



Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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v ANC News v

Notes from the November 14 ANC Meeting

Judy Kavanagh, Bill Ross and David Knowlton from SEA Consultants Inc. gave a very thorough progress report on the sewer construction project.

Important Reminders:

- Call the field trailer or SEA offices with problems. Notify the field office if you are expecting a delivery, have construction scheduled or have other special needs.
- Alternative parking arrangements have been made during times when construction prevents you from parking near your residence. Call Eric Reed at 354-8216 for more information.
- Please help make sure newcomers to the area receive information about the project.

Construction Update:

The construction is on schedule, with some parts of the project a little ahead of schedule. Museum Street work should be done by the end of the year. Construction will be beginning soon on Wendell Street. In response to residents' concerns, special arrangements have been made with the DPW for street cleaning and removal of the fall leaves. Notices will be posted in the neighborhoods.

Lesley Shuttle

David Erlandson of Lesley University presented a proposal for moving the Lesley University Mellon Street shuttle stop to the other side of Mass. Ave., closer to North Hall. Those present at the meeting agreed that this would be a better site for the shuttle stop. The proposal will be presented at an upcoming License Commission meeting for approval.

See Page 3 for a list of Important Sewer Construction Phone Numbers



THE PROPOSED MAUD MORGAN VISUAL ART CENTER

Come to an ANC Open House on
Wednesday, December 6 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
in the Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.
See plans for the center and work of the artists who have been selected to collaborate with the architects and create visual elements for the building and grounds. See Page 7 for more.

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, December 19

7:30 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall

28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:

- 1). Ben Hamilton Baillie, Loeb Fellow at Harvard Graduate School of Design and Agassiz parent visiting from London, will provide a slide show on European street design and urban transport. See Page 2
- 2). Discussion of the City policy regarding insecticide spraying that was undertaken this summer-See Page 3

Cottonwood Cafe

The new proprietors of the Cottonwood Cafe site at Porter Exchange, Joe Petrochi and Brian Lesser, and their attorney, James Rafferty, presented plans for a French brassiere, Le Metro. The interior space will be completely gutted and renovated to resemble an authentic French brassiere with a new entrance created at the Mass. Ave. corner. Indoor and outdoor seating capacity, hours of operation, and parking will remain the same. There are plans to offer a jazz brunch on Sundays. This pair also owns the Barcode and Vox Populi restaurants in Boston. Some concerns of the residents of the Commonwealth Lock building were discussed. A meeting with those residents will be scheduled. The application for license transfer will be presented at the November 28 License Commission hearing.

∨ **Neighborhood News** ∨

Transportation and Parking

ANC DECEMBER 19TH MEETING at 7:30 p.m.

(See page 1 for details.)

Reconciling People, Places and Transport

Ben Hamilton-Baillie, Loeb Fellow at Harvard, will treat the Agassiz neighborhood to a slide show presenting some of the European initiatives he has worked with that may help us think about our streets, traffic calming and various ways to reconcile people, places and transport. **Ben is particularly interested in the quality of public space and the travelling landscape**, and in the development of mixed-use streets.

European countries continue to develop innovative ways to protect the quality of life in cities and in the countryside from the impacts of growing traffic levels. In Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden and Holland, new initiatives are emerging to enhance the quality of life whilst accommodating the needs of motor car. As a result, many European cities are benefiting from growing levels of pedestrian and bicycle activity combined with effective transit systems to provide integrated forms of transportation and reduce dependency on the motor car.

Ben Hamilton-Baillie, an architect and transport specialist from Bristol in England, has studied such developments closely over recent years. Many of the Dutch and Danish concepts such as "woonerf" streets and Safe Routes to Schools have been incorporated into the work of Sustrans in the UK. Sustrans (short for "Sustainable Transport") is the transport not-for-profit organization that has developed the UK's National Cycle Network, and introduced a range of practical measures to help towns and cities encourage walking, bicycling and the use of public transportation.

For the past five years Ben has been working for Sustrans to build the National Cycle Network. Over the summer he won a **Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship** to study latest best practice in Denmark, Germany, Sweden and The Netherlands. As a Loeb Fellow at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, Ben is teaching and studying urban planning and transportation issues. The Loeb Fellowship will offer the opportunity to share some ideas and recent experience from Europe with organizations in the USA with an interest in this critical area.

