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**ANC News**

**Notes from the January 20th ANC Meeting**

Community members welcomed Charles Sullivan, Executive Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, who spoke about the history of the Agassiz neighborhood and the community center at 20 Sacramento Street. He began by displaying early maps, which showed the swamps that once existed in certain areas of the neighborhood and which account for some of the flooding problems residents have today (the Agassiz neighborhood "has never been well-drained," he said). Later maps from the nineteenth century showed the long narrow lots, stretching from Mass Ave toward what is now Beacon Street in Somerville, that were set out at the time. Originally farms and estates, these lots were eventually subdivided by real estate speculators. In the mid-nineteenth-century, the lots were hard to sell; horse-car lines ran down Massachusetts Avenue, making it a popular area, but the further lots were from the Avenue, the less accessible and desirable they were. In the 1880's a horse-car line was put on Beacon Street, and the neighborhood began to take off.

The space that is now Sacramento Field originally had a spring running through it. The Somerville Bleachery, located on Somerville Avenue, bought the area, excavated a reservoir and built pump stations to pump water to the bleachery (the owner maintained the property and kept fish in the reservoir long after the bleachery stopped using it). It was purchased by Harvard in the 1950's. Other industry in the Agassiz neighborhood included a tannery on Eustis Street and a livery and commercial greenhouse between Eustis and Crescent Streets. Massachusetts Avenue, which had once displayed large, beautiful houses, became less residential when

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

**Porter Square and Lower Mass. Avenue**

Come share your views on development issues, the retail corridor, and zoning and development guidelines that will potentially shape future development in the area.

Thursday, February 5, 2004  
 6:30 PM  
 Baldwin School cafeteria

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

**Beacon Street Drainage Improvements Project Update - January 2004**

**What's been done to date...**

- \* Eustis St. catch basins and lateral connections have been completed.
- \* Diversion structure and associated piping installed.
- \* Renewal of 10" sewer on Beacon Street completed.
- \* 3 new manholes installed on 48" combined sewer. \*

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**Next ANC Monthly Meeting**



Tuesday, Feb. 24th  
 7:30 p.m.

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

**Oxford Street Entrance - press buzzer for entry**

**Agenda: John Moot, Assoc. of Cambridge Neighborhoods, and Porter Square Discussion**

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noisy electric streetcars began running down the street.

The area that is now Sacramento Street was purchased in the mid-nineteenth-century by Charles McClure, a real-estate speculator who had returned from the California gold-rush. He presumably named the street because of the time he spent in California. The house at 20 Sacramento, completed in 1852, was the first house built on the street. It was intended to be a prototype for the type of residential properties McClure planned to build on the lots. Sold to a hardware manufacturer, it lacked its current mansard roof and third floor, looking much like the house that currently stands at 41 Sacramento.

The building, which is owned by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council and now houses ANC offices and program space, as well as office space for the Tapestry Counseling Center, is remarkably intact, having kept almost all its original detail. Only the front porch is in what Sullivan calls "ruinous condition," with much of the wood on the railings rotten and dangerous. Public funds from the Community Preservation Act may be available to repair the porch. Though the building is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is therefore not eligible for national funds, it is considered a significant structure in Cambridge.

Anyone interested in the history of their own Cambridge property may call the Cambridge Historical Commission at 617.349.4683.

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- \* Flap valve manhole installed.
- \* Sewer services connected to existing sewers under the sidewalks.
- \* First of two pumps stations installed at the intersection of Sacramento Street and Beacon Street.

**What's happening now...**

- \* Excavation and installation of the second of two pump stations near Beckwith Circle Apartments, will be completed mid to late February. Currently, no access from Sacramento to Beacon Street and from Beacon to Sacramento Street due to the excavation. Sacramento will be re-opened in one to two weeks.
- \* New 6" water main and water services installation from Museum Street past Beckwith Circle Apartments.
- \* Various drainage improvements between Beckwith Circle and Museum Street are being installed.

