

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

April 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

ANC News: Introducing Green Decade Cambridge, Lesley Dorm, New Board Directors Sought, Development Principles 1 - 4

ABC Community: Board Directors Nominating Process, Nstar Outages 4 - 5

City Wide: Leaf Blower Guidelines, NOCA Open Studios, Author Event, "Secret Garden", "SoundScience!" at Club Passim, Best Walking City 5 - 7

ABC School Programs: Preschoolers Prepare for Ocean Life, Afterschool "Love Monster" 7

Sacramento St. Gallery: Preschool Presents "Ocean Life" 7

ANC News

NOTES FROM THE MARCH 19 MEETING

Climate Protection Initiatives Move to the Neighborhoods

Co-prepared by Joanna Herlihy, Green Decade Cambridge

Reducing Greenhouse Gases In Cambridge

According to an energy audit commissioned by the city, more than 80% of greenhouse gas emissions in Cambridge can be attributed to buildings.

In 1999, Cambridge joined with Cities for Climate Protection in drafting a Climate Protection Plan to promote green building, renewable energy, efficient waste management, and more. In 2002, Cambridge accepted the challenge issued by Seattle, WA at the U.S. Conference of Mayors to meet the Kyoto goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below 1990 levels, and to derive 20% of municipal electricity from renewable sources by 2010.

Green Decade Cambridge

Formed in 2004, Green Decade Cambridge (GDC) is a citizens' climate action group that supplements city actions and carries out citizen-based environmental initiatives.



Two members, Joanna Herlihy and Kathy Reine, attended ANC's March meeting to describe the group's goals and successes. They reported that GDC has supported New England's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the New England Wind Fund, and serves as a watchdog and consultant to various municipal departments. They work to ensure that new construction and renovations, such as the Library and the War Memorial swimming pool, adhere to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

GDC members also work to revise building codes to favor renewable energy, have launched a sustainable schools program, and are seeking ways to reach condo owners and renters. They welcome new recruits to the cause.

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



APRIL 16 - 7:30 PM

Baldwin School Cafeteria
28 Sacramento Street
(Press buzzer for entry)

AGENDA

- **Quality of U. S. Postal Service** - Q&A with Customer Relations Rep.
- **Nomination for New Directors** - Agassiz Baldwin Board

Discussion:

- **Lesley Development Principles** - Continued Community Discussion

To inform everyone about the challenge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and assist residents trying to reach these goals, Green Decade Cambridge needs help from neighborhood groups. Recent neighborhood events include an Energy Fair at Longfellow Neighborhood Council, and a tour of energy efficient homes in Cambridgeport hosted by Greenport. Ms. Herlihy and Ms. Reine stated that GDC would be pleased to help ANC locate resources for a similar educational event.

Cambridge Energy Alliance

Cambridge Energy Alliance (CEA), a collaborative organization of professionals dedicated to increased energy efficiency throughout the city, is currently working with Cambridge's commercial sector that, with institutions, accounts for more than half of Cambridge's greenhouse gas emissions. CEA has partnered with several energy consultants and NSTAR to help meet the goals of the Climate Protection Plan by offering free energy audits, advice, and loans.

To learn more or get involved, visit the websites below or call (617) 349-4604 for information about CEA.

- www.greencambridge.org
- www.cambridgeenergyalliance.org
- www.cambridgema.gov

Update on Lesley Dorm Proposal

Updated Design Elements

Neighbors, Lesley University staff, and architects from Cambridge-based Bruner/Cott gathered to discuss the newest design for a Lesley dorm to be built at the corner of Wendell Street and Mass. Ave. At previous council meetings, residents viewed various versions of the dorm as presented by Bruner/Cott Principal Simeon Bruner and architects Jason Forney, Susan Tang, Ruth Super, and Morel Orta. Various elements suggested by Agassiz residents and members of an Agassiz/Lesley dorm project working group have been incorporated into the design.

Offering a brief recap, Bill Doncaster, Lesley's Director of Public Affairs, stated, "Two months

ago, Lesley sought to create eighty beds in a building shoehorned next to the Cambridge Common restaurant. Discussions ensued and a neighborhood Working Group was created and met with Lesley staff and the architects numerous times. Everyone was willing to talk to and listen to one another other while discussing individual and common goals. I found the overall process fun and interesting."

Mr. Bruner then pointed out changes and additions by presenting a series of drawings and a large-scale model. He told the council, "We started off designing a boxy building with no retail. The newest version of the design includes ground floor retail, a modern interpretation of bays, and glass windows that wrap the corner. We think we've broken up the boxy shape."

