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Download The Whistler at www.agassiz.org/Whistler.html

Notes from the June 15th Neighborhood Meeting

Representatives from Harvard University were our guests at the June meeting to update residents on development. Those present included Tom Lucey, Lois Stanley, Mary Power, and Charlie Connor, representative for FAS Construction Mitigation. Tom Lucey presented updates on FAS and Harvard Law development. These updates are covered in the Harvard Development update on page 1.

Tom also answered questions posed by a group of concerned Agassiz citizens who had met a week earlier to discuss Harvard development. Questions below are followed by Tom's answers.

North Yard

1. What is the time frame?

In the next 3 months, work will be done on LISE, as well as some utility upgrade work, which may change some pedestrian walkways in the Museum Street/Divinity Ave areas.

2. When will the garage be done? What will be put on top of it in the year following completion?

The garage is scheduled to be finished in December 2004. After a public process, the NorthWest building will go on top of it.

3. When will the fence be coming down? Are there further thoughts about the idea of a small park promised for the Hammond/Gorham area?

The fence will remain through the construction of the NorthWest building, until 2007. When Palfrey House is done, the fence will accommodate it.

4. When will the concrete wall along Gorham Street be removed? Will the park be at sidewalk level? Will there be sidewalk on Gorham Street?

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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

Harvard Development Update

Prepared by Tom Lucey

Harvard University North Yard update presented at the ANC Meeting of June 15, 2004

(Updated in August for the September edition
 of The Whistler)

It is my pleasure to provide you with a brief update of activities around the Harvard University's North Yard as well as to reaffirm our commitment to keep the line of communications open with you.

In terms of Faculty of Arts and Science's (FAS) projects, updates include:

The Laboratory for Interface Science and Engineering (LISE) – LISE is the facility that will be located adjacent to the McKay Lab at the south end of Oxford Street. It will be used by the scientists in several departments including Physics, the Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Chemistry, and Biology for research in nanoscale and mesoscale science. Harvard presented

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Next ANC Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 21st

7:30 p.m.

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

Oxford Street Entrance - press buzzer for entry

Agenda:

**Long's Funeral Building update
 Harvard's Latest Plans for NorthWest Building
 Lesley Planning Update**

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The wall will not be removed until 2007, when the NorthWest building is scheduled for completion.

5. Will the asphalt around the greenhouses be removed when other parking is available?

Currently this asphalt is part of the NorthWest construction site.

6. Where is the vehicle exit/entrance to the garage, and the ventilation shafts? How will Harvard prevent noise and pollution from the garage entrance/exit and ventilation shafts from going toward the neighborhood, especially to the abutters on Hammond and Oxford Streets? How will Harvard handle ventilation from the garage during and after construction? Will the garage be in use during the construction of the NorthWest Building?

Some of these questions can't quite be answered yet as the work is still in design stages. Acoustical and wind tunnel studies will help predict/avoid noise and pollution issues. The garage will be in use during NorthWest construction.

7. Please explain the latest thinking and present updated plans for the NorthWest Building. What will the site be? Are there still plans for a "Pavilion?"

[The latest information on the NorthWest building is included in the Harvard Development article on page 1.] Architect design for the pavilion is not yet finalized.

8. When will they pull the permit for the NorthWest Building?

The permit will not be pulled until after there is a community process.

9. What are the landscaping plans along 60 Oxford Street, Palfrey House and the Hammond Street Edge? Landscaping plans are not yet complete; Harvard is taking input on this issue from the community.

10. What are the near-term and long-term plans for the Divinity School parking lot and nearby parking lots? Part of the MOU development would be on the asphalt.

Law School Development

1. What is the time frame?

An architectural and planning firm still has not been selected for this development. Harvard hopes to choose one in the summer of 2004. In the first 6 months, they will redefine programming; then comes site design, fol-

lowed by building design.

2. Is it true that Harvard plans to tear down the Everett Street Garage and Wyeth Dorm?

Yes, Harvard does intend to tear down the Everett Street Garage. There are no final plans to tear down Wyeth but it is the best site for the Law School development.

3. When are they tearing down the garage? If this will happen before the other garage is completed, where will cars park in the meantime?

The garage will not be torn down until the new garage is finished and in use.

4. Will they make part of Everett a 2-way street?

This issue still needs to be discussed with the community and the City.