Ben worked in London, Hamburg and Turkey before becoming involved in public housing development and urban renewal in Bristol. He worked for an inner-city housing association and then for the Bristol City Council as their Housing Renewal Manager. As a result of growing interest in the relationship between housing transport and urban planning, he joined Sustrans in 1995.

The Loeb Fellowship will offer Ben the opportunity to broaden his understanding of transport and urban planning, and to study and teach on the subject of reconciling people, places and traffic. In particular, Ben hopes to work on the relationship between children and transport policies, and to explore ways in which children explore and discover cities. The comparisons between the design and use of public space in America and European cities will be of particular interest, and the changing perceptions and approaches to the "travelling landscape."



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Spraying to be Discussed on December 19

A group of 13 people met last Monday at Lamont Library to discuss the spraying that had taken place in Cambridge in response to the discovery of West Nile Virus infected crows in the city. This group formed itself into the **Cambridge Citizens for Alternatives to Pesticides**. A Website is being formed, and petitions are circulating to call a halt to further spraying. The purpose of the group is to inform citizens about the risks of West Nile Virus and the risks of spraying neurotoxic and carcinogenic chemicals throughout the city.

The City Council has instructed the Public Health Commissioner to hold hearing in January about the spraying. The members of the Council and the Agassiz community should be aware of what the risks and benefits are of spraying.

Sheldon Krinsky, Agassiz resident and member of the Department of Urban & Environmental Policy at Tufts University has contacted the ANC in order to be on the

December ANC meeting agenda. He has provided us with an essay that he wrote that outlines ten pesticide myths:

1. Pesticides in Current Use have been Adequately Tested for Safety.
2. Pesticides Banned in the United States are out of Sight and out of Mind.
3. Low Doses of Pesticides are Safe.
4. Pesticides are not a Danger to Children's Health.
5. Chemical Carcinogens are not Used in Pesticides.
6. Pesticides are Approved by all their Ingredients.
7. Large Scale Food Production Requires the Use of Pesticides.
8. Pesticides are Safe for Farm workers and their Families.
9. Consumers Need Synthetic Organic Pesticides in their Homes.
10. Pesticides are Safe for the Environment.

For the essay or information on the petition drive, contact the ANC: whistler@agassiz.org or call 349-6287.

Sewer Construction

Oxford Street Expected to Reopen 1/1

The DPW has informed ANC that Oxford Street should finally be open to regular traffic by the beginning of the new year. Renovations will be complete, and the street will be again safe for travel. While Oxford Street has been closed, it has been necessary to allow certain deliveries to Harvard via Oxford St., and this is why sometimes barriers were removed.

Museum and Carver Construction

This is a general information notice to inform you of upcoming construction activities on your street. You will periodically receive additional notices as work progresses and schedules change. You will also receive sufficient advance notice by way of colored flyers and door hangers of any planned service interruption to your house that must take place to facilitate construction. Any dates or estimates of time described below are contingent on the weather.

SUPPORT OF EXCAVATION

On Monday, November 27, 2000, P. Gioioso & Sons Inc., the City's contractor will start mobilization and installation of steel piles for the excavation support system for the diversion structure, piping and storage tanks. This operation is expected to take two (2) weeks. This portion of Museum Street and the Carver Street intersection will be closed during the construction work hours (7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Normal two-way traffic will resume during non-work hours.

DIVERSION STRUCTURE AND PIPE INSTALLATION

Closely following the installation of the piles, the contractor will begin installation of the diversion structure and piping across Carver Street at the intersection and then install the storage tank. Because of the magnitude of this work, this construction activity necessitates a 24-hour road closure around the work zone. Police details and detour signage will direct traffic around the road closure. The police will assist in providing residents, pedestrians and emergency services access to homes during the closure.

