AGASSIZ CLOSES

The closing of the Agassiz School will trigger many changes in our neighborhood. You will see many references to these changes in this edition of The Whistler, The list that follows will give you a quick summary of the most apparent changes.

- The Agassiz School will be demolished sometime in October.
- The Agassiz School will be temporarily located in St. Joseph’s School on Webster Ave. Union Square Somerville.
- The Community Room at 1651 Mass. Ave. will be our largest meeting space
- The blacktop area of the Tot Lot will be used for construction staging
- The Sacramento Street Gallery will be closed
- Agassiz Afterschool Players performances will be relocated
- Agassiz Afterschool programs will all be located in the Agassiz neighborhood.

(There will be no after school programs run in the temporary site in Somerville.)

School bus stops will be:
- Oxford and Wendell St.
- Oxford and Forest St.
- Garfield St. at Mass. Ave.
- Irving at Kirkland St.

- There will be no Pot Luck Dinner the Tuesday before Thanksgiving

BUT . . .

THERE WILL BE AN EARLY THANKSGIVING POT LUCK DINNER—AGASSIZ GOOD-BYE ON SEPTEMBER 28. For once we will have plenty of room for everyone to sit!

ANC NEWS

The first half of the ANC June Meeting focused on the Agassiz School’s impending demolition, including the time line and concerns of residents regarding the demolition process. A list of concerns was developed (including asbestos removal and safety issues) to bring to the Oversight Committee (neighborhood committee that has overseen Agassiz School rebuilding project).

It was also agreed to develop certain subcommittees of the Oversight Committee to work on specific issues including safety, trees and landscaping. Those committees met throughout the summer, and there will be a complete recap of summer committee meetings at the next Oversight Committee meeting (see "Agassiz School News" for agenda) on September 9 at 7:30 in the Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave., corner of Wendell St.

The second part of the June meeting was a discussion on the upcoming hearing for a liquor license transfer from the Black Forest to Noelle's
Restaurant on Mass. Ave. Concerns were raised, and Chairperson Kathleen Manion agreed to bring those concerns to the negotiations to be held with Noelle’s owners (See below "Neighborhood News Summer Updates").

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

**Summer Updates**

**New Plans for the Oxford Garage**

Lesley College had planned to purchase the Oxford Garage located on Eustis St. as a parking lot for staff. When the Board of Zoning Appeals denied the application for use as a parking lot, Lesley did not purchase the property.

Turnkey Developers, represented by David Chilinski, neighborhood architect, contacted the ANC in June to ask us to arrange a community meeting on the property. The meeting was held in early July, and neighbors attended to review tentative plans for a residential development that would be within the zoning requirements for that property. There would be no variances required.

Neighbors were certainly more pleased with this process than the prior one with Lesley College. It included them immediately, and most residents agreed that this use will be more in keeping with the residential nature of the area.

**Noelle’s Liquor License OKed**

ANC Chairperson Kathleen Manion and Joel Bard along with Jack Josephs from Neighborhood Nine Association, met with owners and lawyers of Noelle’s this June prior to a meeting of the License Commission. The meeting allowed the participants to hammer out an agreement for the transfer of a liquor license from the Black Forest to Noelle’s. Frank Duehay, City Councillor, praised the final document, calling it a model agreement. Noelle’s was granted an all alcoholic beverages license with conditions as follows:

- They will have exclusive use of the kitchen on the premises.
- Closing time will be Mon.-Thurs. 10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 11 p.m.; Sun 8 p.m.
- No liquor served without a meal, and no standing while drinking.
- Windows are not to be obscured.
- Limit of 50 patrons.
- There will be daily trash pick up, and
dumpster in rear will be enclosed
• The entire restaurant will be a non smoking environment
• Tape machine for music must be played below conversation level
• No television on premises
For a copy of the complete Licensing Commission ruling, call the ANC at 349-6287, and we will send you a copy.

**Sacramento St. Dorms Cause Concern**

There was serious concern this summer with dorms operated by Lesley College at six and ten Sacramento St. A letter was sent to Lesley College President Margaret McKenna, and signed by three residents to express their concern about the noise. They were unable to find a person at Lesley to hear their concerns.

