

**THE FUTURE IS HERE!
 JOIN THE CONVERSATION
 AGASSIZ ELECTRONIC DISCUSSION BOARDS NOW**

The ANC Board has approved a pilot project that will provide the community with electronic discussion boards to keep interested people updated on various issues important to the neighborhood. Please check into our bulletin boards and see how they work! Go To:

www.agassiz.org

look for Discussion Boards and link to them

We will begin with two Discussion Boards:

Harvard Planning Issues (construction, underground garage, long-term planning, etc.)

and

General Community Issues (sewer construction, crime bulletins, traffic issues, etc.)

We will assess this project in three months and refine it, so bear with us as

we ourselves learn how to manage this resource.

Your comments are most welcome as we proceed.

YOU CAN GET THE WHISTLER before it goes to press at www.agassiz.org

it can be down loaded as a pdf file or viewed on line in color!

GOT EMAIL??

Using email reduces our mail expenses while getting you information more efficiently. Contact us at

info@agassiz.org with your areas of interest and we'll be happy to send you email notices.

And let us know if you would like to receive an electronic version of *The Whistler*, rather than a paper mailing.

In This Issue	
Agassiz Study Group Recommendations . . .	2
Agassiz House Breaks	3
Lesley U. May Expand in Porter Square . . .	4
Bunker Hill CC Offers Course at CRLS . . .	4
Shovel Your Walk, Info on Salt	5
Cultural Events	6
Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Progress .	7
Agassiz School and Community School . . .	7
Community Calendar	8

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
 Next Monthly Meeting
 Tuesday, January 15
 7:30 p.m.
 Agassiz School Dining Hall
 28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:
 Mary Power, Director of Community Relations from Harvard University will address major upcoming Harvard development and begin a community process.

WHAT IS THE ANC MISSION to promote community participation and respect all points of view?

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council provides a forum for discussion and action in the community through monthly neighborhood council meetings and other committee meetings. Without consensus the ANC will not take a position on any issue, allowing all points of view to be posed and aired. In cases of neighborhood conflict on issues, the ANC will make every effort to provide a process that includes all points of view and works toward a solution that is acceptable to the majority.

v ANC News v

Notes from the December 18 ANC Meeting Agassiz Study Group Presents Recommendations

The Agassiz Study Group, supported by the Cambridge Community Development Department (CCD), presented their recommendations for the neighborhood after a year and a half of study. Members **Amy Barad, Joel Bard, Deb Galef, Miriam Goldberg, Ross Hoffman, Fred Meyer and Dave Wood** each presented a series of recommendations. **Stuart Dash** from CCD was on hand for support as was **State Representative Alice Wolf** as a guest.

Traffic and Transportation recommendations included more intra city routes and other creative routes utilizing the resources of Lesley and Harvard for public transit, safer street crossings at many locations, encouragement of non auto travel, traffic calming, support for the urban ring, and

use of alternative fuels.

The recommendation for economic development and employment was to encourage the City to develop a formal plan to communicate with the ANC about business that would be useful to the residents.

Urban design recommendations included preservation of pedestrian short cuts, a second access route to Sacramento Field, underground utility wires whenever possible, tree plantings and for new buildings, an expectation that they fit into existing residential aesthetics.


Some miscellaneous recommendations were for Oxford Street be closed and used from time to time as space for community celebrations; that immediate graffiti removal be encouraged; that ANC continue to plant trees and that residents be encouraged to take advantage of the street tree planting program.

Open space is lacking in Agassiz, and it was recommended that the feasibility of creating a park over the commuter rail at Porter Square be explored. The committee recommended the City pursue funds for open space through the Community Preservation Act, rename the Alden tot lot located at the corner of Sacramento and Oxford Streets, that signage be put up so residents could find Sacramento Field and that passive recreational use be developed for the field. Recommendations were made that Harvard temporarily landscape during upcoming construction and incorporate publicly accessible open space on Oxford St./Divinity School property.

It was recommended that the City explore affordable housing opportunities as they arise, as well as provisions for single room occupancy in residential areas. If there is new student housing, it is recommended to be low density. The committee supported Harvard's objective to extend quadrangles into neighborhood boundaries. Also recommended was the pursuit of affordable housing funds through the Community Preservation Act.

Zoning recommendations included development of by the City of an inventory with all lots over 6,000 square feet. This would allow ANC to have a sense of all potential new development. Also recommended was a buffer zone near Lesley similar to, but not as large as the new transitional zone at the Hammond/Harvard edge. It was recommended that the neighborhood consider a conservation district for Agassiz.