TANK INSTALLATION

Tank installation on Museum Street east will take place during the week of December 4th once tank installation on Museum Street west is complete. It is estimated to take approximately one month to complete the diversion struc-

SEWER CONSTRUCTION - CONTACTS

Construction Issues	Earl Ross	661-7403
Field Office	Eric Reed	661-7403
Community Relations	Judy Kavanagh	498-4710
Block Captains		
Helen Lambert	Sacramento St.	661-0690
Ellen Friedman	Mellen St.	491-4290
Kate Frank	Crescent St.	547-5174
Claudia Goldin	Scott St.	588-0356
Jane Thomas	Holden St.	876-4401
Jenny Glaeser	Hammond St.	491-4454
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/>

ture, piping and storage tank installation on Museum Street east. Residents will be notified when the tank installation is about to begin and periodically throughout the operation. If a resident needs access to their home during the road closure, they should coordinate this with Ray Elie, Chief Resident Engineer for S.E.A. Consultants Inc.

SERVICE SHUTDOWNS

During this construction activity, it will be necessary to temporarily shutdown services or block access to driveways. Off-site parking is available for those persons having parking difficulties. Residents who may be impacted will be individually contacted the day before the shutdowns will occur. Please let us know if the planned shutdown will cause a hardship for you.

The contractor will post NO PARKING signs, where necessary, at least 24 hours before work begins. Please refrain from parking in these areas during the posted work hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns about these construction activities, please contact Ray Elie, at the number below, or call Owen Riordan at (617) 349-4845.



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COLOR CODED NOTICES

In the future, construction related notices will be color coordinated in order to bring them to your immediate attention.

- Orange Construction Activities
- Blue Water Activities
- Green Tree Pruning, Removal, Planting Activities
- Yellow Utility (Gas, Electric, Tele-Com.) Activities
- Red Parking / Traffic Notification

CONTACTS:

RAY ELIE, CHIEF RESIDENT ENGINEER, DPW
S.E.A. EMERGENCY PHONE 24 HOURS (617) 354-8216
(617) 349-4860

Crime Watch

Spree of Oxford Street House Breaks

(From Police Website: www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CPD/crime/)

There were five house breaks in the Agassiz neighborhood reported by the police in late October. There were three breaks on or near Oxford Street and two in the 1500-block of Mass. Ave. in a five-day period. Entries are made by force during the day. Four incidents were on 10/27. Cash and coins were targeted, but no suspects were seen.

Beware Telephone Scam

ANC was advised of this scam by a neighbor who sent the following story:

I received a telephone call last evening from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service technician who was conducting a test on telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch nine(9),zero(0), the pound sign (#), and then hang up.

Luckily, I was suspicious and refused. Upon contacting the telephone company, I was informed that by pushing 90#, you give the requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which enables them to place long distance calls billed to your home phone number.

I was further informed that this scam has been originating from many local jails/prisons. I have also verified this information with UCB Telecom, Pacific Bell, MCI, Bell Atlantic and GTE. Please beware. DO NOT press 90# for ANYONE. The GTE Security Department requested that I share this information with EVERYONE I KNOW. PLEASE pass this on to everyone YOU know.

If you have mailing lists and/or newsletters from organi-

zations you are connected with, please pass on this information to them, too.

v City Wide v

Citywide Rezoning Petition Workshops

A number of meetings will provide the public with a chance to learn more about the Citywide Rezoning Petition and provide comments to public officials. The last workshop will be held December 7 at the Benjamin Banneker Charter School, 21 Notre Dame Avenue, 7:30 p.m. For more information call Elaine Thorne at the Community Development Department, 349-4648.

Planning Board Reviews Town Gown

The Planning Board will be holding series of meetings with the city's universities to review the institutional "town-gown" reports. These reports, submitted by Harvard, MIT, Lesley, and Cambridge College, describe current activities of the institutions, including data about the student population, institutional housing, and future development plans.

The reports are available at the main Cambridge Public Library, through the Community Development Department (call Melissa Pacheco at 349-4651), or at the City Website at: www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CDD/commplan/towngown/

The Planning Board welcomes your attendance and will provide an opportunity for public comment at meetings to be held at the Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave. at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are: MIT December 5, Harvard December 12, Lesley University and Cambridge College, January 16, 2001.



