

the **Whistler**  
Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council  
June '06

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**ANC News**

**NOTES FROM THE MAY 17 MEETING**

**ANC Annual Meeting**

ANC Board Chair Andrea Walsh introduced the May 17th ANC Annual meeting with the evening's agenda, "Tonight we'll have a brief business meeting, then vote to approve the Board slate, and also hear from Miriam Goldberg and ANC Assistant Director Lynn Landon about the retirement survey sent to Agassiz residents age 50 and older."

**Neighbors Share Updates about Harvard University**

For the business portion of the meeting, Agassiz resident Adriane Bishko relayed news of development on the Harvard Law School campus. She told the council, "Harvard Law School is developing the NW corner of their campus - from Pound Hall to North Hall." Harvard plans to demolish the existing garage and will build a new underground garage to create an area for new Law School construction.

Ms. Bishko also reported that the Law School is considering changing part of Everett Street to accept two-way traffic to improve traffic flow at the Massachusetts Avenue/ Everett Street intersection. In addition, Harvard plans to demolish Wyeth Hall, which is located next to the garage.

**Additional development:**

- Two wood frame houses will be moved to the North Hall site, one along Mass Ave., and the other on Wendell. Part of North Hall will be demolished to accommodate them
- The Law School is considering creating a green space at the corner of Everett Street and Mass Ave. in front of a new building
- 23 Everett (yellow house) has been renovated with an addition at the rear
- The Law School is considering demolishing a portion of Pound Hall
- For now, Lewis hall will be left as-is

Agassiz resident Carol Weinhaus reported on Harvard's "Green Campus Initiative - Vision 20/20." She stated that Harvard's intent is to make their buildings more energy efficient. Ms. Weinhaus attended and was impressed by three

**NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING**



**JUNE 21 - 7:30 PM**

**Baldwin School Cafeteria - 28  
Sacramento Street  
(Press buzzer for entry)**

**AGENDA**

Welcome new Community Policing Sergeant Paul J. Oppedisano, who will provide the current crime stats

Agassiz resident Kate Frank will provide an "Aging in Place" update

Update on community response to Lesley development and Agassiz Preschool lease at North Prospect Church

different tours of buildings, including the rooftop of the Sheraton Continental. She hopes to discuss in more detail the possibility of Harvard providing these tours to the general community and additional ways to make Cambridge a greener city.

**2006 - 07 Board of Directors**

The council voted to pass the board slate. See below for the ANC Board of Directors for 2006/07:

**Officers**

Co Chair Burton Doo  
Co Chair Andrea Walsh  
Treasurer Denise Dussault  
Clerk\* Hull Fulweiler

(\*Also Community School Parent Representative)

**Directors**

Stephen Diamond  
Ellen Friedman  
Miriam Goldberg  
Arlene Holtzman  
Fred Meyer

Ms. Walsh took a moment to thank Board member Dave Wood, who is stepping down. Mr. Wood was active in the Porter Square initiative that improved both motor and pedestrian traffic in the area. He also participated in the Harvard MOU discussions that have brought so many benefits to the Agassiz neighborhood. Mr. Wood intends to work on Lesley University development issues in the future.

**Fred Meyer, Realtor**  
83 Hammond Street  
617-876-1200

Owner, University Real Estate,  
overlooking Harvard Square.  
Past President, MA Assoc. of Realtors.  
Licensed real estate appraiser.

See all available homes now at  
[agassizhomes.com](http://agassizhomes.com)  
[harvardyard.com](http://harvardyard.com)

Ms. Walsh told the council, “Dave, who has served on the Board since 2002, has exhibited a lot of energy, wisdom and integrity. We thank him for his generous work with the ANC and wish him success in his future projects.”

**Survey Results**

Board Director Miriam Goldberg introduced the Agassiz retirement initiative and survey, stating, “The Cambridge Agassiz Harvard Fund awarded a grant to the ANC that funded the April 5 Beacon Hill Village lecture and provided support for survey distribution and data analysis. ANC Assistant Director Lynn Landon will share the initial results of the survey with us tonight.”

“The first step,” Ms. Landon explained, “was to garner names from the City of Cambridge. Then, from 600 individuals over the age of 50 living in the Agassiz community, the survey was mailed blindly to every third person -approximately 200 people received it.” [See *Whistler* page 3 for survey]

She continued, “We took care to make sure the surveys were easy to understand and quick to fill out and reply to. Some of the items on the survey were fill-in-the-blank to allow people to self identify, and some permitted people to simply circle the best answer. The results you see on the handout are from the first analysis.”

Miriam wrapped up the discussion and thanked all for attending. She informed the council, “Our next steps are outreach and collaboration. Also, I’d like to notify you of two relevant items that will be coming up shortly: 1.) the city will host a follow up (to the April 5th event) meeting on June 6th and 2.) a committee comprised of ANC employees, community members, and a representative from Cambridge Adult Education will soon meet to discuss a potential lecture series dealing with retirement issues.”

