

the **Whistler**
 newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council January 2005

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ANC Plans for 2005

At its December community meeting, the Agassiz Neighborhood Council mapped out agenda items for the start of 2005.

January's meeting will feature an update from Lesley University about its plans for development. Because Lesley's VP of Public Affairs, Paul Karoff, left the university in October, we welcome Director of Operations and Campus Planning, George Smith. Also on tap for January: Sugar & Spice Restaurant's application for a "no-value, non-transferrable" beer and wine license.

Harvard University will join us again in February to discuss plans for the Law School and the status of funds designated by last year's Memorandum of Understanding.

In March, the ANC will discuss the issues of traffic volume and speeding in the Agassiz neighborhood (see note on page 5).

If there are other neighborhood issues that you would like to see on the ANC Community Meeting agenda, please contact Rob Watson, Community Liaison, at rwatson@agassiz.org, or (617) 349-6287 x 10.

How do you want to receive The Whistler?

Want to be added to the *The Whistler* hard copy mailing list?

Or would you like to receive an electronic version in your email box every month?

Contact Rob Watson at rwatson@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x 10 to receive *The Whistler* in either format.

ANC Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, January
 18th, 7:30 pm**

Baldwin School Cafeteria
 (ring buzzer for entry)

**AGENDA: Lesley University update
 new request for liquor license**

Update: Initiative to Amend Sign Ordinance

The Townscape Institute, the nonprofit organization concerned with conservation and visual enhancement of the built environments, presents its initiative to amend the sign ordinance to members of the Cambridge Planning Board on Monday, January 10.

Townscape has mobilized its effort in reaction to what it perceives as increasingly "pervasive" corporate branding in Cambridge, which "is further homogenizing...our environment."

The proposed amendment advocates a strengthened sign amendment with an amortization period to get rid of the offending signage over time. The amendment calls for the appointment of a Sign Advisor to ensure sign code enforcement.

Townscape cites the red, full-window logos at the Staples store on JFK St. in Harvard Square, shown below, as an example of offensive corporate branding in Cambridge:



For more information on the Townscape Institute's sign ordinance amendment initiative, visit www.townscape.org, or contact Kerry Schneider at kschneider@townscape.org.

MBTA Faces Cuts, Plans Overhaul for Lechmere Viaduct

The MBTA plans to tighten its purse strings due to rising operating costs and declining revenues, Statehousenews.com reported, but has still designated \$4.2 million for rehabilitation of the Lechmere Station viaduct in East Cambridge.

The report quoted MBTA General Manager Matt Mulhern as describing the situation as "very tenuous." Details were not released regarding potential cuts, but cost increases were chalked up, in part, to rises in fuel and health care costs.

Nevertheless, the \$4.2 million in improvements to the Lechmere viaduct represents \$1 million more than was expected. The MBTA also approved \$2.8 million to upgrade its fare-collection system.

Join the City of Cambridge

Department of Human Services Programs Community Dialogue on Human Services

Formerly known as the
Community Development Block Grant
Public Hearing

*Co-sponsored by the Cambridge Human
Services and the Cambridge
Community Foundation*

Wednesday, January 26th

6:00 PM. - 9:00 P.M.

**Cambridge Senior Center Ballroom
806 Massachusetts Ave.**

For more information please call Clo Delgado
(617) 349-6208



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Sugar & Spice Seeks Neighborhood Support for Beer & Wine License

Sugar & Spice Restaurant, located at 1933 Mass. Ave., has applied for a “no-value, non-transferrable” beer and wine license. The restaurant will appear before the License Commission on Tuesday, January 25 at 6:00 P.M.

The restaurant’s attorneys say they have received support from the Porter Square Neighbors Association, Neighborhood Nine and North Cambridge Stabilization, and seek support from Agassiz Neighborhood members. The request will be discussed at the ANC’s January meeting, to be held Tuesday the 18th at 7:30 P.M. at the Baldwin School Cafeteria.

Typically, establishments applying for liquor licenses purchase the rights from a previously existing business, i.e., one that is closing or leaving the city (subject to approval by the License Commission). A “no-value, non-transferrable” liquor license means that the license cannot be sold off to another party, according to the License Commission. If the business closes, then, the license dies with it. This measure is taken to regulate the number of licenses issued at any given time.

The last “no-value, non-transferrable” beer and wine license issued around the Agassiz neighborhood went to DiMio at 1782 Massachusetts Ave.

At the January ANC Meeting, attendees will discuss the letter of support proposed by Sugar & Spice in advance of the restaurant’s January 25 meeting with the License Commission.

Varying Height Limits Along Mass. Ave.

Debate over the Long Funeral Home site and other development projects along Mass. Ave. always includes a discussion of the height limits of proposed projects. The photos below compare the Long Funeral Home construction site near Beech St. and Mass. Ave. with the corner of Mass. Ave. and Everett St. They illustrate the differences in height limits along different sections of the Avenue. Those concerned about the development of the Long Funeral Home site are concerned about similar defiance of zoning height limits south of Wendell St., where height limits are less restrictive.

Long Site, Porter Square



Mass. Ave. & Everett St.