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∨ Harvard University ∨

Update on the New Harvard Building on Oxford

Harvard Planning and Real Estate has moved forward in its design of a building complex at the corner of Hammond and Oxford Street. Since coming before the Agassiz Neighborhood Council this fall, Harvard has met twice with a small group of Agassiz volunteers to confer on the design of the proposed new structure (along Oxford Street) and relocated historic wood frame building, the Palfrey House (to Hammond Street). At these meetings, Harvard displayed a more fine-tuned landscape plan, which would include a rooftop garden on top of the structure at the corner of Oxford and Hammond Streets, a pergola (similar to a trellis) structure at the corner which brings the building more into residential scale, and a row of street trees along Oxford and Hammond Streets in front of the entire complex. The design was very well received by the Agassiz volunteers, and the architects were able to incorporate the comments of the neighbors into the design. Harvard will hold its next community meeting in conjunction with the project on December 5, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the Agassiz School in the auditorium. At this meeting, Harvard intends to give a full presentation of the design of the proposed structure, as well as present information on the landscape design. If you have questions, or if you will not be able to attend the December 5, 2000 meeting, please feel free to contact Travis McCready (495-4955) at Harvard University's Office of Community Affairs.

∨ Announcements ∨

CRLS Girls Hockey Seeks Support

The excerpt below was taken out of a letter from Kevin Mitrano, Girls Ice Hockey Coach.

Last year, the Girls Ice Hockey Club and Boys Varsity Team hosted the 1st Annual Jeffrey Curley Jamboree. The Jamboree was a success! With your support of our program book, we were able to supplement our budget, while fund raising for a worthy cause. This year we are hosting the 2nd Annual Jeffrey Curley Jamboree, and again, we will strive to increase our funds while raising money for the Jeffrey Curley Foundation. Support in terms of advertising in our program book would be greatly appreciated. A donation of as little as \$10 will help to make our season a success.

For information call Kevin at 349-6772.



Views from City Year's Work-A-Thon this fall. Thanks again to volunteers and TAGS Hardware



Winter Snow is Coming - Be Prepared !

Snow and ice make walking difficult for school children, mail carriers, elders and T riders. In Cambridge almost everyone walks sometime. Remember to:

KEEP 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. Always park your car at least 20 feet from the street corner so plows can push snow away from crosswalks. Pay attention to "No Parking " signs During snow emergencies.

REPORT UNSHOVELED and ICY SIDEWALKS

It's the law. Help Cambridge keep its 225 miles of sidewalks safe by reporting uncleared and icy sidewalks to the DPW on their hot line 349-4903. Be sure to report the exact address, and the offenders will be issued a warning for their first offense. After that there is a \$25 per day fine for non compliance. It is also illegal to throw snow into the street or to leave barrels, chairs or other obstacles to "save" your parking space. They will be hauled away.

ICE IS OFTEN WORSE THAN SNOW

Stock up on ice melter before a storm. Use ice melter with calcium chloride (CaCl₂). It is better for the environment and only a small amount is required to melt ice. Potassium chloride (KCl) is OK, too. Avoid rock salt (it kills plants and trees). Avoid sand (it clogs catch basins and storm drains), and it is difficult to clean up in the spring.

WHAT IF YOU NEED HELP???

If you are a homeowner with a low income, and you are elderly or disabled, you may qualify for the City's Snow Exemption Program, and the DPW will shovel your walk. Call 349-6220 and ask about this program. They can also provide a list of teens that are willing to earn some money by shoveling; you can call them and negotiate a price. They can also recommend professional companies who will come out and shovel snow for a fee.

SIDEWALK HOTLINE 24 HOURS 349-4903

MAGICAL PERFORMANCE

THE NEWTOWNE SCHOOL INVITES THE PUBLIC TO A MAGICAL PERFORMANCE THAT PROMISES GREAT FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY CHRIS BRITT WILL BE PERFORMING SATURDAY DECEMBER 9th at 4PM TICKETS- \$4 EACH NEWTOWNE SCHOOL, 11 GARDEN STREET, HARVARD SQ FURTHER INFORMATION- 617- 354-0919

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∨ Cultural Happenings ∨



Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street
Open Weekdays 9-5

“Crops” Photos by Kristin Anderson

The Sacramento St Gallery is proud to present a show of photographs by local photographer, Kristin Anderson. CROPS is a show of botanical photographs, each one closely cropped to highlight color and design. A grape series shows various growth stages: young tendrils, succulent fruit, and brittle dormant branches. Two strawberries show young versus mature in juxtaposition. The images are simple and refreshing and honor the remarkable systems and cycles of nature.