The committee recommended that Lesley work on landscaping at 47 Oxford. It recommended that Harvard keep all museums in Cambridge and offer free admission for residents and school groups. It recommended that



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Carol Kelly
Myra von Turkovich (Agassiz School Parent)
Jan Devereux (Agassiz School Parent)

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Harvard move its shuttle bus stop from Oxford Street, and that Harvard keep a pedestrian-friendly, neighborhood oriented use in commercial spaces along Mass. Ave. The Academy of Arts and Sciences should keep its gates open during posted hours, and housing should be considered for Harvard and Lesley low wage earners. Harvard should involve the neighborhood early in all planning processes, and Harvard should advise the neighborhood of its public events.

Members of the council responded to many of the recommendations and made many suggestions to the committee members. At the end of the meeting, participants voted for the recommendation most important to them. Stuart Dash said that the comments would be reviewed by the committee, and the recommendations would be reworked to include input received at the meeting. *The Whistler* will keep you up to date on the revisions.

For a complete list of recommendations, please call (617) 349-6287x23 or email <jmcmullen@agassiz.org>, and Jonathan McMullen will send the material to you.

v Neighborhood News v

Crime Watch

Neighborhood Alert Posted Mid December

Cambridge Police alerted the ANC to a recent neighborhood break-in where a home was entered via an unlocked window. The assailant fled when the victim screamed.

There were three other incidents of house breaks earlier this fall: on Prentiss St., Mass. Ave. and Newport Rd., and there is a suspect, Timothy Shepard, who can be seen on the Cambridge Police website at:

<http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CPD/>

If you are interested in receiving email notification when Agassiz receives a crime bulletin from the Cambridge Police, just call Jon McMullen at (617)349-6287x23 or email info@agassiz.org

Are You Interested In an Agassiz Safety meeting??

For many of us this is a season of good cheer. But for others this a time of being under attack in terms of our safety in the world and in our homes. This is to let the women of the Agassiz area know that the **Women's Commission** is able to


help organize a Women's Safety Meeting that could include members of the police department and City Council. There would be an update on the late night break in/assault December 11th with information on how the investigation is proceeding.

Safety meetings are an opportunity for neighbors to get help figuring out what kinds of safety initiatives would be helpful. The police can offer a self-defense class based on the Rape Aggression Defense system (RAD) a 16-hour course which begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance and progressing to basic hands-on defense training. Certified RAD instructors teach this class.

Another self-defense program is geared toward mothers and daughters or just daughters. Girls LEAP, a self-defense curriculum for ages 8 to 14, incorporates physical skill building with journaling and drawing activities, role play, discussion groups, conflict resolution techniques, and safety information. It addresses each girl in her entirety-empowering her physical, mental, emotional and spiritual points of view. This program can run in conjunction with the Cambridge Police Department's Rape/Aggression defense program.

If you would like to participate in a safety meeting, please call Mary at The Women's Commission 349-4697. To speak with the Police to find out how the investigation is going call 349-3370. You may speak with the Public Information Officer Frank Pasquarello, 349-3237, RAD 349-6008, 349-6009, or 349-3236. You may also call any of those #'s to have a police officer to your home to do a safety check of window locks and lights. The number for LEAP is: 1 781 283-2904. (Courtesy Women's Commission)

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 donations to our
KIDS SALE
 in December

v City Wide v

Holiday Tree Collection

Curbside: Holiday trees will be picked up for recycling December 26 through January 11, on the same day as your trash, in a separate truck, unless it is snowing. If DPW crews are plowing and shoveling, trees will be picked up with the trash.

PLEASE REMOVE plastic bags, lights, tree stands, ornaments, garland, tinsel, etc. from tree before placing at the curb. Make sure your trash, recycling and trees are placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on the day of your pick up.

Drop-off: Trees can be dropped off at the Cambridge Recycling Drop-off Center at 147 Hampshire St. from 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 27, Jan. 3, Jan. 8 and Jan.10, or from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Dec. 29 and Jan. 5. For more information, call 617-349-4800.

Conservation Commission Members Wanted

City Manager Robert W. Healy is accepting applications from residents interested in serving as voting members of the Cambridge Conservation Commission. The Commission consists of seven members appointed to three-year terms by the City Manager.

