The Whistler  September 1997

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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ANC News

Notes from the June 17 ANC Meeting

Janet Rustow, ANC Chairperson, opened the meeting with Police Commissioner Ron Watson who made some introductory remarks. He said that the Police Department now has about 250 officers and 30 civilians in their ranks. His goal as Commissioner is to bring his department into an era of community policing.

The City has 5 police sectors and 13 neighborhoods. Watson expects that soon Agassiz will be meeting with the lieutenant assigned to the Agassiz sector. Each neighborhood will have a sergeant assigned, and the sergeant will attend quarterly meetings and act as a liaison between the police department and the neighborhood.

Once the organizational tasks are complete, the problem solving mode will begin. Police will regularly meet in all Cambridge neighborhoods to deal with issues unique to them. They can then develop action plans with residents for specific neighborhood issues.

The Commissioner discussed the need for a new police station. The station is much too small, with inadequate meeting space. It is run down and does not present a positive image of the police to the community.

Community members voiced concern in a variety of areas: pedestrian safety, hazardous driving, poor traffic enforcement, poor posting of speed limit signs and of the school zone, and graffiti. Watson welcomed the suggestion that police have a presence in the school.

Janet then introduced Bob Weiss from the Cambridge Neighborhood Apartment Housing Services Inc. He described the program they sponsor that provides deferred loans to landlords for renovations if they maintain affordable rents. The entire loan can be forgiven if landlords keep rents affordable for the specified time period. There is no income requirement for participation. The organization also does financial and technical assistance. [For information on this program, contact Bob Weiss at 491-1545.]

The final speaker introduced was William Bloomstein, Agassiz resident member of the Porter Square Citizen's Advisory Committee. This group of fifteen members, appointed by the City Manager, is meeting to make recommendations for the redesign of Porter Square roadways and pedestrian crossings. The committee's work should be completed this summer, with recommendations expected by late September. Construction is slated for summer of 1998.

Announcements

A Tree Walk will be arranged with Arborist Larry Acosta for later this fall . . . . We had hoped to dedicate a tree in JoAnn Hoffman’s memory on Sacramento Field this month, but it will happen in October. We are still waiting for the tree to be planted . . . . Cambridge Housing Authority is planning an open house for its newly finished housing development on the corner of Mass Ave. and Garfield St. this month. Call the council for specific information on that event, 349-6287.

Information on September 16 ANC Meeting

The new Agassiz School Principal Peggy Averitte, along with members of the Agassiz School Council, will be guests at our next ANC meeting. This will be an opportunity for the two councils to meet each other and exchange any mutually beneficial information and ideas. For more information on the Agassiz School Council, see page 4 under Agassiz School News. (Terry DeLancey, Executive Director of the ANC, serves on the Agassiz School Council, and acts as a liaison between the councils.)

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, September 16
7:30 p.m.
Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:
Meet Ms. Peggy Averitte, New Agassiz School Principal, and members of the Agassiz School Council.
Agassiz Street Tree Fund Announced

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council has developed a special fund to purchase trees and plant them on neighborhood streets. Trees will be purchased once each year by the ANC from the City’s tree planting program. The purchases will be financed by donations to the TREES FOR AGASSIZ FUND. Donations are tax deductible.

Donors may request sites for trees, and they may also choose from a variety of available tree species. However, the City Arborist must approve all sites and species for suitability.

Donations of $150 will pay for a tree and its planting. For more information on this program, contact the ANC at 349-6287 and ask for a brochure on the TREES FOR AGASSIZ FUND.

Neighborhood News

Housing Issues

Garfield Street Housing is Completed

The housing at Garfield St. and Mass. Ave. is complete, and residents will soon be in their new apartments. Cambridge Housing Authority will plan an Open House later this month. Call 349-6287 to receive information on this event.

There will be some renovations at the Gulf station across Garfield St. The entrance on Garfield St. farthest from Mass. Ave. will be shortened, allowing for an extra parking space. Planters will be installed to visually improve the corner.

Harvard Announces Agassiz House for Sale

Vesta Real Estate announces that Harvard will sell 87-89 Hammond Street. At this time offers are requested exclusively from residents of the neighboring Community at the price of $469,900.

This is a two and a half story Queen Anne style two family. The first floor contains a two bedroom apartment with a living room and dining room, both with large bay window areas, a kitchen and full bath. The second apartment, occupying the second and third levels, consists of four bedrooms, a living room and dining room, both with large bays, a kitchen and one full bathroom. There is additional third floor space currently being used for storage. There is also a driveway and a small garage.