Kristin Anderson is from a family of photographers from Concord. Her grandmother, a well known Thoreauvian and gardener, traveled throughout new England presenting slide lectures on herbs and Thoreau's botanical references. Her father and brother are photographers of note and established Anderson Photo in Concord.



Strawberries

December 15- January 12
Reception Friday, December 15th 5-7 p.m.



Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

What the Eye Sees by Firelight

A Sale and Exhibit of Photographs by Skip Schiel
December 9-10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
9 Sacramento St. 441-7756

Troubles on the earth and people struggling to correct them—this is the central concentration of the photographs. Pictures from Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina. South Africa, a pilgrimage retracing the Atlantic slave trade and a cross section of African American people.

Sanders Theatre (Memorial Hall) DECEMBER Events

- 45 Quincy Street Cambridge (at Oxford Street)
- 1st, Friday: Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra 8pm
Antoniou, Mahler
 - 2nd, Saturday: Harvard Din & Tonics, Harvard Callbacks 8 pm
Jazz a cappella groups
 - 3rd Sunday: Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus 3 pm
J.S. Bach Cantatas and Orchestral Suite in D
 - 8th Friday: Harvard Radcliffe Collegium Musicum 8 pm
Mozart C Minor Mass
 - 9th Saturday: Harvard Opportunities, Radcliffe Pitches 8 pm
15-30th CHRISTMAS REVELS PERFORMANCES
 - 31st Boston Baroque New Year's Eve Concert 8 pm
Vivaldi, Handel

For more information on these events, call 496-2222 or visit on the on the web at www.fas.harvard.edu/~memhall

FRESH POND BALLET

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- ★ 3 Year Olds ★ Pre-Ballet
- ★ Youth ★ Teen ★ Adults
- ★ Sprung floor & Marley for Safety



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Register Now

Boston Children's Opera December 1-10

The Elves and The Shoemaker
471 Trapelo Road, Belmont. Call 628-0063 for more information, show times and ticket prices for the current show or to learn more about how to get your kids involved in singing opera.

Children performing opera for children is what this is all about. The Artistic Director is David Budgell.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

at the Swedenborg Chapel
(Church of the New Jerusalem) 50 Quincy St.
Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 a.m.
Music in Service for the Season:
Seasonal songs and carols for voices, instruments, and organ.
Sunday, December 24 at 4:45 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Musical Service with
MUSICAL PRELUDE of Carols and Seasonal music
for Vocal Quartet, Organ and Piano.
DeVonna Lawrence, soprano; Emily Romney, mezzo soprano;
Robert Shay, tenor; and Robert Honeysucker, bass.
Reiko Akasaka, organ and piano.
Free Admission. For information call 864-4552
All Are Welcome.



Sacramento Street Preschool:

The Preschool is currently filled. To be placed on the waiting list, call Diane DiMaina at 349-6287. Children must be two years and nine months of age to enter, and they may be on the waiting list before that time.

Grades K-5:

The Agassiz Afterschool program offers stimulating and enriching activities in a safe environment with experienced teachers and specialists in the arts. Children may sign up for 1, 2, 3, or 5 days of afterschool care. Monthly fees are \$279 for 5 days, \$156 for 3 days, \$104 for 2 days or \$52 for 1 day. Very limited space is available, but you may be placed on a waiting list to be called when spaces open.

December Vacation Week

Registration is currently underway for children currently enrolled in after school programs. The vacation program will be held on December 27, 28 and 29 from 8:30am to 5:30pm. Tuition is \$81 for the three days. Registration deadline is December 8.

Middle School:

A new schedule of activities after school will be available for students in grades 6-8 beginning in January. Watch for our brochure, or call to be on the mailing list.

Parents are welcome to visit our preschool and after school programs. Please contact Vicky Ragsdale Boulrice at 349-6287 who can answer your questions, connect you with the appropriate staff member for a visit, or advise you on availability of program spaces for your child.

v Agassiz Public School v

Winter Wonderland December 14

Agassiz School will become a Winter Wonderland December 14 between 6-8 p.m.

The doors of the classrooms will be decorated by the children, as will the bulletin boards.