**Conclusion**

Ms. Walsh closed the ANC Annual meeting by extending a warm welcome to new Board member Fred Meyer, a neighborhood realtor and long-time participant at ANC meetings and events.

**Community Survey Background**

Agassiz Neighborhood Council (ANC) volunteers & staff worked to create a broad survey instrument that identified as much meaningful data as possible regarding the needs of Agassiz neighborhood residents as they aged. The survey captured relevant demographics information including ages, genders, and others in household. It also asked important questions such as "Do you wish to retire in Cambridge?" and "What kind of assistance do you need now and in the future?" Participants were chosen randomly and the survey was mailed to 200 households with a stamped, return envelope. The respondents remained anonymous.

To learn more about this initiative, receive the ANC Special Report 2006 Retirement Survey Summary pamphlet, or get involved, contact Lynn Landon at (617) 349-6287 x12 or email her at llandon@agassiz.org.

Agassiz Neighborhood Council  
**COMMUNITY SURVEY Results**  
Spring 2006

Total surveys distributed 200  
Total respondents 89  
Rate of return 44.5%  
Age range of respondents 50-91

- 1) I am male **39%** female **61%** My age is **62.95** average age
- 2) I live: alone **30.3%** with spouse/partner **69.7%**  
with other family member(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with friend(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) If applicable, ages of other individuals in my household: **range 9-86**  
**1. person average age 56.8 years, average age 2<sup>nd</sup> person 33.2 years**
- 4) I do **39%** do not **61%** have family living near by that can help me when needed.
- 5) How long I have lived at my present address **21.64 years - average**
- 6) How long I have lived in Cambridge **28.44**
- 7) I rent **16%** own **84%** my current living quarters.
- 8) I wish to retire at my current address in Cambridge.  
Yes **81.5%** No **18.5%**
- 9) If you answered yes above, please identify the top 3 reasons why you might have to relocate at some point in the future?  
a) **#1 Health related b) #2 Financial reasons c) #3 weather**
- 10) I do **35%** do not **65%** have another residence or stay in another place for a specific period each year.  
(If yes) I usually spend \_\_\_\_\_ weeks **Average 2** months at my other residence.
- 11) I would be interested in exploring the idea of offering students a place to live in my home in exchange for hours of work.  
Yes **32%** No **68%**
- 12) There are physical aspects of my home that would, without modifications, either make it difficult or prevent me from staying here. Yes **55%**  
No **45%**

If Yes, what are these? **All but one (1) respondents said stairs**

I need/am receiving assistance NOW With the following:  
Please check all that apply

| Need Assistance with                              | NOW   | I anticipate needing assistance Within the next 5 years:<br>Please check all that apply | May Need Assistance | In 5 years |
|---|-------|---|---------------------|------------|
| Heavy lifting chores                              | 24.7% | Heavy lifting chores  |                     | 46.1%      |
| Yard Work   | 32.6% | Yard Work   |                     | 36%        |
| Snow Shoveling                                    | 34.8% | Snow Shoveling  |                     | 48.3%      |
| Shopping  | 1.1%  | Shopping  |                     | 12.4%      |
| Preparing meals                                   | 1.1%  | Preparing meals   |                     | 7.9%       |
| Housework/laundry                                 | 25.8% | Housework/laundry   |                     | 29.2%      |
| Local transportation                              | 3.4%  | Local transportation  |                     | 9%         |
| Banking /paying bills                             | -1%   | Banking /paying bills   |                     | 5.6%       |
| Home maintenance & repairs                        | 30.3% | Home maintenance & repairs  |                     | 46.1%      |
| Dressing & Grooming                               | -1%   | Dressing & Grooming   |                     | 3.4%       |
| Reading and/or Writing                            | -1%   | Reading and/or Writing  |                     | 4.5%       |
| Help with Computers/Technology                    | 20.2% | Help with Computers/Technology  |                     | 31.5%      |
| Health Care coordination & advocacy               | 1.1%  | Health Care coordination & advocacy   |                     | 7.9%       |
| Legal & Estate Issues                             | 18%   | Legal & Estate Issues   |                     | 2.2%       |
| Companionship                                     | -1%   | Companionship   |                     | 21.3%      |
| Access to Cultural & Recreational activities      | -1%   | Access to Cultural & Recreational activities  |                     | 5.6%       |
| Understanding Government programs (e.g. Medicare) | 6.7%  | Understanding Government programs (e.g. Medicare)                                       |                     | 11.2%      |
| Mobility  | 1.1%  | Mobility  |                     | 20.2%      |
| Pet Care  | 3.4%  | Pet Care  |                     | 5.6%       |
| Prescription Management                           | 1.1%  | Prescription Management   |                     | 10.1%      |
| Skilled Nursing Care (other)                      | -1%   | Skilled Nursing Care (other)  |                     | 6.7%       |
| Exercise  | 1%    | Exercise  |                     | 1%         |