Cambridge now owns Affordable Housing

The deal is complete, and the previously Harvard owned units on Sacramento, Oxford and Wendell Streets are now part of the City’s affordable housing stock. Units will become available through tenant turnover. Call the Community Development Housing Office at 349-4600 for information on availability, or to place your name on the waiting list.

Traffic and Transportation

Helicopters Over the Neighborhood

A Sacramento St. resident called to say she was disturbed by helicopter traffic over the neighborhood. Please let the ANC know if you have any information or would also like to voice your concern.

UNIVERSITY REAL ESTATE
"Houses near Harvard" & "Choice Cambridge Condominiums" *

Fred Meyer, C.B.B., C.R.S., G.R.I., REALTOR® (617) 876-1200
Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser
Personally owned and managed for 33 years
Office: 5 J.F.K. St., overlooking Harvard Square
Home: 83 Hammond Street 876-1213

BIG NOISE ON KIRKLAND STREET

Your neighbors along the Kirkland-Washington Street corridor, being heartily sick of the traffic problems here, especially those caused by 18-wheeler trucks racing through on their way to other parts of the world—the noise, vibrations, air pollution, the very riskiness of trying to cross the road have finally joined together to fight this problem to a win.

We often feel we can’t do anything. But that’s false. Action is the answer. We’ve already begun to act and progress is being made, which we’d like to tell you about.

If YOU want to eliminate traffic problems along the Kirkland-Washington corridor, we urge you to join us. You can join by calling Riva Poor of 73 Kirkland St. at 868-4449.

One of our efforts is a letter writing campaign to the corporate offices of the companies whose 18-wheelers race through here, asking them to re-route their traffic and also asking them to get their drivers to obey the speed limit. Aside from complaining to these companies about the damage they do us, we also wish to appeal to their better instincts. In line with this, we wish to cite in each letter at least one anecdote concerning any good deed they’ve done in the past. For instance, in the early 80’s, Mobil used to prevent their drivers from speeding by clocking their trips and issuing sanctions.

Please look through the following list for any good deed on the part of these companies, and tell us about it. Or if you’ve had any personal contact with any of them. Or even if you know their address:

- BFI
- LYONS CORPORATION
- STAR MARKET (tractor trailers)
- GARELICK FARMS,
- BREAD AND CIRCUS
- WASTE MANAGEMENT

For a complete list, call Riva Poor, the Kirkland-Washington Corridor Committee at 868-4449.

Crime Watch

Look for Crime Alerts in School Kiosk

At the June ANC meeting, Police Commissioner Ron Watson agreed to provide the ANC with police bulletins and crime reports relevant to the Agassiz neighborhood. They are placed as they are received in the Agassiz School Kiosk. Take a look at the kiosk for current police information on crime.
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Come See Why the most unique shopping experience in Cambridge JUST GOT BETTER!

Food
Fitness
Shopping
Free Parking

Porter Exchange
1815 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge

Partners in Crime - Funds Available for 1997
The Cambridge Police Department announces the availability of up to $500 in funding to enhance partnership building and problem solving as the police department continues to implement community policing strategies in the neighborhoods of Cambridge. These grants will encourage the use of funds to develop linkages between officers and residents.

Some possible projects include safety training for women, elders or youth; targeted crime prevention; or traffic safety activities. Youth outreach activities could include violence prevention workshops, education issues, bike safety training, or youth forums. Outreach to elders might include intergenerational links, scam prevention, or home safety awareness. Cleanup may include flower planting, graffiti or trash removal, or improvement of parks and roadways.

For more information on how to apply, contact Vicky Boulluce, 349-3236 at the Cambridge Police or Terry DeLancey at 349-6287 at the ANC.

Next Porter Square Neighbors Association Meeting
Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Metropolitan Baptist Church, 16 Beech St., from 7:30 p.m. Write c/o PSNA, P.O. Box 1018, Porter Square Station, Cambridge, MA 02140 or Email at psna@user1.channel1.com

Harvard Square
Historic District Study to Meet
The committee will meet on Wednesday September 17, location to be announced. At the meeting which was postponed from August 13, the agenda will include development of specific recommendations for Harvard Square: scope and governance. For information call the Historical Commission at 349-4683.

