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3. Community Needs
 ANC will enhance its capacity to respond to changing times and the changing needs of the community with programs, services and forums.

4. Community Forum
 ANC will become a model of excellence in the community with regard to promoting community involvement and participation, providing grass roots communications for awareness, identifying problems and facilitating solutions and strengthening the fabric of the community.

As always, the ANC welcomes the feedback of community members. If you have suggestions, or would like to find out how you can become involved in helping the ANC achieve its goals, please contact Rob Watson at (617) 349-6287 x 10, or by email at rwatson@agassiz.org

Strategic Planning Update: ANC Releases New Vision Statement

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council announced a new vision statement at November's community meeting, reaffirming the organization's goals while highlighting new ways to fulfill them.

The 2004 vision statement, approved by the ANC board, emphasizes the ANC's determination to best serve the Agassiz community. The multi-faceted approach covers the following areas:

1. Arts

The ANC will become the leader in affordable performing and visual arts in Cambridge.

2. Programs

ANC will strive to achieve a standard of excellence in providing safe, developmentally stimulating and enjoyable programs and educational activities for children and adults in a constantly changing and diverse population.

ANC Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, December
 21st, 7:30 pm**

Baldwin School Cafeteria
 (ring buzzer for entry)

**AGENDA: Traffic calming on
 Oxford St., road and sidewalk
 repairs on neighborhood streets.
 Come with questions about yours!**

Public Works Answers Your Questions About Snow and Leaf Remvoal

John Nardone and Bill Dwyer of Cambridge's Public Works Department answered community questions about snow and leaf removal at November's board meeting.

Concerns expressed by the community included the following:

1. *Residents currently rake and bag leaves, then leave the bags by the side of the road to be collected. Can't the city use machines that vacuum up the leaves from the street directly, so that they don't have to be bagged?*

Nardone answered that the city currently owns three such machines, which it uses only in parks, cemeteries and other public areas. "The most effective way for us to do that would be to sweep the streets," he said. "We sweep the city once a month." But once snow starts to fall, he continued, sweeping the snow-and-leaf mixture creates "a holy mess."

This method, he continued, would also compromise the cleanliness of the city's catch basins. "It's really imperative that catch basins are kept clean...from an environmental perspective." When sweeping the streets, he added, "we pick up a lot of stuff that has to be disposed of as solid waste."

2. *Why is there no make-up date scheduled when when leaf collection is cancelled in the event of a storm?*

"At this time of a year, when we miss a sweeping, we miss a sweeping," said Nardone. "To get a whole neighborhood to move their cars to

see "Meeting," page 3

Fed Up with Corporate Signage in Cambridge?

The Townscape Institute, self-described as "a nonprofit, public-interest planning organization concerned with place making and place meaning through conservation and visual enhancement of the built environments," presented a plan for inhibiting offensive corporate signage at the ANC November meeting.

Townscape Principal Ronald Lee Fleming is a "design advocate, practitioner and educator" who has been involved in urban planning on a national level as one of the initiators of the "Main Street" movement. He is also the founding chairman of the Cambridge Arts Council.

Fleming and his associate, Kerry Schneider, addressed the November meeting




Townscape cites McDonald's in Central Square, shown above, as an example of offensive corporate branding.

by sharing its desire to amend the Cambridge sign ordinance. In particular, the Institute disapproves of the red glass panels used by the Staples store in Harvard Square.

"This part of Harvard Square is a conservation district which theoretically has more regulations for signage, yet this Staples has covered the majority of their windows with a trademark Staples red," reads Fleming's Executive Summary of the

see "Signs," page 3



KOTOBUKIYA
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Porter Exchange Building	Sushi Bar	(617) 492-4655
Cambridge, MA 02140	Fish Dept.	(617) 492-5330
	Fax	(617) 864-1313

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"Signs," continued from page 2

to one side of the street, especially in the winter, is a big deal.

"If you could get all of your neighbors to move to one side of the street [on a rescheduled date], we could plow it."

3. After snow is plowed, large piles of heavily packed snow tend to amass on the corners of sidewalks, obstructing pathways for pedestrians. Why should residents be responsible for moving these piles? Does the city have machines that can lift and carry them?

"We're not in the snow-hauling business," Nardone replied, adding that the city will remain on top of residents who fail to keep their property clear. But the city, he maintained, can only be responsible for clearing public property. "If it's the city's fault, we'll do it."

"This is more of an enforcement issue," he said, noting that the Traffic Department issues citations to residents that violate snow removal regulations. "If there's a safety issue, we will do our best to take care of it."

Nardone said that residents should let the Department of Public Works know if environmental issues, such as the lack of dumping into the Charles River, prevent snow removal.

4. Are residents allowed to reserve parking spots after a snowfall?

No. Nardone advises residents to call the Department of Public Works and report residents who do this.

If you have concerns about snow and leaf removal and street cleaning, please contact the Department of Public Works at (617) 349-4800 or (617) 349-4846.