5. Will there be space for commercial development on the first floor of new Law School buildings?

Harvard is currently considering the neighborhood's feelings on the Bence Site between Everett and Wendell. They aren't currently contemplating retail south of Everett.

6. We've heard rumors about moving the two Victorian houses on Mass Ave. What are your current thoughts about possible locations for these houses?

Some Neighborhood 9 residents have suggested moving the Victorian houses to the North Hall site. Charles Sullivan of the Cambridge Historical Society believes that the houses are connected to Mass Ave and should stay there. Harvard has not yet reached any decision regarding the houses.

A resident proposed the following suggestion for dealing with construction mitigation:

1. Resident calls construction mitigation number.
2. If problem not resolved, resident calls Tom Lucey.
3. If problem still not resolved, resident contacts Amy King, ANC Community Liaison, and ad hoc committees set up as needed to deal with these problems.

Lesley University Update

Lesley University is currently in the process of sending out a RFP to find an architect who will renovate and enlarge White Hall, the large residence hall that backs up to Oxford Street. They want to either build up or fill in toward the amphitheater. Lesley expects to have some proposals in September, so they will report at the September 21st neighborhood meeting. At that point they will discuss a public process. Construction will be done over the course of two summers -- the university hopes to start construction in May 2005 and open in Fall 2006.



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Beacon Street Drainage Improvements Project

Update – August 2004

What's been done to date...

- * The two underground Stormwater Storage Tanks have been completely installed and backfilled.
- * Grading and compacting the road sub-base in the trench over the Tanks in preparation for paving is done.
- * Force main has been installed.

What's happening now...

- * Relocation of 6-inch water main and water service hook-ups is ongoing.
- * Installation of mechanical/electrical components and control panel is ongoing.

What's to come...

- * Grinding and overlay paving of Beacon Street will be completed.
- * Curb and sidewalk restoration will be completed.
- * Completion of catch basin installation.
- * Activation of system and pump stations.
- * Installation of drainage training berms* (*berm: a raised, asphalt pavement - a few inches high, gradually sloped - that directs surface stormwater to the curb line and into the catch basins and helps prevent surface water from running down the side streets from Beacon Street. This is a stormwater management technique used to help minimize surface flooding during heavy rainstorms). Berms will be placed on Forest, Prentiss, Eustis, Sacramento and Museum Streets.
- * Complete punch list items and site restoration.

Anticipated Project Completion Date – end of August 2004!

Questions about the construction? Need help with a construction related issue?

Call 617/492-5804, S E A Field Office on Sacramento Street next to the 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.

Be a Good Neighbor: Pick Up After Your Dog!

The City of Cambridge has a Pooper Scooper law that requires dog owners to carry means of removal and remove any feces left by their dog. It is illegal to leave pet waste in public areas, or on private areas you don't own or occupy, and will result in a \$50.00 fine for repeat offenders.

Why?

- * Pet waste contributes to pollutants in the Charles River and Little River/Alewife Brook.
- * Waste dumped or washed into stormwater drains is carried directly to rivers.
- * Pet waste can carry viruses and bacteria that are harmful to humans.
- * Pet waste contains nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients that accelerate growth of damaging algae and aquatic weeds.
- * Pet waste is damaging to trees.
- * Cleanup of parks ruined by pet waste costs you more in taxes. Pet waste left by owners could lead to pets being banned from parks and other areas.
- * Keeping public areas clean will improve neighbor relations, assure your pet will be more welcome in the neighborhood, and allow everyone to enjoy open space.

The next time you take your dog out for a walk, bring a plastic bag or scooper to pick up after him/her. You will be promoting better relationships with neighbors, improving the environment, saving money, and adhering to the law.



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this project to neighbors multiple times including two presentations at the Agassiz Neighborhood Council (ANC), three meetings to discuss construction impacts, and displays at the Sacramento Street Gallery and the Baldwin School. Site prep began in mid-April and construction of the foundation will begin in September. Construction will continue through the fall of 2006.

Palfrey House -- The Palfrey House has been moved twice in the past 18 months -- first to make room for construction of the Oxford Street Parking Facility and second to place it near its final location above the Parking Facility. Review by the Cambridge Historic Commission was completed last fall. Renovation is now underway on both the interior and exterior of the house. FAS will occupy Palfrey House for office space beginning in September 2004.