Members are responsible for the protection and preservation of Cambridge's wetlands, streams, rivers, and flood plains, and are involved in other local and regional natural resource management issues. Anyone with an interest in natural resource protection is encouraged to apply. The Commission particularly encourages those with experience in wetlands biology, civil engineering, hydrology, or environmental law to apply.

Commission responsibilities include regular attendance at monthly public meetings/hearings (usually held on Monday nights), careful review and analysis of permit applications under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, and occasional site visits.

Letters of interest and resumes should be sent to Robert W. Healy, City Manager, 795 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139. For more information about the Conservation Commission and deadlines to apply, please call Nancy E. Glowa, Interim Director at 617-349-4680.

New Economic Development Director

Estella Johnson has been hired as the new Economic Development Director and joined the City on December 17. Economic Development is a division of the Community Development Department. Estella has over 20 years of

professional experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

For the last nine years, she was President and CEO of the Gate City Community Development Corporation in Greensboro, North Carolina where she focused on management, fund raising, grant writing, marketing and all aspects of founding and running the organization. Prior to that, Estella worked for the Chicago Housing Authority in strategic planning and served as an assistant commissioner in the City of Chicago Department of Economic Development.

CRLS Hosts Bunker Hill Community College

Spring courses at the Cambridge Satellite of Bunker Hill Community College begin January 22. Classes are held in the evenings at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, and offerings include writing, math, computer, accounting and early childhood education courses. You can register at City Hall, from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., on the following dates in January: 1/3, 1/8, 1/10, 1/15 and 1/17. For more information, call Bunker Hill C. C. at (617) 228-2422.

v Lesley University v

Lesley Facility Planning

Interested residents met with Lesley this fall to discuss facility planning issues. There are several potential scenarios that will have impact on the Agassiz neighborhood, and it was agreed that the working group would come together again when Lesley has more information about their facility needs .

What Lesley Owns and Leases in and around Agassiz

In addition to the buildings on and around Everett, Wendell and Mellen Streets, Lesley owns a large parcel of property in Porter Square including Porter Exchange, and two parcels now used as parking lots across Mass. Ave. adjacent to the White Hen Pantry. Lesley owns the White Hen Pantry as well.

Lesley is also leasing space in Cambridge and Arlington. They lease 19,000 square feet in Porter Arcade (directly behind Porter Exchange and across from the CVS) formerly Bed and Bath. Other leased space includes 25,000 square feet on Broadway in Arlington. Inside the Porter Exchange building itself, Lesley rents 55,000 square feet of space (this lease was in place at the time of the original purchase) on the 2nd floor to the

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 Fish Dept. (617) 492-5330
 Fax (617) 864-1313

Smithsonian for the Center for Astrophysics, and that lease ends in 2005.

What May Change

Lesley acquired the Art Institute of Boston (AIB) in 1998. It is located in Kenmore Square, Boston, and the lease on one of its two buildings may be lost soon. There are several possible scenarios in Boston, but if these efforts are unsuccessful, another potential scenario is to re-site the AIB in the Porter Square area. One possible site is the 55,000 square foot space on the second floor of Porter Exchange, currently leased by the Smithsonian. This will necessitate a thorough re-thinking of many Lesley facilities and resources.

This scenario would trigger a host of neighborhood concerns that arise when the possible influx of 500 more students (half of whom would need housing) is considered. Lesley should have more information in March to help inform the decision on the future site of AIB. There are other facility issues that need discussion, including the possible move of Lesley's library to Porter Exchange, the possible use of the parking lots across Mass. Ave. as student housing, and possible new construction on Lesley's main campus within the C2A zone on the north side of Mellen Street.

The working group will meet in March and study the implications for the neighborhood. **To be on the Lesley Working Committee** or to receive more information on this process, please email: <jmcmullen@agassiz.org> or call Jonathan McMullen at (617) 349-6287x23.

v Announcements v

First Time Homebuyer Workshops in January

Cambridge Community Development Department offers courses to help Cambridge residents get ready to buy their first home. The workshops consists of four classes, each two hours long. and they will be held January 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6-8 p.m. at the Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave.. There is no charge, and everyone is welcome.. For more information contact Michelle Moran at 617/349-4622.

WINTER IS FINALLY HERE - BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND SHOVEL YOUR WALK!

There are families with small children, people with infirmities and older residents that do not leave their homes if the sidewalks are not clear. IT IS THE LAW that homeowners clear sidewalks. If you see neighbors who disregard the law, please call the hot line (617) 349-4903, and provide them with the offenders address. The DPW will give the neighbor one warning before issuing a \$25 ticket each day the sidewalk is not cleared.