Neighborhood 9
Elephant Walk Restaurant Withdraws
The Elephant Walk Restaurant had hoped to move into the site of the former Cappuccino’s on Mass. Ave., across from the Porter Exchange building. However, due to lack of parking and leaseholder concerns, the venture was not feasible. The space is still available.

Hollywood Expresso to Open Soon
In the vacant store space left by Nomad, Hollywood Express will be opening a new coffee shop to be named HOLLYWOOD EXPRESSO. It will be modeled on the European coffee shop, where people may linger over their coffee. Videos will be shown. Look for its opening soon.

The Purple House is Renovated
The last private house on the Agassiz/Neighborhood Nine Mass. Ave. boundary will soon become the home of Bently Automotive Publishing. This company publishes automobile manuals, and they are currently doing extensive renovations that include a large addition in back of the house. The rest of the exterior will remain the same. The owners are working with the Cambridge Historical Commission to choose appropriate colors.

Next Neighborhood Nine Meeting
Neighborhood Nine will meet on Thursday, September 11, in the Peabody School from 7-9 p.m. They will discuss the upcoming sewer work to North Mass. Ave. with Steve White from the DPW and Susan Clippinger from the Traffic and Transportation Department.

Special Thanks to Harvard Law School for their contribution to the Summer Swim Trip Program
Agassiz Community
School Programs

FALL REGISTRATION

Afterschool Fall Highlights

• We will have staff from the Underground Railway
  Theatre working with the children in our drama classes

• Later this fall Skip Schiel will be working with
  Afterschool participants who will help develop a January
  photography show about an Agassiz tree.

• This fall release day performances will include Tribal
  Rhythms (participatory music and dance), Tony Toledo
  (storytelling), MythMasters (Greek myths with drama and
  masks), and Big Nazo (life size puppets).

Agassiz Afterschool

Afterschool opens this year on Monday, September 8. There are
spaces available, but days are limited, so register soon. You
may pick up a brochure at 20 Sacramento St. or call the office
at 349-6287 to have one mailed. The afterschool schedule for
grades 1-5 is posted in the Agassiz School kiosk.

This fall Dawn Greene and Michael Brown will be
Acting Afterschool Co-Directors. Dawn, who supervises the
kindergarten program, is available in the office at 20
Sacramento St. (349-6287) most mornings, and Michael,
who supervises 1st-8th grade programming, is available in
his office at the Agassiz School (497-4284) every afternoon
after 1:00 p.m. Either Dawn or Michael can help you
register, answer program questions, and let you know about
special events and program schedules. Kelly Tyler, in
the office, can help you with registration or billing at 349-
6287.

This year we have developed a Community School
Calendar and Staff Directory. If you are registered you will
receive one in the mail, or call Kelly at 349-6287.

Sacramento St. Preschool

Sacramento Street Preschool opens on Monday
September 8. This program provides a developmental
preschool experience in a cozy, individualized atmosphere.
Located in our community center, a beautiful old house
with an enormous play yard, the Preschool is under the
direction of Diane DiMaina. The program is in session
Monday-Friday from 8:30-1:30, but parents have many
part time options from which to choose. Sacramento St.
Preschool follows the Cambridge School Calendar, and
children must be at least 2 years and nine months to
attend.

To receive a brochure, plan a visit, or to learn more
about the preschool program, call Diane DiMaina at 349-
6287. Spaces are available but limited, so call soon to be
assured your choice of days.

Other Programs

Other programs including afternoon activities for
Middle School (6-8th graders) and evening programs such
as drop in teen and adult basketball, yoga, and computer
classes are currently being organized. For more information,
call the office at 349-6287, and you will receive a
brochure when available.

Jody Garber Moves On

Jody Garber, Program Director at the Agassiz
Neighborhood Council for four years, has moved on to
pursue other professional interests. Many community
members have come to know her as a person who was
always available to help with a problem. She took the
time to explain our policies and procedures, and she
helped with special situations and scheduling. When
scholarships were no longer available, she worked to find
other funds for parents who needed them.

Jody planned and coordinated many fine events and
programs at the ANC, most recently they included a din-
nertime dance and new evening programs in the Agassiz
School. Jody was liaison to many community groups, and
she planned activities with those groups. She worked
with Linda Brion Meisels to create what has become the
Annual Lesley-Agassiz Spring Clean-Up.

When Jody lived in the Agassiz neighborhood, she
served as the Agassiz Neighborhood Council Chairperson.
Her experience on neighborhood projects then, and her
involvement as an Agassiz School parent, helped her to
understand the needs of program participants right from
the start.