The Newton Free Library presents

Rock Paper Scissors

by artists David Borrus, John Heymann, Jeannie Motherwell

Exhibition: January 5 - 30, 2005

Reception: January 13, 6 - 8 P.M.

330 Homer St., Newton, (617) 796-1360

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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Concerned About Traffic?

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council has received reports of complaints about traffic in the neighborhood. We are compiling testimonials from neighborhood members to get a better sense of the urgency of this issue.

If you have concerns about traffic volume or speed in the neighborhood, please contact Rob Watson at rwatson@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x 10.

Please Report Broken Streetlights

The following notice appeared in the Cambridge section of *The Boston Globe*, December 26, 2004:

"The city is asking residents to call its electrical department, at 617-349-4925, to report faulty streetlights. The request is part of an attempt by city officials to put pressure on NStar, the utility company, to better maintain the lights. "We need to turn up the heat on NStar to be better corporate neighbors to our community," said City Councilor Denise Simmons, chairman of the council's cable TV, telecommunications, and public utilities committee. NStar spokesman Mike Durand said some past calls about broken lights had not been addressed quickly because they had not been directed to the right people. He also encouraged residents to call 1-800-STLITES to report problems. 'We take the maintenance of our streetlights very seriously in all the communities we serve,' Durand said. The city's new telephone-reporting policy comes on the heels of efforts to take control of the streetlights from NStar. The city's bid for the lights will be addressed at an arbitration hearing in January."

CCTV Releases Winter Schedule - Register Now!

Registration for CCTV's Winter Term has begun! The full schedule can be picked up at CCTV or downloaded in pdf format from CCTV's website at www.cctvcambridge.org. Listed below are a sample selection of courses.

As with all CCTV classes, enrollment is limited and early registration is advised. Don't wait until the last minute or you may find that a course has either filled up or been cancelled due to low enrollment. Call 617-661-6900 to register if you have sufficient voucher balance; otherwise, you will need to register in person at CCTV.

The next FREE Orientation for newcomers is Tuesday, January 4th, at 6:30 p.m.

New courses this semester include:

Computer courses: Intermediate to Dreamweaver MX, Intro to Studio MX, Intermediate PowerPoint,


Studio courses: Advanced Studio Graphics

Field courses: Cert-itude; Lights, Mics, Action!

Editing courses: Intermediate Final Cut

Educational seminars: Sound for Documentary, Distributing Your Show Via DVD and the Web, Under Construction

Full schedule available at www.cctvcambridge.org.



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1815 Massachusetts Avenue
Porter Exchange Building
Cambridge, MA 02140

Market (617) 354-6914
Sushi Bar (617) 492-4655
Fish Dept. (617) 492-5330
Fax (617) 864-1313

Introducing Art

Early Release Days at 2:00 P.M.
on the Baldwin School Stage

\$5 per family, \$2 per person. Call Rob Watson (617) 349-6287 x 10 for more info.

Remaining Schedule for 2004-05 Season...



Thursday, FEBRUARY 24

hip hop festival

Enjoy a sampling of Hip Hop dance and music featuring school-aged, teen and local groups from Cambridge and Boston.

Wednesday, MARCH 16

cello tales

A cellist & a storyteller meld music, myth & memories and take listeners into the soul of the story and song.



Tuesday, MAY 10

boston dance collaborative

See how choreographers and dancers work together to make contemporary dances, set to a variety of music.

This Month's Local Cultural Events

At **PORTER SQUARE BOOKS**, Porter Square Shopping Center

Title of Event: Stella Rimington, *At Risk*

When: Friday, January 21, 2005 7:00 PM
(617) 491-2220



"The first woman director general of Britain's MI5, Rimington speaks smartly about workplace issues while ratcheting the tension high in her authoritative debut thriller."

Publisher's Weekly

"I can't say I approached Stella Rimington's debut as a thriller writer with much optimism. In fact, I approached it in the same spirit I'd expect to view the appointment of Anita Brookner as head of British Intelligence. What a pleasant surprise to be proved wrong."

Sam Leith, telegraph.co.uk

The first — and to date, only — female director-general of Britain's MI5 secret service agency, Stella Rimington had plenty of experience and first-hand knowledge to draw from in creating her appealing literary doppelganger, Liz Carlyle. Described as having "the wits of Bond and the smarts of Smiley," Carlyle, a British intelligence agent, is the central figure in Rimington's "rattling good yarn" (Douglas Hurd, *New Statesman* review), which was an immediate bestseller in the U.K. when it debuted last summer. Rimington is also well-known in the U.K. for the furor that followed the publication of her memoirs, *Open Secret*. Sir Bernard Ingham, former press secretary to Margaret Thatcher, commented sourly at the time, "She is doing herself no favours at all and she should shut up because she is bringing contempt on herself and the whole business." Rimington has defended her autobiography, astutely observing, "If you read it you will realize there's nothing in it that is in any sense damaging to national security. I wasn't going to spend 27 years working to defend our security and then blow the secrets."

Community Calendar

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

ANC Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

6 PM

**ANC BOARD MEETING
20 Sacramento St.**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

7:30 PM

**ANC MONTHLY MEETING
Baldwin Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St.**

Download The Whistler at www.agassiz.org.

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or to be advised by email of its posting on the web each month at www.agassiz.org/whistler.html >. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

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