Initiative to Amend the Sign Ordinance.




Staples on JFK St. in Harvard Square

"It's not that we don't want Staples in Harvard Square, or that we want every building to look the same; we object to the obnoxious shield of red paneling that now borders an otherwise charming park...We have focused on this example as an indication of how little ability our city currently has to regulate this advertising practice, even in a protected district."

Townscape's proposed sign ordinance amendment includes the following changes:



This McDonald's, located in Sedona, AZ, represents an example of a corporate image unobtrusively blending into a community.



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1. Include under "Wall Sign" color that identifies businesses or conveys commercial message.
2. Restrict non-affixed temporary signage that blocks windows.
3. Require the removal of temporary wall or other structures adjacent to windows.

see "Signs," page 5

Kids Create!

Art Classes for Children

Agassiz offers Kids Create art classes for toddlers and preschoolers, 18 months to 4 years. Classes include art projects, music and storytime and require parent/caregiver participation. Classes will be offered Mondays and Wednesdays starting in January

For more information, or to register, contact Kelly Tyler at (617) 349-6287 x 12, or ktyler@agassiz.org.



**AGASSIZ BABY
GROUPS ARE BACK!!!**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays
starting in January**

**For more information, contact Kelly
Tyler at (617) 349-6287 x 12
or ktyler@agassiz.org**

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"Signs," continued from page 3

ANC Annual Fund

Thank you to those who have donated to this year's ANC Annual Fund. Donations from community members provide critical funding that supports up-to-date communication and technology, improves our infrastructure and fine-tunes programs and special events.

Contributions may be sent to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

For more information on upcoming programs or events, visit our website at www.agassiz.org, or contact Rob Watson at (617) 349-6287 x 10 or rwatson@agassiz.org. We thank you for your continued interest and support.



Our thoughts are with Agassiz Afterschool teacher Mahbub Husain, who is on leave due to illness.

Afterschool families and well-wishers can send cards to

Mahbub Husain
63 Thingvalla Ave. #2
Cambridge, MA 02138

Get well soon, Mahbub!

4. Further prohibit the use of Wall Signs on roof structures.
5. Appoint a "Signage Consultant" to assist the City of Cambridge through the Inspectional Services Department, as sign regulation enforcement has often been a backburner issue.
6. Establish a five-year Amortization Period for non-conforming signs.



Townscape cites this Shell Station on Memorial Drive as another offender.

(The above list of goals can be found in the initiative's Executive Summary)

This initiative has, according to Townscape, received the verbal support of Les Barber, Director of Land Use and Zoning for the CDD, and Roger Boothe, Director of Urban Design. Fleming and Schneider have also met with the Porter Square Neighbors Association to discuss the amendment.

The initiative will be discussed further at the January 2005 planning board meeting. In the meantime, residents concerned about corporate signage can visit Townscape's website at www.townscape.org. The Institute is looking for the community to express its support of the initiative to the CDD (particularly through a letter-writing campaign).

For information, contact Kerry Schneider at kschneider@townscape.org or (617) 491-8952.

This Month's Local Cultural Events



December 4

Dr. Marmalade: Whimsical puppetry and merriment

December 11

Davis and Davis: Masterful mime, absurd antics, and playful puppetry

December 18

Kids Variety Show Holiday Extravaganza
Music, comedy, dancing, stories, and general tomfoolery

290 Harvard St., Brookline (617) 734-2500

It's time to show off
your first CCTV project on the big screen!
Everyone starts somewhere, and first-time video productions are as good as gold.

Back by popular demand, the CCTV Members' Advisory Committee is putting together another screening of CCTV members' work. This time around, the theme will be certification tapes and first-time productions. Save the date, January 30, on your new 2005 calendars for this sure-to-be fun event!

Have a first-time CCTV production or cert-tape to share? The MAC is seeking submissions! We hope that this will give you incentive to finish off that project, or revisit a recently completed work.

Then invite your family and friends to eat popcorn, and enjoy the show on the big screen in CCTV's studio!

The details:

Please no submissions longer than 10 minutes. The submission can be a cert tape (which is usually 1-3 minutes) or a part of a longer work. Again, the theme is first-time attempts. Besides that, the subject is open!

Send your tape (DV, DVD, VHS or SVHS) to CCTV by Dec. 20 for consideration.
CCTV/ 675 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139

You can also drop it off at the front desk care of Erika Jones.

Any questions, please contact:
Matt Landry, MAC Member
frogmatter@yahoo.com

Community Calendar

MONDAY, DEC. 6 - FRIDAY, DEC. 10	3 PM - 6 PM	KIDS' ONLY HOLIDAY SALE Sacramento Street Gallery
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14	6 PM	ANC BOARD MEETING 20 Sacramento St.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21	7:30 PM	ANC MONTHLY MEETING Baldwin Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St.
FRIDAY, DEC. 24 - MON. DEC. 27		ANC CLOSED
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31		ANC CLOSED

Download The Whistler at www.agassiz.org.

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