

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

April 2004

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Harvard Construction Mitigation
 Call Center
 617-496-0857
 Monday to Friday, 6 AM to 6 PM
 For emergencies during non-work hours,
 please contact Harvard University Operations Center
 617-495-5560

**Beacon Street Drainage
 Improvements Project**

Update - March 2004

ANC News

The March 16th ANC Meeting was cancelled. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. All agenda items have been covered in this month's Whistler and/or will be covered at the April 27th ANC Meeting.

**The Whistler Goes
 Electronic!**

As of the September 2004 issue, The Whistler will be exclusively an electronic publication. This means it will be only available online. To add your email address to our Whistler Electronic Notification list, please contact the ANC now. If you do not have access to the internet and wish to receive a printed copy of the Whistler, you MUST contact the ANC to request this. (If you have already requested a paper Whistler in response to our 2003 database update, your request will be honored and you do not need to contact us again.) Printed Whistler subscriptions for those who do not contact us will be discontinued in September.

**Please contact: Amy King
 aking@agassiz.org
 617.349.6287 x19**

What's been done to date...

- * Installation of Pump Stations #1 and #2 completed.
- * 36-in Ductile Iron Drop Connection to Diversion from Pump Stations #1 and #2 completed.
- * Miscellaneous drainage improvements between Beckwith Circle & Museum Street completed.
- * New 6" water main and water services installation from Museum Street past Beckwith Circle apartments completed.
- * Excavation for the installation of the Temporary Support of Excavation (SOE) for Stormwater Storage Tank #1B has been and will be on going.

continued on page 3

Next ANC Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 27th, 7:30 p.m.



**Baldwin School Dining Hall -
 28 Sacramento Street
 Oxford Street Entrance**

press buzzer for entry

**Agenda: Beacon Street
 Construction, Community Center
 Renovation, Future Agenda Items**

The ANC will update you by email when changes are made to the agenda. To be added to our email list, contact Amy King at 617.349.6287 x19 or aking@agassiz.org.

News from Lesley University

courtesy of Paul Karoff, VP of University Affairs

Porter Exchange Parking

On March 16th, Lesley University presented to the Cambridge Licensing Commission a plan to implement a pay-to-park program for users of the surface lot behind the Porter Exchange building. Since Lesley acquired the building in 1994, parking in the rear lot accessible from Roseland Street has been free. The new system will become effective May 1, 2004.

Under this program mall patrons will pay a nominal fee to park behind the building. The parking fees for up to 3.5 hours are less than the City of Cambridge meters. The fees for more than 3.5 hours escalate to discourage people who are not mall patrons from using the lot.

Lesley has agreed to open the parking lot without charge during snow emergencies in order to help remove cars from neighborhood streets and assist with city snow removal efforts.

Representatives from Lesley had intended to brief ANC members on this change at the cancelled March 16th meeting; they will be available to describe the program and respond to questions at the April ANC meeting.

New Restaurant at Porter Exchange

The Bistro-style restaurant, Rustic Kitchen, will be the new eating establishment to occupy the space formerly filled by Guiseppe's in the Porter Exchange building. Rustic Kitchen plans a June or July opening. The restaurant, which has locations in Boston's Faneuil Hall and in Hingham, describes its menu as "simple, authentic Mediterranean-Italian cuisine." The restaurant will also feature take-out desserts and a retail counter for fresh breads and pastries.

Have you ever wondered what a child safety seat is or how to install it? Did you feel overwhelmed by all the instructions or the inability to have the seat stay where it was supposed to be? Don't go it alone! Contact the Cambridge Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit at 617-349-3238 for help.

The Cambridge Police Department, with the assistance of the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau, has Officers certified to inspect and install child safety seats free of charge. Making an appointment is as simple as making a phone call. Appointments are usually scheduled for Wednesday or Thursday evening beginning at 4:30 p.m. Call 617-349-3238

Agassiz Community Center Awaits Renovation

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is pleased to announce that Prellwitz/Chilinski Associates has been hired to renovate the 19th-century Community Center located at 20 Sacramento Street. Renovations will provide accessibility to the side entrance and ground floor of the building, restore the historic building's crumbling porch, and freshen the exterior walls and trim with paint. Exterior work will include a handicap-accessible sidewalk, small patio, gate, wood ramp and steps to the existing side entrance. Interior work will include modification to doorways to create an accessible route, conversion of a small kitchen into an accessible restroom, a new kitchenette in an adjacent room, and minor modifications to the gallery. Architects will work with the Cambridge Historical Commission on the porch and facade restoration.