Stock up on ice melter before a storm. Use ice melter with calcium chloride. It is better for the environment and only a small amount is required to melt the ice. Potassium chloride is okay, too. Avoid sand if you can, it fills catch basins and storm drains and is expensive to clear away in the spring.

HOLD THE SALT FOR THE TREES, PLEASE

By Larry Acosta, City Arborist

We all appreciate well maintained and ice free roads and sidewalks, but when it comes at the expense of trees, we should think twice about how much and where we apply salts and sodium chloride. Trees in sidewalks have a tough time as it is, because soils in cities are generally compacted and dry. Salt complicates the situation even more because:

- * Salt compacts the already dense urban soil, limiting root growth.
- * Salt can injure by direct contact the foliage of conifers that keep their needles during winter.
- * Salt stays in the soil and is absorbed by the roots in spring and moves to the leaves where it is toxic.
- * Salt reduces the water absorbing capacity of roots and the tree dies of thirst.

When applying salts to sidewalks, paths in parks and public buildings and to roadways be sure NEVER to directly apply salts to planting beds and tree wells. Use the right amount of salt for the level of snowfall or ice. Use pickle, a mixture of sand and salt.

Trees are one of the few elements of our city infrastructure that appreciate or grow in value as the years pass, but only if they are in good condition. Let's protect this valuable asset by doing what we must to make streets and sidewalks safe in winter, but with a care for the green that blooms in the spring.

SEWER CONSTRUCTION - CONTACTS

Chief Resident Engineer	Ray Elie	354-8216
Community Relations	Judy Kavanagh	498-4710

Block Captains:

Helen Lambert	Sacramento St.	661-0690
Chantal Fujiwara	Museum St.	661-6488
Kate Frank	Crescent St.	547-5174
Amy Barad	Eustis St.	492-6640

DPW 24 hour emergency service 349-4860

Check the kiosk at Agassiz or DPW Web Site for updates:

<http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks/>

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For Electric Emergencies call NStar at 1-800 592-2000

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v Cultural Happenings v



Sacramento Street Gallery presents "String Theory"

recent drawings by J.M. Ryan

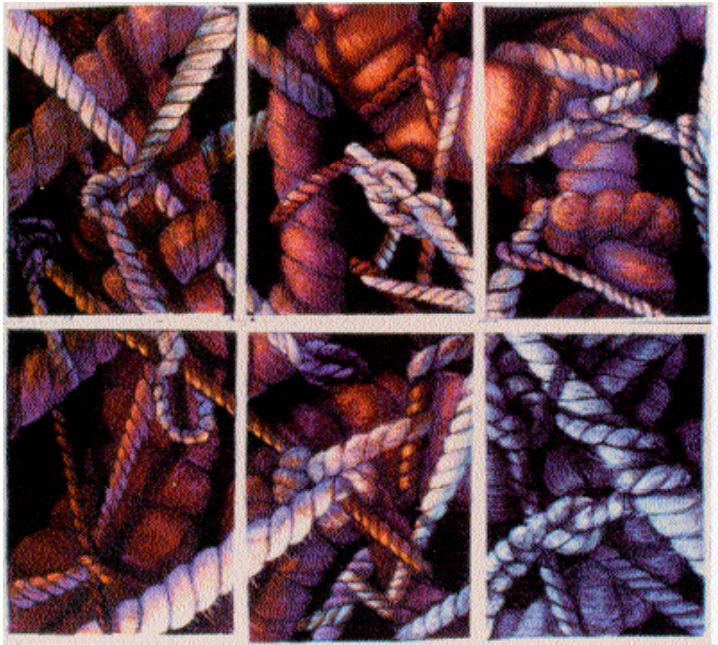
January 8th to January 29th

Artists reception Friday, January 25, 6-8 p.m.

20 Sacramento Street, Open Weekdays 9-5

J. M. Ryan has lived and worked in the Boston area for the past 20 years. She is a graduate of Boston University's MFA program and works at the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University. Her work has been exhibited both locally and nationally.

Ryan's body of work explore the world of metaphor. The images in this show are not concerned with any order or developing narrative. It is the common object that conveys meaning. Many of the objects are placed opposing each other creating a tension of an anticipated event. The strong formal representation of the objects give her images an uncommon importance. These works explore the relationship between image, viewer and reality.



Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

New Director Named for Cambridge Arts Council

Jason Weeks has been named Director of the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC) effective December 10, 2001. Jason has been aptly serving as Acting Director of the CAC since June. Prior to that, he was the CAC's Director of Community Arts and administered core programming such as the annual Grant Program, Cambridge River Festival and Summer in the City. He also oversaw the Cambridge Street Performer Program and served as the primary liaison between CAC and individual artists and cultural organizations working to build community through the arts in Cambridge.

Joyful Noise - Gospel Concert

Join the Cambridge community at the 15th annual gospel concert presented by Cambridge Multicultural Arts Council in Sanders Theater on Sunday, January 20th at 5:00 p.m. The concert celebrates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tickets are \$25, call (617) 496-2222.

Club Passim Presents Culture for Kids

This in-house cultural program for children from 8-12 years old is free and open to the public. Passim is located at 47 Palmer Street in the heart of Harvard Square.

For January Passim presents CUBA with singer/songwriter Nini Camps and musician Patino Vazquez. It will take place on January 8th after school. Call Laura at (617) 491-2382 for reservations and more information.

Bailegangaire at the SÚGÁN Theatre Company

The SÚGÁN Theatre, a Resident Theatre Company at the Boston Center for the Arts brings the best in contemporary Irish and Celtic plays to Boston. In its Tenth season, it will present Bailegangaire by Tom Murphy, opening on January 31st through February 23. It is a story of women, told by

women striving to exist in the present by confronting the past. This is a play which encapsulates the grief of history, expressed in a language of peasant Catholicism and exorcised in a final moment of extraordinary theatrical grace.

For information and tickets, call (617) 497-5134.

Sanders Theater Events for January

JAN. 6, Sunday 3:00 PM: Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra presents Kashkashian! Tickets: \$39, \$29, \$19, \$9

JAN. 11, Friday 8:00 PM: Monadnock Music Festival Orchestra - Carter & Brahms: Tickets: \$53, \$39, \$29, \$19

JAN. 13, Sunday 3:00 PM: New England String Ensemble Mozart, Beethoven, Yakoulov, Mahler: Tickets: \$35, \$25, \$20

JAN. 13, Sunday 7:30 PM: Boston Chamber Music Society: Mozart/Diamond/Mendelssohn: Tickets: \$42, \$34, \$25, \$18

JAN. 17, Thursday 8:00 PM and JAN. 18, Friday 8:00 PM and JAN. 19, Saturday 8:00 PM: Spalding Gray's "Swimming to Cambodia" 25th Anniversary: Tickets: \$40, \$36, \$32

JAN. 20, Sunday 5:00 PM: A Joyful Noise (See notice on left)

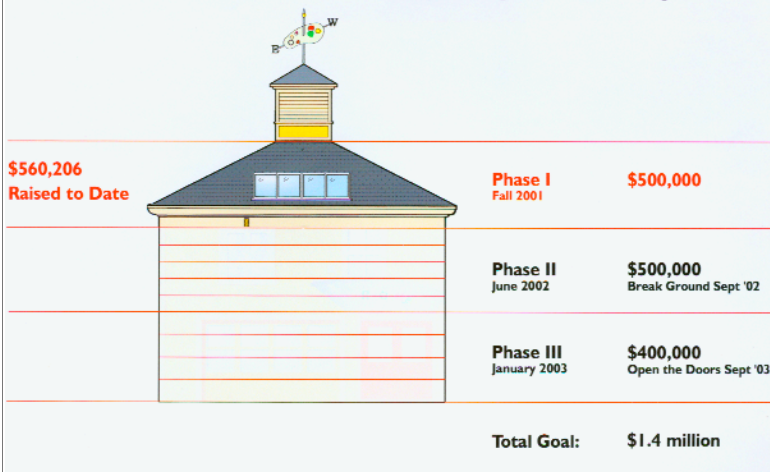
JAN. 25, Friday 7:30 PM: Greg Brown, The Nields, Garnet Rogers: Tickets: \$25;

JAN. 31, Thursday 8:00 PM: Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer: Tickets: \$37.50, \$27.50, \$22.50, \$15 obstructed view seats

Sanders Theatre is located at 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge. It is wheelchair Accessible and is equipped with an Assistive Listening System for sound reinforced events. Contact The Harvard Box Office to order tickets. (617) 496-


Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Update
 Capital Campaign / December 2001

"Help us open the doors" of the first city-wide arts center for children and practicing artists in Cambridge.



Agassiz Community

Programs Begin Registration

New families can soon sign up for Fall 2002 Afterschool. Preschool registration is ongoing, but spaces fill quickly. Outback Summer Program registration forms will be available in the next few months. Contact Jenna Webster for more information or to visit the programs.