NorthWest Building -- Currently under design by Craig Hartman of Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill, the NorthWest building will be a 436,000 gsf structure (approximately 1/2 underground) to be located above and adjacent to the Oxford Street Parking Facility. To date, Harvard has had four meetings with neighbors who provided the architects with input, most recently on June 17. We have scheduled time at the September 21 meeting of the ANC to discuss this project. The city approval process (a Board of Zoning Appeal variance is required) is expected to take place later this year. It is hoped that construction will begin in early 2005 and continue until September of 2007.

Utility Work --Some utility upgrade work in the north yard is now underway. For the summer months and continuing through the fall, the Andover Hall and Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) lots were the sites of construction activity. Pedestrian pathways may be impacted for a short time in the fall. Alternate pathways are suggested on site plans posted throughout the campus and at the following URL: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~planning/NPUE/NPUEphaseB6-14to9-07.pdf>.

Science Center – The work is completed!

Other updates relate to the Harvard Law School:


As you may know, in 2002 the Harvard Law School (HLS) began a process to assess the potential of its current site to accommodate future space needs as well as to understand community and city issues regarding possible development.

One of the findings of this process was that if HLS could replace the existing Everett Street parking garage with an underground parking structure and relocate the two existing Massachusetts Avenue wood frame houses, there is a good chance its space needs could be accommodated in Cambridge.

In August, HLS chose Robert A.M. Stern Architects as the principal design firm to prepare a planning framework for the Law School campus and to provide the architectural design for the initial development on the school's northwest corner. Currently, Robert A. M. Stern Architects is conducting programming studies that will eventually lead to site design and building design. Of course during this planning process, we will be working with the community and city to shape an agreement on the overall development plan.

Also, Cambridge City Manager appointed three people from Agassiz (Joel Bard, Adriane Bishko, and Ellen Friedman) to sit on the Agassiz-Neighborhood Nine Working Committee that will consist of representatives from Neighborhood Nine, Agassiz, the City of Cambridge, and Harvard University. This Working Committee is an element of the ongoing consultation process between Harvard/HLS and the Agassiz Community as envisioned in the recently adopted Memorandum of Understanding. The first meeting of this group took place on the 24th of June and the next meeting is scheduled for September.

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Outback Summer Program Celebrates Another Fun Summer!

The Outback Summer Program, an 8-week day camp for children entering their 2nd year of Kindergarten through 6th grade, is winding down after another great summer. Every week of the program was filled to capacity and featured great teachers and activities, guests from Young Audiences of Massachusetts, and weekly art specialists teaching everything from cartooning to ceramics to fashion design. A special thanks for their hard work goes to Jonathan McMullen and Emily Raine, A.M. and P.M. Site Directors, who always made sure children were safe and having fun!

Don't let your child end up on the Outback wait list next year -- enroll early to secure a spot! Look for Outback enrollment information in the mail or in the Whistler early next spring. You can enroll for as many or as few weeks as you want.

Below, left: Heloise Widdig and Liam Bodwell work on the newest mural to grace the old carriage house, soon to be the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center. Below, right (l-r): Julian Berosh, Tyler O'Keefe, Zoe Bourgoin-Stone and Ilana Blumsack try their hands at musical instruments with a guest from Young Audiences of Massachusetts.



WELCOME NEW STAFF

In May we welcomed **Administrative Assistant Lee Cappucci** to our office. A Cambridge native, Lee handles billing and enrollment for the Agassiz Afterschool, Sacramento Street Preschool, and Outback Summer Program. She can be reached at 617-349-6287 x23.

In June, beloved **Sacramento Street Preschool Teacher-Director Diane DiMaina** resigned from her post after fifteen years at the ANC. Diane will be missed by parents, children and staff alike. We wish her the best in everything she does! We have hired a **new Preschool Teacher-Director Michelle Quinlan** who comes to us with a Masters degree from Lesley University and ten years experience with children. Michelle can be reached at 617 547-1062 or mquinlan@agassiz.org to register, to visit our preschool or for more information.

This summer we welcomed **Barb MacEachern as our new Afterschool Director**. Barb comes to us with eleven years of Afterschool and camp experience, most recently at the Franklin Park Zoo's Zoo Camp. We look forward to the excitement and energy she will bring to the Afterschool! If you have any questions about Afterschool or want to introduce yourself, you can reach Barb at bmaceachern@agassiz.org or 617-349-6287 x11.