Plans for the dorm include:

- 1st floor retail totaling 2000 square feet, including an ATM
- An additional sixth floor of rooms set back from the street
- Widened sidewalk
- Entrance to the building in courtyard on Wendell St.
- A 2nd building on Wendell St. will be a 3-story Victorian with mansard roof. This building increases the total number of beds and shields the parking spaces from view
- The exterior of the building along Mass. Ave. will feature:
 - o Recessed windows on corner
 - o Large-scale, warm colored red brick with iron spots
 - o Some bricks set back to create a

Consulting and Design



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- shadow line
- o Double hung windows
- o Awnings over retail windows
- o Trim and fish scale clapboards to add texture
- o New trees and tree grates
- o Potential for mural project or art treatment on a blank wall

First Floor Retail

George Smith, Director of Operations and Campus Planning, will locate a tenant for the retail space. He told the council, "Although we would rather not lease to cooking/food service operations at this location, the university is open to suggestions." Mr. Smith took note of residents' preference for local businesses over chains.

Variances

As there appeared to be a general approval of the project among council members, Meeting Chair Stephen Diamond asked about the next steps for the project, particularly in relation to zoning.

Mr. Doncaster explained that, based on residents' approval of the project at February's ANC meeting, Lesley has applied for variances to the current zoning. They've meet with the Cambridge Planning Board, and will go to the Board of Zoning Appeals on April 27th.

Variances required for the project include:

- Location of the building's entrance
- Additional square footage to accommodate retail space, (one foot and half of height)
- Reduced (staff-only) parking

One resident, concerned about development at

Porter Square, told the council, "I strongly recommend that residents hold off their approval of this project until they've also looked at the other pieces in the neighborhood."

Mr. Doncaster added, "Lesley is openly discussing campus planning with the Neighborhood Working Group established by the City Manager's Office. Also, President Moore is going through a rather extensive strategic planning process, of which the whole campus plan is a part."

The university's goal is to start construction on the dorm in June 2008, to be completed by September 2009.

New Board Directors Sought

Stephen Diamond told the council that ABC is seeking new Board Directors for the organization, stating, "Anyone interested in volunteering for the Nominating Committee or serving on the Board should make it known to us by contacting Chairs Miriam Goldberg and Andrea Walsh."

The Agassiz Baldwin Community Board of Directors has a fiduciary and legal role in overseeing all of the program activities of ABC, a nonprofit corporation, for the benefit of the Agassiz community. This includes the educational, financial, legal, and property maintenance aspects. The Board also provides administrative support for the community activities of the Neighborhood Council.

ABC seeks two or three individuals willing to attend monthly meetings, and special meetings as needed, during the school year, and who are able to work collaboratively and successfully with others. ABC is committed to diversity. Anyone with an interest in participating, or who like more information about joining the Board should contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

	<p>BONNY LAMB</p> <p>Hammond GMAC Real Estate Two Brattle Square • Cambridge • MA 02138 Office: (617) 497-4400 ext. 282 • Fax: (617) 661-0719 Cell: (617) 803-8080 bonny@greatlistings.com • www.greatlistings.com blamb@hammondre.com • www.hammondre.com</p>
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Discussion of Development Principles Related to Lesley University

Long-time Agassiz resident Willie Bloomstein drafted a general statement of principles related to Lesley University's development in the neighborhood for discussion at the ANC meeting.

Joel Bard, who presented the document to the council in Mr. Bloomstein's absence, explained, "The idea for this comes out of our discussions with Harvard from years past. The big picture is that, although Lesley is a significant institution that is growing in our neighborhood, we're all in this together."

Mr. Bard went on to say that the document is a "first crack attempt" at spelling out certain issues specific to the neighborhood. Residents reviewed the document, and will rejoin at the April ANC meeting to further review and discuss the community's needs, vision, and create a framework for institutional development in the neighborhood.

ABC Community

ABC NOMINATING COMMITTEE INFORMATION

March 2008

The role of the Nominating Committee is to recommend candidates for the Board who will:

- Bring expertise necessary to the work of the Board (e.g. financial, legal, educational, architectural) at particular points in time;
- Reflect the diversity within the community that we serve in our programs (e.g. age, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status);
- Exercise their fiduciary and legal responsibility to the nonprofit corporation with sound judgment;
- Be able to work collaboratively and successfully with others on sometimes difficult issues;
- Be available to attend regular monthly meetings as well as participate in special meetings when needed.