They were further troubled that Lesley has not kept to their agreement with the neighborhood, which assured us that the person in charge of each dorm would send out a letter of introduction advising the neighborhood residents whom to call if there is a problem.

This is true for all dorms owned by Lesley, and all neighborhood abutters should receive a letter when the dorms open in September.

**Harvard Cleans Up Soil on Mass. Ave.**

After a serious setback in March due to the blizzard, Harvard University has cleaned up the contaminated soil found behind the Crimson Cleaners (they were not the dumpers) on Mass. Ave. The work was completed in July.

**Traffic**

**Discord**

"Best" traffic patterns are judged by many criteria, usually related to where the judge lives and whether the judge is more a driver, a bicyclist or a pedestrian. Few issues cause more discord and discussion than a proposal to change traffic flow. It will almost certainly affect someone negatively.

The ANC Traffic Committee has devoted long hours to improving neighborhood traffic patterns. One of the overall goals has been to keep Oxford a neighborhood street, not a short cut from mid Cambridge to Porter Square.

The ANC Traffic Committee has requested various changes from the Cambridge Traffic Department. The Traffic Department has agreed to the following:

• To place a traffic light at the corner of Oxford and Everett
• To request to the state to ban trucks on Oxford St.
• To work with Somerville to safely "channel" traffic at the intersection of Oxford at Beacon
• To work with Somerville on one way patterns for both cities at the border near Beacon St.
• To repaint crosswalks the second week in September
• To monitor the traffic lights on Oxford at Sacramento and Forest to determine if cycling the lights is preferable to triggering them with traffic during certain hours of the day

However, in late July the ANC received a letter signed by 13 residents and addressed to the Traffic Department. The signers were opposed to several of the ANC Traffic Committee's recommendations, and requested the following:

• Right to turn right-on-red at the Forest and Oxford light
• Right to turn right-on-red at the Sacramento and Oxford light when school is not in session
• Both lights be triggered by the presence of waiting traffic

The letter also objected to the four way stop at the corner of Oxford and Everett Streets.

The ANC Traffic Committee, upon learning of the letter, scheduled a meeting to discuss concerns of both view points. See the October Whistler for an update, and see below if you want to get involved.

**ANC Traffic Meeting September 21**

Lauren Preston, Traffic Director, will attend the Tuesday September 21 meeting at 20 Sacramento St. from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

**Agenda:**
1. Crosswalks (The City will be doing its fall crosswalk painting soon. We will prepare a list for
the City of the neighborhood locations where we want additional crosswalks or want the present ones zebra striped.
2. A progress report from the Traffic and Parking Department on other traffic improvements.

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**CITY WIDE
NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**Sewer Work Starts at the Charles!**

We have had information from Anne Daughaday, City Engineer from the Department of Public Works, that Phase VI of the Sewer Reconstruction will begin in September at the Charles River with Contract 1. It will take until October of 1996 to begin construction in our neighborhood, which is Contract 3. The estimated construction time for the entire project will be six years.

Ms. Daughaday said that construction in our neighborhood may begin as early as 1995 and ending in 1997, but there will be no relief from flooding until the entire project is complete regardless of when the work begins in our neighborhood. The estimated completion date is fall 1999.

The ANC will be in touch with the DPW to see if there will be any way of mitigating the effects of two major construction projects. The school construction will be two years and sewer construction will be three more after that.

**AGASSIZ
SCHOOL NEWS**

**Oversight Committee to Meet Sept. 9**

There will be an Oversight Committee meeting on September 9th at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave., the Wendell St. corner. The agenda includes:
1. Review of Summer Meetings and Update
2. Review of Demolition Contract and Schedule
4. Selection of New Chair for Oversight Committee

**School Bus Stops**

Marilyn Tompkins from Cambridge School Department has advised us that the Agassiz School Bus Stops from the opening of school through the Agassiz School construction will be:
- Oxford and Wendell St.
- Oxford and Forest St.
- Garfield St. at Mass. Ave. (no guard on duty)
- Irving at Kirkland St.