There will be students singing in the halls, and instrumental music on all floors.

There will be food in the cafeteria and goodies for sale.

For more information, call the parent liaison, Seija Halva at the Agassiz School at 349-6525.

“Help Us Open the Doors” to the Maud Morgan Visual Art Center

The Maud Morgan Visual Art Center is a thrilling project that promises to enrich the cultural life of all interested Cambridge residents and become a distinct and cherished landmark on Sacramento Street.

Cambridge has long been a haven for artists, but spaces for children and adults to create serious visual art are scarce. This new program will create a place where child and adult artists can work and pass on their skills. We envision a visual art center in the historic 19th century Carriage House that currently sits unused behind Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street. Plans are to restore the building and transform it into a model art center with the surrounding grounds landscaped and enhanced. Ten Cambridge artists are now developing designs for work that will be fabricated and placed in and around the center.

The center will be named for the Cambridge artist Maud Morgan who was intensely interested in the potential talent of young people. She was always searching for ways to bring the arts directly into people’s lives and for ways to encourage young talent.

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council, a trusted Cambridge institution with a long history of cultural programming, is committed to make this visual art center come about. The respected Cambridge architectural firm of Prellwitz/Chilinski Associates Inc. have drawn up plans.

For more information on this exciting project call Terry DeLancey at 349-6287, She can talk to you in more detail about the project, send you a packet of information, and tell you how to become involved, and “help us open the doors!”

Babies Groups

Baby & Toddler Groups

After a successful open house with more than 25 new families attending, baby and toddler groups are now in session! Children from birth through 2 years nine months are welcome. Each baby must be accompanied by a parent or caretaker. Siblings of the appropriate age are welcome. The group schedule, beginning now through January, is: 0-1 years on Monday and Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:30pm and on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am to 11:30am; ages 1-2.9 years on Monday and Wednesday from 9:30am to 11:30am and on Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. All ages are welcome on Fridays from 9:30am to 11:30am and from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Please drop by North Hall or call 349-6287 for more information. North Hall is located at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell Street. Also watch for tickets for the baby group raffle to help raise funds for toys and other supplies. Over 15 Cambridge stores have donated wonderful prizes. Tickets are on sale now through December 18th. Call 349-6287 for raffle information.



Agassiz Neighborhood Yoga - Agassiz School
Tuesdays: January 9-March 20 (no class 2/ 20)
5:45-6:45pm \$120 series of 12 classes
For information or to register call Instructor, Isa Mattei, at 661-6242 or Vicky Ragsdale Boulrice at 349-6287.

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Community Calendar December 2000

December 6, Wednesday	5:30-7:30 p.m.	ANC Open House See artist collaborators and plans for the proposed Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Sacramento St. Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.
December 14, Thursday	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Agassiz School Winter Wonderland 28 Sacramento St.
December 15, Friday	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Artist's Reception <i>CROPS</i> Photos by Kristen Anderson Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.
December 19, Tuesday	6:30- 7:30 p.m. 7:30- 9:30 p.m.	ANC Board Meeting All Are Welcome ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda) Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance
December 21, Thursday		First Night of Hanukkah
December 22, Friday		Last Day of School before December Vacation
December 25, Saturday		Christmas
December 26, Sunday		Kwanzaa

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 for consideration to address below, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler December 2000



AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 349-6287
Fax and Hot Line 497-4388
EMail Agassiz@concentric.net

DO NOT FORWARD

AGENDA FOR CHILDREN

is working for families in Cambridge

Agassiz Neighborhood Council is part of the team that will bring information on the Agenda for Children to you.

Two goals have been determined most important to Cambridge families from the many that were considered during the process.

- 1). All children and their families will be able to read
- 2). Children and youth will have access to supervised activities in a nurturing and safe environment

Initiatives that respond to these goals are being comprehensively developed by the City of Cambridge through an interdepartmental approach that includes the **School Department, Human Services, Libraries, Hospitals, Public Health and many Cambridge non-profit organizations.**

Action plans have been developed for each initiative. This will provide a work plan for two new staff that will soon be hired by the City to lead the initiatives.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!!!!

ANC will focus on the second goal.

(There are organizations that will focus on the literacy goal, and ANC can direct you to them.)

