 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Parade will assemble at 9:30 a.m. on Cambridge Common
Sept 18 Tuesday .................. Early Release Day. Cambridge Public Schools close 12:45 pm
Sept 18 Tuesday .................. Primary Day. For information see article
Sept 20 Thursday .................. First Day ROSH HASHANAH
Sept 26 Wednesday ............... Agassiz/ Harvard Planning Committee
7:30 p.m. 20 Sacramento St. upstairs meeting room
For more information call 498-9056.
Sept 29 Saturday .................. YOM KIPPUR

September 1990
Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138 498-9056

THE WHISTLER
DO NOT FORWARD