We expect that the children attending the Agassiz Afterschool programs will be dropped off after school in front of the Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. All afterschool children in grades K-5 will be met by teachers at bus stop and walked to their program.

**COMMUNITY
SCHOOL NEWS**

**Fall Programs**

**PRESCHOOL EXPANDS HOURS**

The Sacramento Street Preschool is still accepting applications for September. Our preschool has expanded its hours to serve children from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., but parents may choose from drop of times of 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. and pick up times of Noon, 1:00 or 1:30 p.m.

This is a five day per week program, and children must be at least 2 years 9 months to attend. For more information or a brochure, call Jody Garber at 349-6287.

**AFTERSCHOOL**

**Changes in Sites**

Due to the closing of the Agassiz School, we have relocated several of the afterschool programs. The unavailability of necessary busses has made use of the temporary Somerville site difficult, so the Community School decided to keep all programs in the Agassiz Neighborhood. All children will be bussed into the Agassiz neighborhood, where we have found additional space. Regardless of the site, participants in grades K-5 will be met at their busses and walked to their program.
Program will now be organized by grade level of the participants, regardless of whether they come part or full time. The sites are as follows:

- Grades K-1  Community Center 20 Sacramento St.
  Dawn Greene, Site Director
  Donna Carmel, Site Director
- Grades 4-5  Harvard Epworth Church 1555 Mass Ave.
  Mike Brown, Site Director

Registration Information

K-5th Grade

There are many exciting activities for children in our fall program. New this year is Dance for grades 2-5 taught by Vicki Solomon from the Cambridge Preschool Program; a class in Magic; a Creative Writing Workshop; Roams and Trips for 4-5th graders; Baking; and a Game and Computer Room (with 2 Apple computers, 2 Macintosh computers and one IBM computer). Back will be the Agassiz Afterschool Players, Courtney Skinner’s Art, clubs, sports, crafts, and much, much more.

At this writing, the K-1 Full Time Childcare (5 day) program is filled. Contact Jody at 349-6287 to be on the waiting list, because there are many changes in the first week of the program. There are still spaces for 2nd - 5th graders. Part Time Activities (three days or less) registration will not begin until the first day of school. These spaces will be limited due to physical space constraints.

Walk in registration for Activities will be held on September 9 and 10, Thursday and Friday from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. A Schedule of Daily Activities K-5 is currently available at 20 Sacramento St., or you may call the office at 349-6287 and have the brochure mailed.

6-8th Grades

There is a brochure available for 6-8th Grade Afterschool Activities which can be obtained by stopping in at 20 Sacramento St. or calling 349-6287. Activities this term will be Video, Baking, Agassiz Afterschool Players, and Illustrative Drawing. These activities will be held in Harvard Ewworth Church, and registration will be held at the same time as the K-5, Activities (see above).

SACRAMENTO STREET GALLERY MUST MOVE

Artists Will Use Community Room

A real loss for the community during the two year school construction period will be the Sacramento St. Gallery located in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. The space is used by visual artists, and over the years the community has been privileged to host many, many excellent shows from Agassiz, Cambridge and Boston artists. Shows will be temporarily mounted in the Community Room at 1651 Mass Ave. Look in The Whistler for announcements.

The space will be used to accommodate other ANC activities including meetings and afterschool programs.

LESLEY COLLEGE NEWS

What is that Oxford St. Construction??

After a call from an Oxford St. neighbor who wondered, we contacted Lesley’s physical plant to learn that Lesley is erecting an architect designed Recycling Center. It will be located in the parking lot next to the dumpster just past the Mellen St. corner. Lesley will lose six parking spaces in the parking lot. They expect the recycling center to be up by the time you read this report.

Avon Associates

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Apt. Rentals | Sales

661-8400
Memorial Hall Committee Report
There will be a report from the Memorial Hall Committee in October which will update us on the issues discussed over the summer.

Conversations have focused on future construction at Memorial Hall and Lowell Lecture Hall, and how that construction will impact the Agassiz and other abutting neighborhoods.