Jody's gift as a communicator helped to bring quality
community programming to the adults and children of
Agassiz. Jody, by placing herself in the mainstream of
community activity, always had a grasp of community
needs. As Jody moves on to new challenges, we thank her
for all her efforts on our behalf and wish her the very
best.

v Agassiz Public School v

New Principal Gets Off to a Good Start

Ms. Peggy Averitte is the new Agassiz School principal.
At the Agassiz School Council organizational meeting
held this summer, she proved to be a good manager, a
good listener and a person who would get things done.
The Agassiz School Council (ASC), created as part of
education reform, is an elected body of parents and
teachers with community members appointed by the
principal. The ASC has organized subcommittees with a
council member assigned to act as liaison at the ASC.
meetings. The subgroups consisted of the following: Assessment, Communications, Curriculum, Events and Projects, Finance, Middle School, School Culture and Technology.

Agassiz School Has New Kindergarten, Upper Grade

A third kindergarten will open this year in the Agassiz School, and the middle school (grades 6-8) will have two classes at each grade level for the first time. To allow for more choice in the upper primary grades, there will be one regular fifth grade and one regular fourth grade class added to the two 4/5 combination grades.

The third kindergarten will allow more new kindergarten students. Agassiz School has traditionally had a long waiting list, and many children who choose Agassiz are not accepted. Marina Seevak, previously the 2/3rd grade teacher, will become the new kindergarten teacher.

Lesley College

Planning Committee Reconvenes

The Lesley Planning Committee met in August, and will come to an ANC meeting (tentatively November) in order to inform the entire neighborhood on issues discussed at these meetings.

All interested people are welcome to join. Please contact the ANC at 349-6287, and we will put your name on the Lesley Planning Committee mailing list.

Shuttle Bus Route Stays On Mass. Ave.

Lesley has agreed to keep their Mellen Street/Porter Exchange shuttle bus stop off Mellen St. The shuttle will continue to run up and down Mass. Ave. Neighbors thank Harvard University for allowing Lesley to use their property on Everett St. for turning around.

Announcements

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!

Recycled Paper Needed

Kids in the Agassiz Afterschool and Sacramento St. Preschool need recycled paper for drawing and crafts. If you have clean paper of any size (one side is O.K) call the office at 349-6287. Someone will come by for pick up.

Cambridge School Volunteers

CSV seeks volunteers for the school year to work in the Cambridge Public Schools. There are many ways CSV workers can help kids. Teaching English as a Second Language to students who speak a wide variety of languages is just one challenge. Other placements include one on one tutoring, classroom aides, and afterschool learning centers.

To learn more call Carolyn Muscat at 349-6794.

Learn Video and Computers at CCTV

Attend the Orientation at Cambridge Community Television on September 9 at 6:30 p.m. You will learn all about their free training for members at the Central Square location, 675 Mass. Ave. Membership is available to all Cambridge residents. For more information, call John Donovan at 661-6900 or just drop in.

Tribute to Women September 23

The Cambridge YWCA will host its Eleventh Annual Tribute to Women on Tuesday September 23 with a luncheon at noon and a reception at 1:30 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge.

Awardees include: Sarah Abrams, Fidelity Corp; Ruth Barron, Putnam Furniture Leasing; Yvonne Maria Hall, Cambridge Police; Mayor Sheila Russell; Susan Richards Scott, Community Arts Center. Call 491-6050 for more information on this event.
Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street

Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children

September 23
TRIBAL RHYTHMS - “Celebration”
2:00 p.m. Agassiz School Stage
Admission $1.00 For information call 349-6287

ARTIST DAVID FLOOD WILL PRESENT A
PAINTING AND MULTI-MEDIA SHOW AT
THE SACRAMENTO ST. GALLERY BEGINNING
AUGUST 15 AND RUNNING TO SEPTEMBER 26.

BUG CAGE DISCOVERY

Come into the gallery between 9-5 on weekdays to see a show by one of our illustrious Agassiz Afterschool Teachers.

This series celebrates its third season this year.

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

20th Cambridge River Festival
Saturday, September 6 from Noon - 6 p.m.
The festival will be held on the banks of the Charles at Memorial Drive. Some highlights include a co-presentation with Dance Umbrella of a new work by Japanese modern dancers Eiko and Koma entitled River. The Iguanas will bring their new Orleans dance beat to the Weld Boathouse at 4:55 p.m.