Mary Ben Bonham, an Associate at PCA, will speak about the restoration project at the April 27th ANC meeting. If you have questions about the project, please attend this meeting or contact Amy King at the ANC: 617.349.6287 x19 or aking@agassiz.org.

CLOTHING DRIVE



The Cambridge Public School's Family Resource Center is holding a clothing drive. Please bring all clean and gently worn clothing for all ages to their office located at 459 Broadway, Cambridge, in Cambridge Rindge & Latin School, R131.

Fred Meyer, Realtor

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617-876-1200

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PORTER SQUARE AIR RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT

At last week's Cambridge City Council's committee meeting, it was announced that Lesley University will not be participating with Oak Tree Development in a joint venture for the development of the area over the T tracks at Porter Square. It had been hoped that by working together, Lesley and Oak Tree could produce a plan that would be beneficial and economically feasible for them and an improvement to the Porter Square area.

The T's spokesman, Mark Boyle, says that they are now giving Oak Tree, their only responsive bidder, a 2-3 week period to confirm the feasibility of their proposal for approximately 80 units of rental housing on top of a parking deck over the tracks. If they do not confirm their proposal, the T will have try again.

At the PSNA meeting this week it was reported that if the T needs to find another responsible bidder they will involve the residents from the adjacent communities this time, in the formulation of a new "Request for Proposals." With participation from the Agassiz neighborhood, along with others in Cambridge and Somerville, the T's development can produce positive benefits to our community.

What's happening now...

- * Construction of stormwater holding Tank #1B continues with 3-4 sections of tank being installed weekly.
- * Installation of the Sacramento Drainage Improvements will begin soon. Sacramento Street will be fully opened when this work is completed.
- * Installation of the 4-in force mains from each of the pump stations to the flap valve manhole.

What's to come...

- * Construction of stormwater holding tanks #1A and #2 will begin.

Traffic Management...

- * Two lanes of traffic, one lane in each direction, will be maintained throughout the construction. As tank sections are delivered, one lane may be closed for approximately three hours, one or two times per week. Police details will continue to be on-hand to maintain safety for workers and pedestrians to maintain alternating traffic.

Emergency Services will ALWAYS be kept informed of road closures and detours and will ALWAYS have access through the construction zone.

Key Contacts:

Call 617/492-5804, S E A Field Office on Sacramento Street next to Shaw's Star Market and talk to Bruno Cardarelli, Chief Resident Engineer for S E A Consultants Inc. or Judy Kavanagh, Community Relations Manager @ 617/498-4710.

The City of Cambridge, Community Development Department invites you to discuss:

Porter Square and Lower Mass. Avenue

This meeting will continue the discussion of issues related to the Porter Square and Lower Mass Ave area, focusing on selected topics including site development potential, retail, and Porter Square air rights.

Thursday, April 8, 2004
6:30 PM
Baldwin School cafeteria
28 Sacramento Street

For more information, please contact
Taha Jennings at 617.349.4603
or tjennings@cambridgema.gov.

PLYWOOD DRIVE

This spring, artists Caleb Neelon will join with children in the Agassiz Afterschool to create a mural on one wall of the old carriage house at 20 Sacramento Street (future site of the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center). We're looking for donations of plywood (the larger the better), as well as polyurethane and house paint. If you have any left over from a project, please contact Amy King at (617) 349-6287 x19. Thanks!



Yard Waste Collection Begins April 5th

Collection is April 5, 2004 through December 17, 2004. Set out yard waste by 7:00am on your regular collection day, or as early as 3:00pm the day before. If your yard waste is not picked up and is properly prepared, call 617.349.4843. During holiday weeks, collection is one day behind.

For a recycling route map or the holiday collection schedule, visit the DPW website at www.cambridgema.gov/~TheWorks.

What is accepted for yard waste?

The following materials are banned from landfills and incinerators in Massachusetts. All yard waste collected goes to a local composting facility.