The members of the Nominating Committee are

appointed by the co-Chairs of the Board of Directors. For over twenty years, tradition has held that Board Chairs have appointed past Board chairs and board members, as well as others in the community, to serve on the Nominating Committee. After the Nominating Committee has been appointed, members of the Board, as well as community members, can recommend names for consideration for election to the Board.

To nominate someone for the Board, please send his or her name care of the Nominating Committee to psinclair@agassiz.org, or to Agassiz Baldwin Community, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA, 02138.

DOES NSTAR CALL YOU?

Prepared by Astrid Dodds, Resident

At 2:30 in the early morning of March 20, our electricity went off for at least five minutes. The City Electrician said that the outage was for maintenance and that we should have had an automated warning call from Nstar. We got no such warning, nor did we for a Feb. 27 repair event when there were 6 brief power interruptions between 1-1:30 am.

I polled 8 neighbors on Hammond, Gorham, Wendell, and Howland Streets to see who got an automated phone warning for the 3/20 power outage. Four did and four did not.

Before I go back to Nstar -- and perhaps also the City Electrician and the City Council -- to suggest that Nstar isn't trying very hard to alert customers to service interruptions, I'd like to get more feedback.



If you are reading this and you live in the area bordered by Beacon St., Mass. Ave., Roseland St., and Museum St., please email me at astrid.dodds@earthlink.net with answers to the following questions:

1. Did you get a warning phone message from Nstar about the early morning March 20 or March 22 power interruptions?
2. Has your residence had any power interruptions since March 22 for which you were warned in advance?
3. If you have received Nstar warning messages, how often have they been left on voicemail or an answering machine?
4. What street do you live on?

Thanks for responding.

Meanwhile, if you don't know if Nstar has an accurate phone number to match your account, retrieve your last electric bill and dial 1(800) 592-2000 (Nstar Customer Service), or email your electricity account number and your phone number to customer.service@nstar.com.

City Wide

2008 LEAF BLOWER USE GUIDELINES

Prepared by Cambridge Dept. of Public Works

In response to the community's desire to balance the benefits and drawbacks of leaf blowers, the Cambridge City Council enacted an ordinance (Cambridge Municipal Code Section 8.16.081, effective March 1, 2008) that governs the operation of this equipment.

Who does this ordinance apply to?

This Ordinance applies to all residents, businesses, and property owners in Cambridge. However, commercial operators and large property owners should be aware of particular sections that apply only to them.

What counts as a leaf blower?

Any portable, handheld or backpack-style power equipment, powered by fuel or electricity, and used in landscape or property maintenance

for blowing, removing or redistributing leaves, dust, dirt, clippings, litter, and any other debris.

When can leaf blowers legally operate?

The following schedule has been developed in consideration of both landscaping needs and neighborhood quality of life.

Dates Permitted

March 15–June 15;
September 15–December 31

Dates Prohibited

January 1–March 14;
June 16–September 14;
All Sundays and legal holidays, except for Columbus Day and Veterans Day

Hours of Use (during permitted dates)

Monday–Friday: 8:00 AM–5:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM–5:00 PM
Columbus Day: 12 Noon–5:00 PM
Veteran's Day: 1:00 PM–5:00 PM

What if I have a concern about an apparent violation?

Reports of violations should be directed to the License Commission (during City office hours) at (617) 349-6140, or to the Police Department (after hours) at (617) 349-3300. For additional information or assistance, please contact the City Manager's Office at (617) 349-4300 or leafblowers@cambridgema.gov. Learn more online at: www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/services/leafblowers.html.



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NOCA ALL ARTS OPEN STUDIOS

North Cambridge Arts (NoCA) invites you to its 11th annual All Arts Open Studios on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27, from 12:00-6:00 PM each day. NoCA includes painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelry makers, mixed-media artists, poets, performance artists, and many others.



More than 60 artists throughout the 02140 zipcode will be participating at over 30 locations, including Agassiz resident and photographer Rick Blumsack, who will be exhibiting his work at the Brickyard Atrium at 90 Sherman Street.

All events are FREE. Maps will be available at a number of area locations, including Porter Square Books. And look for the balloons outside all NoCA studios! Come to browse or buy. It's art within walking distance, but never pedestrian!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rick Blumsack at (617) 497-0368 or rickblumsack@earthlink.net.