14) Do you employ anyone now to assist you with any of the tasks listed above?  
YES **43.2%** NO **56.8%**

15) Do you think that you will need to employ someone to assist you any of these tasks within the next 5 years? YES **67%** NO **33%**

**THANKS FOR COMPLETING OUR SURVEY!**

# ANC Community

## AGASSIZ TREE COMMITTEE PLANTS 1ST TREE

On Friday, April 28th the Agassiz Tree Committee celebrated Arbor Day by planting a red maple in front of the Maria L. Baldwin School. In attendance were members of the Tree Committee, city Arborist Kelly Writer, a representative from the Mayor's office, a Cambridge Landscape work-crew, and local students. Before the maple was lowered into the ground, a third grade class from the Baldwin School read poems aloud that celebrated trees, flowers, and the earth.

For more information about the Tree Committee or to learn about upcoming projects, contact the ANC at (617) 349-6287 or email Community Liaison Phoebe Sinclair at [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org)

Please enjoy these photos from the event!



Planting the red maple



Group Shot



Tree Committee member Cynthia Smith with Cambridge City Arborist Kelly Writer



Baldwin students read poems

## ANC FAMILY BBQ

Join us at our Annual Backyard Bar-"Bee"-Que on Wednesday, June 7th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.



Everyone is Welcome!



Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie options and drinks will be provided. **Feel free to bring the following: side dishes, fruits, salads, desserts, or chips.**

The BBQ will take place "outback" of the ANC Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street. Children must be accompanied by adults. For more information, call (617) 349-6287 x10 or email [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org)



# Agassiz School Programs

## CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Prepared by Preschool Director Michelle Quinlan

On May 5th, Sacramento Street Preschool celebrated Children's Day. Children's Day (Kodomo no hi) is a national holiday in Japan. The children made Carp (Koi) windsocks that represent strength. This holiday celebrates good health and happiness for children and allows them to express their thankfulness to their parents for the love and care they have received. The children had a wonderful time coloring windsocks and flying them outside.



Sacramento Preschool kids create festive windsocks



## REGISTER NOW FOR AFTERSCHOOL & PRESCHOOL!

### Agassiz Afterschool

Enrolling in the Agassiz Afterschool Program, licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (Mass. EEC), is an exciting opportunity for kids entering grades K through five. Our enrollment represents diverse families from all neighborhoods of Cambridge and we offer a variety of activities and special events that encourage exploration, choice and fun every afternoon.

### Registration

Parents may choose to enroll their children full (five days) or part time (one, two or three days per week.) A nonrefundable deposit equal to a month's tuition must be submitted with the completed registration form. For more information or to request a form, contact ANC Administrative Assistant Roger Hucek at (617) 349-6287 x19 or [rhucek@agassiz.org](mailto:rhucek@agassiz.org). Registration forms may also be downloaded from our website at [www.agassiz.org/ANCPrograms.asp](http://www.agassiz.org/ANCPrograms.asp).

### Sacramento Street Preschool

The Sacramento Street Preschool, licensed by Mass. EEC, offers a cozy, weekly thematic-based program for 20 children ages two years nine months to five years. We focus on the social and emotional growth of children, both as individuals and as participants in a group context.

### Registration

Families may sign up for two, three or all five days. They may choose to enroll their child for



**BONNY LAMB**  
VICE PRESIDENT

617.864.8566 x 225  
800.255.7545 x 225  
617.803.8080 Cell  
617.876.7576 Fax

[bonny@greatlistings.com](mailto:bonny@greatlistings.com)  
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171 Huron Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138





*I strive to exceed your expectations.*

regular hours (8:30 AM to noon) or extended hours (8:30 AM – 2:30 PM) A nonrefundable deposit must be submitted with the completed registration forms. For more information, contact Preschool Director Michelle Quinlan at (617) 349-6287 x14 or mquinlan@agassiz.org.

6:00 - 7:15 PM - Panel of Senior Service Providers  
7:15 - 8:00 PM - Questions and Answers

**ALDEN PARK CONSTRUCTION NOTICE**

Excerpted from the Cambridge Community Development website

The city will begin removing the existing playground equipment in Alden Park for improvements starting after the end of the public school year. (According to the Cambridge Public Schools calendar, the last possible school day is June 27, 2006.) Once the existing equipment has been removed, the city’s contractor will begin doing the necessary site work in preparation to install the new surfacing and play equipment. The park will not be available for use while it is under construction, which may last for 3 to 6 months or more depending on weather and site conditions.