- * Leaves
- * Grass
- * Plants
- * Shrub prunings and twigs (thinner than your thumb and shorter than your arm)

Place yard waste in barrels marked with City-issued yard waste stickers or in 30-gallon lawn refuse bags sold in most hardware stores. Barrels and bags must be set on the curb apart from the trash. Face stickers to the street and do not staple or tape refuse bags. Bundle small twigs and branches with string. Do not place yard waste in plastic bags. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be picked up by rubbish or recycling crews. Call 617.349.4800 for stickers.

What is not accepted?

Do not include food, soil, rocks, tree limbs, or trash with your yard waste. You must call a private hauler for large tree limbs and large rocks. The City will pick up one bundle of lumber, or three limbs (fatter than your thumb) per week with the trash, if tied in bundles no longer than 2ft and no larger than 2ft in diameter.


Street Sweeping Starts April 1st

Be sure to check signs for parking restrictions between April and December to avoid being ticketed and/or towed. To view the street sweeping schedule, visit the DPW website at www.cambridgema.gov/~TheWorks.

Even if a sweeper has gone through an area once, please do not park there before the 1 PM posted end time. Whenever feasible and necessary, the sweeper may make a second pass through a neighborhood. Public Works also cleans each one of the city's 5,000+ catch basins annually, and knowing when streets will be free of parked cars helps when planning this major endeavor.

In addition to improving the cleanliness and appearance of streets, street cleaning also plays an important role in keeping local waterways clean. By sweeping up sand and other debris, catch basins are kept clean and able to function efficiently. Street sweepers also help to remove particles and chemicals that get deposited on roadways through the wear and tear of vehicle parts, combustion, and leaking engine fluids, reducing a significant source of pollution to the Charles River and the Alewife Brook.

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*Agassiz Community School
Tengganaw*

Sign up now for the **OUTBACK**

Summer Program!

For over thirty years, the Outback Summer Program, located in the big backyard behind the Agassiz Neighborhood Council building at 20 Sacramento Street, has been providing summer-time care for children in Cambridge and beyond. OCCS-licensed and run by a team of diverse, talented counselors and specialists, Outback provides children with opportunities to learn, play, relax, cool off, explore, and make new friends in a safe, inclusive, fun environment. Children choose their activities based on daily offerings, and



enjoy Thursday field trips to local beaches and recreation areas.

Outback begins Monday, July 5th and ends Friday, August 27th. Children may sign up for all eight weeks, only one, or any number in between! Full-

day and part-day options are available. Children must be entering grades one through six. Counselor-in-Training opportunities are available for children entering grades seven through nine.

Registration has begun!

Contact Director of Programs Sharon Reidbord,
617-349-6287 x10 or sreidbord@agassiz.org.

Sacramento Street Preschool now accepting registrants for Fall 2004!

The Sacramento Street Preschool is in its second decade of providing inclusive, high quality childcare to children between the ages of two years, nine months and pre-Kindergarten. Children are regarded as individuals with different social, emotional, physical and cognitive needs and strengths. The Sacramento Street Preschool is a small program with a total daily enrollment of no more than 20 children. Staff is able to respond with care to each child, providing personal attention and stimulating each child's social and emotional growth.

To register, contact Preschool Director Diane DiMaina, at 617.349.6287 x11 or ddimaina@agassiz.org.

Register for the Fall!

The Agassiz Afterschool program provides inclusive after school care and activities for all children in Kindergarten through grade 5. Families can choose between full time (5 afternoons per week) and part time enrollment (1, 2 or 3 afternoons per week).



Licensed by the Massachusetts Office for Childcare Services, the Agassiz Afterschool is sponsored by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. It is one of the oldest and largest after school programs in Cambridge.

Agassiz Afterschool provides safe play and exploration in a vibrant, welcoming community. Each afternoon, children choose from a "menu" of activities in areas receiving limited attention in school (namely drama, dance, visual art and athletics). Program staff helps children develop cooperation skills and respect for themselves and others.

Registration has begun for the Agassiz Afterschool's 2004-2005 term. To register, contact Sharon Reidbord, Director of Programs, at 617.349.6287 x10 or sreidbord@agassiz.org.

Welcome Spring!

The Kindergarten Afterschool decorated the backyard and smashed a snowman pinata at their Spring Party, below.