**What's to come...**

- \* Installation of Temporary Support of excavation to install two stormwater holding tanks totaling 850 linear feet beginning in late February. The tanks will be installed in 8-foot long sections. The goal is to excavate and install an average of two sections of tank per day. The sections will be brought in on trucks. This portion of the project is the heaviest part of the construction. Estimated schedule for completing tank excavation and installation is 5 months.
- \* Miscellaneous water work will be done during this time as well.

**Traffic Management...**

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

**Parking...**

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**Sacramento Street Preschool  
OPEN HOUSE**



Tuesday, February 10, 2004  
9:30 to 11:00 AM  
20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge

Visitors Welcome!

Contact Sharon Reidbord 617-349-6287 x10



Two Brattle Square, Cambridge, MA 02138

Carol Kelly  
Myra von Turkovich  
Jan Devereux

Thinking of Buying or Selling? Log onto  
[www.carolandmyra.com](http://www.carolandmyra.com)  
(617) 497-4400

**Fred Meyer, Realtor**  
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617-876-1200

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## Keep Sidewalks Clear!

Excerpts from "Snow: Our Winter Challenge; A Guide for Cambridge Property Owners and Residents," published by the Cambridge Department of Public Works

Snow and ice make walking difficult for everyone: school children, mail carriers, elders, and T riders. If you own property, remember to:

- \* Keep adjacent sidewalks clear of snow and ice. If you go out of town, be sure someone else will do it.
- \* Clear openings at corners and crosswalks so pedestrians can cross safely.
- \* Dig out fire hydrants and catch basins.
- \* Park your car at least 20 feet from street corners so plows can push snow away from sidewalks.

If you fail to comply with the City's sidewalk clearance ordinances, you will be issued a \$25 per day fine.

Don't throw snow from your sidewalks into the street. When digging out your car, don't throw snow over the sidewalk. It is illegal to "reserve" parking spaces on the street.

For people on foot, ice can be worse than snow. You are as responsible for ice on your sidewalks as you are for snow. You must remove it or melt it within 6 hours.

- \* Stock up on ice melter before a storm.
- \* Use ice melter with calcium chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>). It's better for the environment and only a small amount is required to melt ice. Potassium chloride (KCl) is okay, too.
- \* Avoid rock salt (NaCl or sodium chloride) -- it kills plants and trees.
- \* Avoid sand. It makes hard ice more slippery, gets into storm drains and catch basins, and is expensive to clean up in the spring.
- \* Use ice melter on your driveway entrance and sidewalks early and often to prevent snow from packing down and forming into ice.

If you are a homeowner with a low income (\$20,351.00 for a one-person household) and you are elderly or disabled, you may qualify for the City's Snow Exemption Program. If you qualify, the DPW will shovel your sidewalk. To apply, call the Cambridge Council on Aging, 617.349.6220 (TTY: 617.349.6050).

To report unshoveled or icy sidewalks to the Snow Hotline, call 617.349.4903 (TTY: 617.349.4805) and leave a detailed address.

## New Pie Shop Opens on the Edge of the Agassiz Neighborhood



To spend a few minutes in the kitchen at Petsi Pies is to want to spend an hour there. Like the best home kitchens, it's inviting and warm, a place you might want to sit and talk while watching proprietor Renee McLeod, pictured above, turn out blueberry tarts. But this isn't a home -- it's the newest small business to grace the grounds (or *almost* grace the grounds) of the Agassiz neighborhood.

Petsi Pies opened on Beacon Street, on the Somerville/Cambridge line, in mid-November. A Cambridge resident, McLeod says she loves the neighborhood. So far, the feeling seems mutual. Despite sewer and stormwater management construction on Beacon Street, Petsi Pies is developing a loyal local following. The shop has also been featured recently in both the *Boston Herald* and the *Boston Globe*.

On a recent visit, a trio of chai-spiced apple pies -- one of the shop's bestsellers -- were on their way into the oven. Covered in a crumb topping, the pies are abundant with thick slices of locally-grown apples (McLeod is committed to using products from local farms). McLeod, known in childhood as Petsi, opened a pie shop for the noblest of reasons: she loves pie. She has worked for Whole Foods Market in the past, but learned to make pies from her grandmother.