ANC will lead focus groups to learn about the needs of our community.

Participants will fill out a written questionnaire and then participate in discussion on current and future supervised activities for school age children and teens in Cambridge. Participation will take approximately one hour (6-7 p.m.) with dinner and childcare provided.

Focus groups will be videotaped by Agassiz School students.

Information will be forwarded to the Steering Committee of the Agenda for Children.

We would like to target adult alumni or parents of children who have attended Agassiz School or Agassiz Community School programs (Agassiz Afterschool, Outback Summer Camp, Sacramento St. Preschool).

If you are interested in participating in a focus group, call Vicky Boulrice at 349-6287, and she will provide you with all the details regarding upcoming focus groups that will take place in December and January.

See the reverse of this flyer for detailed information

**For a complete copy of the reports,
call the ANC at 349-6287 or call the Kids Council at 349-6239**

The information below has been taken and condensed from the *Summary of the Draft Implementation Plan for Supervised Activities* dated April 2000

The supervised Activities Action team utilized data from national and local research and analysis, as well as feedback from the Agenda for Children community focus groups that had been the centerpiece of the Agenda's planning phase. Over the course of the Action Team's work, a compelling vision began to emerge in which Cambridge capitalizes on its existing strengths and addresses gaps in order to invigorate, support and strengthen the out-of-school time network of services.

The Team was able to learn much about the City's existing strengths and resources. Cambridge's children currently benefit from a rich and diverse array of quality out-of-school time services and programs. But within the context of a relatively strong and expanding system, the Team was able to identify areas where the system and services need to be enhanced:

- 1). *Although Cambridge has many programs providing out-of-school time services to children and youth, many families have difficulty learning about different programs and have difficulty assessing the programs.*
- 2). *The diverse array of programs providing supervised activities to children and youth could significantly enhance the services they provide to families if they had a way to effectively access more resources including money and technical skills for fund raising and program operation, and resources needed to develop collaborations.*
- 3). *Through their participation in out-of-school time programs, children can make gains in improved academic performance, increased safety, reduced delinquency, improved health and nutrition and in self esteem. Programs which combine supplemental educational programming with after-school activities are necessary to supplement school activities, particularly for minority and lower income children to improve academic performance. Parents seek these kinds of programs, but often these programs have wait lists.*

To meet the needs described above, the Action Team identified a series of recommendations for implementation:

- To enable families to more easily obtain information about available programs that meet their need, the Team recommended the development of an information and referral system to link families to appropriate service providers. The core of this system would be a data-base, accessible over the internet and available to families in their communities. Families could be assisted in accessing the information, and the information would also be available in printed formats in different languages. The system would include not just out-of-school time programs but a broad range of family support resources.
- To enable programs to better meet the needs of families in the community, the Team recommended the creation of an Out of School Time Resource Partnership Program that will be a source of support flowing directly to service providers to assist them in accomplishing their individual goals. The Resource Partnership Program will provide mutual support, technical assistance and mini-grants to help programs address operational needs (planning and needs assessment, evaluation, program development, coordination, and collaboration), to improve program fund raising efforts, and/or for the remediation of transportation barriers, as well as other concerns identified by individual programs.
- To meet children's and families' needs, the team recommended the expansion of slots at new and existing programs that build bridges between the main and extended school day and which offer varied, well-rounded activities for children, extend cooperation and collaboration between public and private providers and are affordable. Information needs to be disseminated to existing programs about best practices and innovative national trends in out-of-school time programs. Support must be provided for the development of and local adaptation of innovative models with evaluation of the existing models. And to ensure that expansion of slots at new and existing programs meets the expressed needs of families, an initial and ongoing mechanism for determining families' preferences should be created.

To carry out its recommendations, the Action Team proposed the following resources:

- Creation of a new position of Out-of-School Time Coordinator to oversee the implementation of the recommendations in conjunction with City public and community based agencies;
- Funding for creation and implementation of the Information and Referral System;
- Creation of a technical assistance Resource Partnership Fund that community providers could access to receive technical assistance and for mini-grants;
- Funding for the creation of additional slots at existing and new programs that build bridges between the main and extended school day and provide well rounded activities for children; and
- Funding for a survey of families' needs and service utilization