Jamnastics is Coming for 6-8th Graders

Look for a brochure of new offerings for 6-8th graders after school for the spring term. New to the classes will be Jamnastics, and students will prepare for the Hip Hop Festival that will be held during February Vacation Week. Jenna Webster can answer any questions.

EMAIL WANTED from Parents

Please provide us with your email address if you have children enrolled in our programs. We will cut down on mail and get information out more quickly if you can supply us with your email.

Baby Groups Ongoing in North Hall

Groups for mothers (or caretakers) and babies meet regularly in North Hall (at the corner of Wendell St. and Mass. Ave.). It is a place to meet other families with babies, chat and let the children play together. Contact Jenna Webster for schedules and more information on the groups.

ANC Wins a LOYD Grant for \$25,000

The ANC has won a grant that will help fund planning and other initiatives to promote the inclusion of children with special needs into all our programs for children.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VISIT ANY PROGRAM CONTACT

JENNA WEBSTER, Administrative Director
 (617) 349-6287x19
 jwebster@agassiz.org

v Agassiz Public School v

Winter Wonderland January 31

Agassiz School has held a Winter Wonderland event for the past several years. This year it will be held from 6-9 pm on Thursday, January 31 for Agassiz children and their families. Each class will decorate their home room door.

There will be performances and refreshments. In case of a snow day, the event will be rescheduled. Please call the school at 349-6525 for more information on this event.

REGISTER FOR SEPTEMBER KINDERGARTEN NOW!

Any child who will be four years old on or before March 31, 2002 is eligible to enter Kindergarten in September, 2002. All children who will be four years of age from January 1, 2002 through March 31, 2002 will be considered Jr. Kindergarten students and will be in a two year kindergarten program. Kindergarten Birth Dates must fall between: April 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998.

Registration takes place at the Family Resource Center located in CRLS at 459 Broadway in many Cambridge Schools throughout the month of January. When you register you must have MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

- 1) Student's birth certificate or passport; 2) Student's vaccination record showing dates of immunizations; 3) Notarized Certificate of Address Form (form available in public libraries, Elementary School Offices, and Family Resource Center);
- 4) Tenants MUST provide either their lease or a rent receipt and a current Gas, Electric or Cable Bill. TELEPHONE BILLS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. Landlord or Housing Management signature MUST appear on #5; 5) Homeowner's MUST provide proof of ownership, Tax bill, water bill or mortgage statement and a current Gas, Electric or Cable Bill. TELEPHONE BILLS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE; 6) Parent's signature on Certificate of Address Form MUST be notarized. Notaries are available at City Hall, Central Sq. Post Office, most banks and insurance offices.

PLEASE NOTE:

Applications will be considered INCOMPLETE unless all documentation listed above is provided on the day of application. No school assignment will be made unless your child's application is COMPLETE. All incomplete applications must be completed no later than Thursday, January 31, 2002. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: Family Resource Center @ 349-6551 or 349-6068

Community Calendar January 2002

Tuesday, January 8-29	9-5 weekdays	<i>String Theory</i> - Recent Drawings by J.M. Ryan Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Tuesday, January 15	6:00 p.m.	ANC Board Meeting - Public Welcome 20 Sacramento Street, 2nd floor
Tuesday, January 15	7:30 p.m.	Agassiz Neighborhood Council (See agenda page 1) Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street entrance
Sunday, January 20	5:00 p.m.	Joyful Noise presented by Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center at Sanders Theater (See page 6 for informa- tion.)
Monday, January 21		Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Friday, January 25	6:00-8:00 p.m.	<i>String Theory</i> - Meet the Artist Reception Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Thursday, January 31	6:00-9:00 p.m.	Agassiz School Winter Wonderland For Agassiz School Families, Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento Street For information call the school at (617) 349-6525

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Call 349-6287 to be on the mailing list. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted

The Whistler January 2002



AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 349-6287 Fax and Hot Line 497-4388
www.agassiz.org email:
whistler@agassiz.org

GOT EMAIL?!

To save paper, postage, and staff time, Agassiz Neighborhood Council hopes to communicate increasingly with you via email. Please email us at:

info@agassiz.org

and tell us what you are interested in (Harvard Issues, Lesley Issues, Crime Issues, Sewer Issues, Traffic Issues, etc). We will add your name to the appropriate lists (addresses will not be available to others on the list).

We will, of course always be available via telephone, fax or regular mail (see above).