There will be a new Interactive Arts tent curated by George Fifield. Two projects have been selected: "Who are You?" by Doug Kornfeld (an Agassiz resident) and "The Virtual Beret Project" by Sarah Smiley. Also look for a CD-ROM entitled "Museum of Bad Art"

A participatory art installation will be planned by visual artist Mags Harries. There will also be the gospel tent, the music stage, a children’s area, a juried handcrafts exhibit & sale, food, roving performers and public art.

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

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

Folk and Bluegrass Music
Saturday, September 13
Outdoors at 1:00 p.m.
North-Prospect Church, 3803 Mass. Ave
(next to Porter Exchange)
Refreshments • Event will be held indoors if raining

Spectrum Singers Hold Auditions
Auditions will be held on September 2 from 7:30-10:00 p.m. and September 3 from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Openings for all parts for experienced singers; tenors and basses especially encouraged. Three concert series from a cappella to full orchestral works. Call 321-5823 or 894-9065 for information.

Linda Beers Violin Studio
Take violin lessons in your neighborhood! Suzuki and traditional lessons taught by an SAA registered teacher. Lessons begin in September. Call now at 983-5059.

Gallery 57 - 57 Inman Street

From Cambridge to Hong Kong A Traveling Exhibition of Children's murals and paintings from the Cambridge Center for Chinese Culture.
The show runs from September 5-26th with a reception on September 12 from 7-9:00 p.m. For information call Judilee Reed at 349-4380.
DONORS

The ANC thanks all the residents, businesses and friends who have generously contributed this spring and summer to our ANNUAL FUND DRIVE. We have received over $5,000 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!

Helen Lozoraitis
Cambridge Common
Cambridge Co-operative Club Trust

Kathleen Manion
Cambridge Electronics Inc.

David Mason • James Herman
Cambridge Trust Company

Sharon McBride
Carlone and Associates

Eileen McCarthy
Central Barbershop

Keene Metzger
Century 21 Avon

Fred Meyer
Commonwealth Lock

John and Ellen Moot
Evergood Market

Lynda Morgenroth
HMFH Architects

Loretto Morris
Joie De Vivre

Mary and Masatoshi Nagatomi
Kotobukiya Inc.

John Tobias Nagurney • Wendy Mariner
Star Market

Peter and Carmel O'Reilly
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Susan and Terry Ragon

Jane Rautenberg • Kevin Light
Rebecca Ramsay

Margorie Rekan • Ron Nelson
Jane Rautenberg • Kevin Light

Herbert and Betsy Rosenfeld

Mary and Masatoshi Nagatomi

Janet Rustow • Daniel Willbach

Ginger Ryan • Peter Kelsey
Leighton Scheffy

Marcia and Daniel Halperin
Lisa Sjostrom

George Heim • Emily Romney

Elizabeth Kline
Cynthia Smith • Steve Imrich

Ross Hoffman
Ada Snider

Margaret Huttaf
Bonnie Solomon

Friedel Jensen
Karen Sommers • Patrick Hays

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Stephen Kosslyn • Robin Rosenberg
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Gina Tangney

Helen Lambert
Ann Toop

Peter Lang
May Waugh

Tom and Martha Lang
Laura Weisberg • David Wong

Constance LeDuc
Fred Willey

The Lefferts
Debra Anne Wilmer

Earle and Ruth Lomon
Marla Zarrow • Charles Skidmore

Your Neighborhood Realtor

Elizabeth Browning
For Your Real Estate Needs

Coldwell Banker
1730 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

864-4430 x 354

Hunneman
& Company
September 1, Monday
Labor Day

September 4, Thursday
Public School First Day

September 6, Saturday
Noon-6:00 p.m.
Cambridge River Festival
Memorial Drive, Charles River banks

September 8, Monday
Agassiz Community School Programs Open

September 13, Saturday
1:00 p.m.
Folk - Bluegrass Music
Outdoors at North-Prospect Church
1803 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, MA

September 16, Tuesday
6:30 p.m.
ANC Board Meeting (Open to Public)
ANC Monthly Meeting
Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance
7:30 p.m.

September 23, Tuesday
Elementary School Early Release Day
2:00 p.m.
Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children
Tribal Rhythms - “Celebration”
Agassiz School Stage, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance

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.

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 349-6287
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DO NOT FORWARD