Cultural Events and Residency Grants
The Massachusetts Cultural Council announces November 1 as the deadline for schools to apply for funding to work with professional artists on short or long term, curriculum related projects. The Event and Residency programs offers three types of grants: Event (1 to 3 consecutive school days), Extended Event (4 to 10 days), and Residency (11 to 40 or more days). All three grants are for grades pre-K - 12 and can be conducted in any discipline by artists listed in the MCC's Cultural Resources Directory. Grants support a percentage of the costs based on the number of days a program runs. Interested principals, teacher or parents can call the MCC's Education Program and services staff at 727-3668 for Directories and Applications.

Do You Have an Opinion?
Everyone in the Agassiz neighborhood does. If you have one you would like expressed in the Whistler, write to us. Use 200 words or less, and it will be selected on the basis of general interest and space considerations. The piece must be signed with your name and street.

Our 22nd Annual THANKSGIVING POT LUCK DINNER (just a little early)
Join us and bid a fond farewell to Agassiz School
September 28, Tuesday
6-8 p.m.
Baldwin Hall Agassiz School

Will you cook a turkey? Call us to volunteer. We will deliver a medium size fresh turkey to your door on the afternoon of Monday September 27. You cook it and bring it to the pot luck. To volunteer, call the council at 549-6287.

Don't want to cook a turkey? Then bring a pot luck dish to serve your family plus 4 more. Especially loved are old family recipes or ethnic dishes, but any dish you bring will be welcome. Salads, casseroles, vegetables, etc. . .
The Agassiz Neighborhood Council would like to thank Rosie’s Restaurant for kindly donating space to assist us in housing our Afterschool Programs.

What Is the ANC ??

We are the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, the organization that brings you The Whistler, a monthly newsletter, monthly council meetings and many other neighborhood issue meetings, cultural events, pot lucks, year round children’s programs, meeting spaces, technical assistance to neighborhood committees and many other miscellaneous programs in the neighborhood. We are able to operate even this year when the Agassiz School, our largest facility, is being demolished. We can do that because we have two other sites: The Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. and The Community Room at 1651 Mass. Ave.

We have grown from the 1970’s as a part of the Cambridge Community School program into a private, non profit, tax exempt corporation established in 1985. Our mission reads “To promote the well being of the Agassiz Community by developing and offering services and facilitating a forum for discussion, action, and participation in the life of the community.”

Agassiz neighborhood residents and all families with children in the Agassiz School or Agassiz Community School are members of our community. We are governed as law dictates by a board of ten directors. These directors are members of the community, and they hire an executive director who manages the organization.

The Board does not direct the neighborhood agenda, but sees that the ANC provides a forum for neighborhood discussion which includes meeting space, a monthly newsletter, and technical assistance to committees. The Board also develops and reviews planning, finances and policies of the ANC to ensure relevant ANC activities with high program standards.

Long Range Plan for Council

Last year the ANC began a long range planning process. This year the Long Range Planning Committee will focus on the ANC’s services as a neighborhood association. We would like to evaluate these services to develop a vision for the future. Look for more information in October.

Correction: The June “Whistler” incorrectly reported the students who helped open the “Miss Baldwin of Agassiz” performance in memory of Carol Hantman held in May of this year. It was Gio Gaynor, not Michael Sullivan, who talked before a full house in Baldwin Hall about his memories of Carol Hantman. We regret the error.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>September 9, Thursday</td>
<td>Agassiz School Opens - St. Joseph's School Webster Ave., Union Square, Somerville</td>
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<td>September 9, 10 Thursday and Friday</td>
<td>Afterschool Registration</td>
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<td>September 13, Monday</td>
<td>Afterschool Opens</td>
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<td>September 16, Thursday</td>
<td>Rosh Hashanah</td>
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<td>September 25, Saturday</td>
<td>Yom Kippur</td>
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<td>September 28 Tuesday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Pot Luck Good-Bye to Agassiz School</td>
<td>Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St.</td>
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*The Whistler* is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council with a distribution of 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, before the 15th of the month prior to publication.

**DO NOT FORWARD**

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*The Whistler* is printed on 100% recycled and recyclable paper.