Cultural Happenings - Call 349-6287 for information

Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge
presents

New Works by Kayla Mohammadi

April 12th - May 7th, 2004



Artist's Reception:

Friday, April 8th, 2004 5:00-7:00 PM

Gallery open M-F 9:00-5:00




Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children presents



The Giving Tree and Other Stories Little Theatre of the Deaf Wednesday, May 19, 2004 at 2:00 PM

The Little Theatre of the Deaf combines Sign Language and spoken words to create a unique visual language which one critic described as "poetry for the eye and ear."

**Baldwin School Stage,
28 Sacramento Street, Cambridge**
Questions? Amy King, 617.349.6287 x19 or aking@agassiz.org
Admission \$2.00. Groups must reserve in advance.
All Cambridge after school programs admitted at no charge.

KOTOBUKIYA
JAPANESE MARKET • SUSHI BAR

1815 Massachusetts Avenue	Market	(617) 354-6914
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Cambridge, MA 02140	Fish Dept.	(617) 492-5330
	Fax	(617) 864-1313

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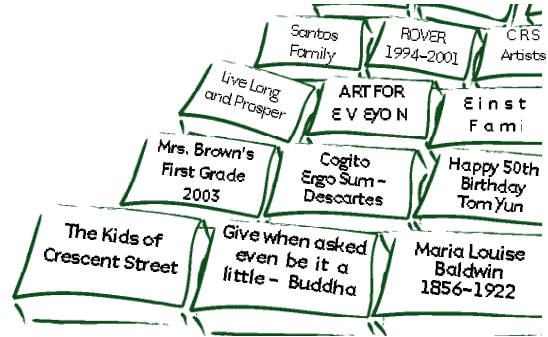
BUY A BRICK TODAY!



TO SUPPORT THE MAUD MORGAN VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Engraved bricks will be placed in the walkways surrounding the new art center to honor people, provoke thought and inspire all who visit. Each brick will have three lines (a maximum of 16 characters per line). Be creative! Honor someone, quote a hero, remember a loved one, or mark a special occasion.

Bricks cost \$250.
Contact Amy King at 617 349-6287 x 19 or <aking@agassiz.org> for information or a brochure. Thanks for your support!



Other Local Cultural Events and Programs



Contact NoCa:
(617) 547-4441
www.noca-arts.org



NoCa Arts (North Cambridge Arts) announces the seventh annual All Arts Open Studios

Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

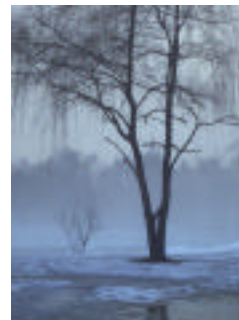
Includes painters, woodworkers, sculptors, photographers, jewelry makers, fabric artists, mixed-media artists, musicians, writers and poets.

More than 40 artists throughout North Cambridge open their doors to the public. Readings and performances are at scheduled times.

All events are free and maps are available at the NoCa Arts information booth at the Peabody School, 70 Rindge Avenue, where parking is available and (on Saturday only) at Frameworks, 2067 Massachusetts Avenue. For more information, visit our Web site, www.noca-arts.org, or call (617) 538-4353.

NoCa Arts is an association of accomplished, professional visual and performing artists living and/or working in North Cambridge with a strong commitment to the neighborhood and community.

NoCa Arts is partly funded by generous contributions from local merchants and community residents.



Community Calendar

SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH		DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
MONDAY, APRIL 5TH	SUNDOWN	PASSOVER BEGINS
FRIDAY, APRIL 9TH		GOOD FRIDAY Cambridge Public Schools and ANC closed
SUNDAY, APRIL 11TH		EASTER
FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH	5:00-7:00 PM	Opening Reception for KAYLA MUHAMMADI through May 7th
MONDAY, APRIL 19TH		PATRIOT'S DAY Cambridge Public Schools and ANC closed
TUESDAY, APRIL 20TH		CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL VACATION and AGASSIZ VACATION CAMP through Friday, April 23rd
TUESDAY, APRIL 27TH	6:00 PM	ANC Board Meeting 20 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor
TUESDAY, APRIL 27TH	7:30 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda) Baldwin Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. 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.

The Whistler April 2004



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DO NOT FORWARD