In addition to sweet pies and tarts, Petsi Pies offers a number of savory options, including a roasted potato tart with wild mushrooms and gruyere, and a spinach and ricotta tart with caramelized onions. Muffins, scones and soup are also for sale, as well as coffee. McLeod says she hopes people will come to her shop for lunch and dinner, not just dessert. She also hopes to use part of the shop as a gallery for children's artwork, and promises homemade cupcakes at the openings. Most of all, she wants a visit to Petsi Pies to feel like a visit to her own kitchen. So far, her fans seem to be making themselves right at home.

Find Petsi Pies at 285 Beacon Street, Somerville, 617-661-7437.



**FREE MARKET EVALUATIONS**  
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[www.century21avon.com](http://www.century21avon.com)

REALTY SERVICES PROVIDED BY LICENSED REALTORS

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construction. As work is completed and the construction work zone moves slowly down Beacon Street, some parking space will be opened up. To help Somerville residents and businesses in this area during construction, non-residents of Somerville are asked not to park overnight on Beacon Street.

**Pedestrian Safety...**

- \* Sidewalks in the construction zone will not be restricted to pedestrians.
- \* Temporary crosswalks have recently been re-painted and will continue to be maintained throughout the construction for easy viewing.
- \* Speed limit through the construction work zone is limited to 20 miles per hour.
- \* A "Pedestrian Crossing Sign" is located between the two traffic lanes to warn motorists of pedestrians.
- \* Pedestrians are encouraged to ask the detail officers for help in crossing Beacon Street to get to the Shaw's Star Market and other places.

**Questions about the construction?**

- \* Bruno Cardarelli, Chief Resident Engineer for S E A Consultants Inc.: 617/492-5804
- \* Judy Kavanagh, Community Relations Manager: 617/498-4710
- \* Block captains Annette Rodibaugh: 617/547-0554 and Jack McDonnell: 617/868-1878.

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February  
 is  
 Black  
 History  
 Month!

**VOTE!**

There are three elections scheduled for 2004:  
 in March, September and,  
 in November, the Presidential Election.  
 The Presidential Primary is  
 Tuesday, March 2, 2004.  
**The last day to register to vote  
 in this election is  
 Wednesday, February 11, 2004.**

Don't be left out! Register to vote  
 by contacting your city's Election Commission.

City of Cambridge:  
 617.349.4361  
[elections@cambridgema.gov](mailto:elections@cambridgema.gov)

City of Somerville:  
 617.625.6600 x4200  
[elections@ci.somerville.ma.us](mailto:elections@ci.somerville.ma.us)

Do you know what your next month is like?  
 Do you know what your next month is like?  
 Do you know what your next month is like?

**WADDELL & REED**  
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PETER G. MORGAN, CFP

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 781.763.2167 Fax 781.253.1325

City of Somerville  
 Municipal Services  
 (City, Department  
 and Long Term Care Services)

485 Somerville Street  
 Cambridge, MA 02142  
 (617) 625.6600

*The Whirler February 2004*



*Agassiz Community School  
Programs*

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,

*Scenes from  
the Agassiz Afterschool*



Snowy days mean sled rides in the Kindergarten program!

You're invited to the

**Maria L. Baldwin School  
Rededication Ceremony**

Thursday, February 12, 2004  
9:30 AM

Please join us to honor African-American educator Maria L. Baldwin (1856-1922) and to formally rededicate the school in her name. Miss Baldwin served at the Agassiz School for forty years, first as a teacher and then as a principal.