FAMILY NIGHT WITH ELIVIA SAVADIER

Prepared by Cambridge Public Library

Enjoy a hands-on, fun filled evening with this lively artist and author of over a dozen books for young children. Her books include, *Time to Get Dressed*, *I Love Saturdays y Domingos*, *Treasure Nap*, *Hotter Than a Hot Dg* and *Billy and the Bad Teacher*.



Elivia Savadier grew up in Cape Town, South Africa and has lived and traveled in many parts of the world.

Hear her talk, read *No Haircut Today*, and then

have fun making pictures of faces with wild hair!

When: Tuesday, May 6 at 6:00 PM
Where: Central Square Branch Library, 45 Pearl Street, Cambridge
Contact: (617) 349-4409 to register, TTY (617) 349-4421

Pizza will be served. This event is designed for children 4 to 8 years old and adults. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cambridge Public Library.

“THE SECRET GARDEN”

Boston Children’s Theater presents the Broadway musical adaptation of the beloved children's classic “The Secret Garden” by Frances Hodgson Burnett. This show stars several young actors from Cambridge, including Ilana Blumsack of the Agassiz neighborhood!

When: April 5, 6, 12, 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 at 2 PM
Where: Paul Revere Hall, Grand Lodge of Masons, 186 Tremont St., Boston, 02111
Tickets: \$12-\$18-\$20
Contact: (617) 424-6634

SOUNDSCIENCE! WITH CHRIS AND MEREDITH THOMPSON

Soundsience! is an interactive sing along performance designed to introduce children of all ages to the science of musical instruments.

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The performance invites audience participation in multiple ways: audience members are invited to sing along to songs including "Frequency Means How Many", "Wonderful Things About Strings," and "No Matter How you Twist it, It's Still a Horn". Please join us for what is sure to be a fantastically fun learning experience.



When: Wed., April 30 at 3:30 PM
Who: Hosted by Club Passim
Where: 26 Church St., Cambridge, MA
Tickets: FREE for youth and school groups, \$5 suggested donation for adults
Contact: Lisa Murdock at (617) 491-2382 or lisa@passimcenter.org

CAMBRIDGE: BEST WALKING CITY

Prepared by Cambridge Public Information Office

Cambridge was named the best walking city in America, with more residents walking to work and more parks per square mile than any other city evaluated, according to a just-released study by Prevention magazine! To learn more, visit: www.cambridgema.gov/deptann.cfm?story_id=1614.



Agassiz School Programs

SACRAMENTO ST. PRESCHOOL PRESENTS: OCEAN LIFE ART EXHIBIT

Prepared by Jessica Simons, Preschool Director

Things have been quite "fishy" in preschool these past few weeks! The children are busy putting the final touches on their artwork, which will be displayed in our 2008 Sacramento St. Preschool art show! The show will take place in the Sacramento St. Gallery and will be open for viewing Monday, April 14th through Wednesday, April 30th.



Octopi waiting to be installed in art show

Please come under the sea with us, as the preschool presents **OCEAN LIFE!**

AFTERSCHOOL ART SHOW

Prepared by Andrea Bellomo, Afterschool Director

The students of Agassiz Afterschool are working hard creating fantastic pieces of art for the "Kids Art Show!" The show will take place in the Sacramento St. Gallery, beginning on Monday, May 5th, through Friday, May 9th. The special theme is "The Love Monster."



Students have spent time learning about different emotions and monsters. The students in the Kindergarten program are making very large cardboard cutouts of monsters, and are painting and decorating them as a team. Don't forget to stop by the show to see the finished pieces!



Sacramento Street Gallery

OCEAN LIFE

Sacramento St. Preschool invites you to "Ocean Life," the 2008 preschool art show. Opening reception is on Monday, April 14th, 2008 from 12:00 to 12:30 PM and 2:00 to 2:30 PM. Light refreshments will be served.

Gallery hours: M-F 9:00AM-5:00 PM



Community Calendar

April 2008

Wednesday, April 9	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Monday, April 14	12:00 - 12:30 & 2:00 - 2:30 PM	"Ocean Life" opens at Sacramento St. Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.
Wednesday, April 16	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Monday, April 21		Patriot's Day Vacation, ABC School Programs and office closed
Tuesday, April 22		School Vacation Week, Agassiz Afterschool open through Friday, April 25

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. The newsletter is also posted each month online at www.agassiz.org. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

THE WHISTLER APRIL 2008



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DO NOT FORWARD