Community Liaison Amy King left the ANC in mid-August. After two years in the organization, Amy has decided to pursue education and will be teaching English to seniors at Waltham High School in the fall. We will miss her writing and editing skills. Joining us on September 13 will be **Robert Watson, as new Community Liaison**. He has a journalism degree from Boston University and experience as a film critic and in the non profit sector

In August we said good-bye to **Jonathan McMullen**, who after years of administrative work at the ANC has spent the past year working in our children's programs. This summer, Jonathan ably directed the morning session of the Outback Summer Program. He will be leaving to concentrate on his studies at UMass Boston.



Cultural Happenings - Call 349-6287 for information



Sacramento Street Gallery

ONE PERFECT WORLD by **ROB ROVENOLT**

SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 15, 2004

Gallery Open Weekdays 9-5

ARTIST'S RECEPTION: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH 5:00-7:00 PM



The Sacramento Street Gallery proudly presents work of Rob Rovenolt. The artist says " This world, far from perfect, is all I know. In the South end of Boston, I'm looking out my window at a grand Victorian streetscape, whose tranquility is shattered by sirens and sights that jar my senses back into a 21st Century urban reality. A common thread throughout my thirty years as a professional artist has been my fascination with the juxtaposition of the ordinary and sublime elements of everyday life. These collages, constructs and tableaux are manifestations of my need to order and make some sense of my thoughts and surroundings. I strive to attain a balance in my life by guiding "worlds" that speak for me. It is my sincere hope that they "speak" to you as well."

HANGINGS PROVIDED IN PART BY



Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children Presents ROOTS MUSIC COLLECTIVE


Thursday, September 30th, 2004
2:00 PM

This interactive performance illustrates how the music of early African Americans evolved from work songs and spirituals and led to blues, jazz, country and rock. Musicians will take suggestions from the student audience to create an original work.

Admission \$2.00 per person, \$5.00 for families.

For more information, contact Lee Cappucci at 349-6287 x23.

Groups must reserve in advance. All Cambridge after school programs admitted at no charge.

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Harvard Museums Community Day!
Sunday, September 19, 2004
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Discover the many and varied treasures of the Harvard Museums with an afternoon of discovery, culture, and family fun. The Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Busch-Reisinger Museum, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard Museum of Natural History, Peabody Museum, and the Semitic Museum will host a FREE open house!



START THE ART!



SAVE THE DATE!
OCTOBER 22nd, 2004
4:00-8:00 PM

For a GALA OPEN HOUSE to celebrate our new look at 20
Sacramento Street with renovations completed!
and

see the 4th ANNUAL SMALL WORKS EXHIBITION AND SALE
Cambridge artists support the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center

For more information, call 617-349-6287

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

ANNUAL DANEHY PARK FAMILY DAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2004

Mark your calendar for the City's Ninth Annual Danehy Park Family Day on Saturday, September 18 (Rain date: September 19) from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., featuring free t-shirts and kites, arts and crafts, food, amusement rides, roving performers and music for all tastes.

Check out the interactive children's stage. Take a spin on the dance floor during the hip-hop dance instruction or take part in a magic show. This free event, sponsored by the City of Cambridge, attracts over 4,000 people annually and offers something for everyone.

Danehy Park is located at 99 Sherman Street in North Cambridge. Free shuttle buses will be running throughout Cambridge to provide transportation. Danehy Park can also be reached by public transportation: # 74 or # 78 bus from Harvard Square; or the # 83 bus from Central Square. Picnics and lawn chairs are encouraged. For further information, please contact the Danehy Park Office at 617-349-4895.

The Dance Complex
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featuring work by
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and others!

Friday, September 10th
Saturday, September 11th
8:00 PM

The Dance Complex
536 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge

Tickets: \$9
Reservations suggested:
617-547-9363

Community Calendar

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH		LABOR DAY (ANC closed)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH		FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (Cambridge)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH		FIRST DAY OF AGASSIZ AFTERSCHOOL and SACRAMENTO STREET PRESCHOOL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH		ROSH HASHANAH (begins at sundown Sept. 15) Cambridge Public Schools and ANC closed
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Artist's reception for Rob Rovenolt: ONE PERFECT WORLD through October 15th Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST	6:00 p.m.	ANC Board Meeting 20 Sacramento Street 2nd Floor
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST	7:30 p.m.	ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda) Baldwin Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH	2:00 p.m.	INTRODUCING ART presents: ROOTS MUSIC COLLECTIVE Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street

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The Whistler September 2004



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