RSVP 617-349-4377



**9th Annual  
Baldwin School/Community  
Ski Trip to Pat's Peak (NH)**

Sunday, February 8th

**For Baldwin students, their families,  
and neighbors.**

**Cars leave from school at 7:00 AM  
and return by 6:00 PM.**

**We have group rates for lift tickets,  
rentals and lessons.**

**Please get an application form  
at the Baldwin School front desk.**

**DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT IS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD BY 3:00 PM.**

**For more info, call Joel Bard 617.547.3210  
or George Pillsbury 617.547.8947.**

Cultural Happenings - Call 349-6287 for information



## Sacramento Street Gallery

presents

### LANZAROTE SERIES

A show of oil paintings by Gina Halstead

FEBRUARY 20TH-MARCH 26, 2004

Gallery Open Weekdays 9:00-5:00

Artist's Reception: Friday, February 20th, 2004

5:00-7:00 PM

FUNDING PROVIDED IN PART BY



There's still time! Patricia White's  
Dissections/Self-Portraits is open through  
February 13th!



## *Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children presents*



the 9th Annual

## Hip Hop Festival

Wednesday, February 18, 2004

Baldwin School Stage, 2:00 PM  
28 Sacramento Street, Cambridge  
Questions? Amy King, 617.349.6287 x19



 **KOTOBUKIYA**  
JAPANESE MARKET • SUSHI BAR

---

1815 Massachusetts Avenue  
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Cambridge ★ 617-491-5865  
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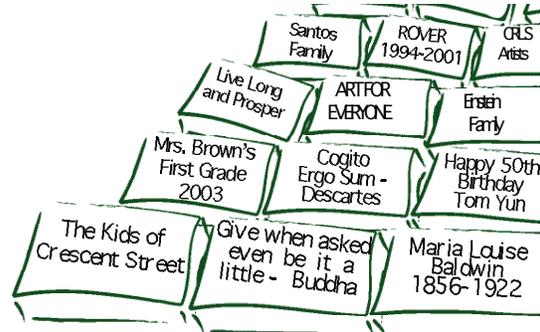
[www.freshpondballet.com](http://www.freshpondballet.com)

# BUY A BRICK TODAY!



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

**Moving ToWord: A Shared Choreographers' Concert**

Friday, February 6, 2004 and Saturday, February 7, 2004 8:00 PM  
 Tickets: \$9.00 Reservations Strongly Encouraged

The Dance Complex 536 Mass Ave, Central Square, Cambridge 617-547-9363

### Upcoming Concerts at the Longy School of Music

Sunday, February 8th, 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM: Introduction to the Orchestra (suitable for ages 4 and up)  
 Friday, February 13th, 8:00 PM: Longy Chamber Orchestra (Stravinsky and Pergolesi)  
 Wednesday, February 18th, 8:00 PM: Shakespeare and Jazz (based on three Shakespearean sonnets)

Call 617-876-0956 x500 or visit [www.longy.edu](http://www.longy.edu) for more information.




## Winter 2003 Education Programs

**Winter Scavenger Hunt: School Vacation Week Winter 2004**  
**Monday, February 16th through Friday, February 20th**  
 Drop by to see us during School Vacation Week and try your hand at our family scavenger hunt. Warm up as you explore the Harvard Museum of Natural History and Peabody Museum searching for clues to our secret message while you learn about the many ways people and animals survive the snowy season.

Call 617-496-8204 or visit [www.hmnh.harvard.edu](http://www.hmnh.harvard.edu) for more information.

## Community Calendar

<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>MARIA L. BALDWIN SCHOOL NAME CHANGE CELEBRATION</b>
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH</b>		<b>HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY</b>
<b>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH</b>		<b>PRESIDENT'S DAY ANC closed</b>
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH-20TH</b>		<b>CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL VACATION WEEK AGASSIZ VACATION CAMP runs Tuesday, 2/17 through Friday, 2/20</b>
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH</b>	<b>5:00-7:00 PM</b>	<b>ARTIST'S RECEPTION for LAZEROTE SERIES: A show of oil paintings by Gina Halstead (Runs through March 26th)</b>
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>ANC Board Meeting 20 Sacramento Street 2nd Floor</b>
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda) Baldwin Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street</b>

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*The Whistler February 2004*



**Agassiz neighborhood council**  
20 Sacramento Street Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 349-6287 Fax and Hot Line (617) 497-4388  
[www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org) email: [whistler@agassiz.org](mailto:whistler@agassiz.org)

**DO NOT FORWARD**

\* On street parking on Beacon Street is limited during