While Alden Park is under construction, residents are encouraged to use the playground at Sacramento Field. Please see our Parks and Playgrounds Map, available at city offices and on our website ([www.cambridgema.gov/CDD](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD)), for information about other parks in Cambridge.

For more information contact Jeff Roberts or the Community Development Department staff at (617) 349-4639 or [jroberts@cambridgema.gov](mailto:jroberts@cambridgema.gov). The Community Development Department TTY line is (617) 349-4621.

Note: The final design plan and a schematic illustration of the new main play structure may be viewed at:  
[www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/cp/parks/alden/index.html](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/cp/parks/alden/index.html)

## City Wide

### PANEL DISCUSSION AT SENIOR CENTER

Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs Council on Aging and Cambridge Senior Centers will present: “A Panel Discussion on Senior Resources in the City of Cambridge” on Tuesday, June 6, 2006 from 5:30 – 8:30 PM at the Cambridge Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139.

The following providers of Senior Services in the City of Cambridge will present information on their services.

- Cambridge Council on Aging and Senior Centers
- Cambridge Health Alliance
- Somerville Cambridge Elder Services
- Houseworks
- Windsor House
- Paine Social Services

Reservation required. Seating is limited so call (617) 349-6060 to reserve a space today!

5:30 - 6:00 PM - Registration and light refreshments



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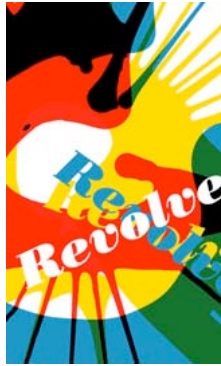
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### CAMBRIDGE RIVERFEST

The 27th Annual Cambridge River Festival (Riverfest) will be held on **Saturday, June 17th**. Riverfest is a one-day celebration of the arts along the banks of the Charles River. Enjoy live Jazz, World, Latin and Folk music, participatory public art projects, puppet-making and spin-art in the Kids Area, over 100 specialty food purveyors and craft vendors, and a bicycle parade!



**Where:** Riverbend Park -a one-mile stretch along Memorial Drive from JFK Street to Western Ave.  
**When:** Saturday, June 17th from Noon to 6 PM  
 -RAIN or SHINE!  
**Admission:** FREE

For more information visit the Cambridge Arts Council online at [www.cambridgeartscouncil.org](http://www.cambridgeartscouncil.org) or call (617) 349-4380.

### HARVARD FARMER'S MARKET



**When:** Every Tuesday  
 1-6 PM from June 20 -  
 October 31

**Where:** At the corner  
 of Oxford & Kirkland

**Fresh Pond Ballet**

- \* Classical Ballet
- \* Dance for 2 & 3 Year Olds
- \* Pre-Ballet for 4 Year Olds
- Youth \* Teen \* Adults
- \* Sprung Floor & Marley for Safety




*Studio: 1798A Mass. Ave.,  
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 Nina Alonso Hathaway*

**Register Now!**  
[www.freshpondballet.com](http://www.freshpondballet.com)  
 617-491-5865

Streets in Cambridge, next to Memorial Hall.

Sponsored by The Food Literacy Project  
 Harvard University Dining Services

*The Secret Gardens  
of Cambridge*



Sunday, June 11, from 10 to 4  
 The Seventh Annual Open-Gardens Day  
 sponsored by  
 The Friends of the Cambridge Public Library

Thirty Cambridge gardens  
 will be open to ticket holders.

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For information call 617-349-4029; TTY: 617-349-4421.  
 Tickets are available after May 6, 2006.



## Sacramento Street Gallery

### Art Fresh Art Local

Stop by the Sacramento Street Gallery to view this impressive and colorful exhibit that showcases art by emerging artists in Cambridge!

**Exhibition:** May 19 - June 16, 2006

**Gallery Hours:** Monday to Friday, 9 - 5 PM



Images counter-clockwise from top left: Laurent Husson, Jessica Lander, Anne Soulet, Rachel Phillips, Anne Peramaki

# Community Calendar

## June 2006

Wednesday, June 9



ANC Annual Family BBQ  
Behind the Agassiz Community Center, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Sunday, June 18

Happy Father's Day!

Wednesday, June 21

6:00 - 7:30 PM

ANC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor  
Public Welcome

Wednesday, June 21

7:30 - 9:00 PM

ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda)  
Baldwin School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street  
All are welcome

Wednesday, June 21

Baldwin last day of school  
First day of summer!

*The Whistler* is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or to be advised by email of its posting on the web at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org) each month. Items of interest to the neighborhood June be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

THE WHISTLER JUNE 2006

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**DO NOT FORWARD**

**NOTE:** The *Whistler* newsletter is not published during July or August. Similarly, scheduled ANC Board and Community meetings are in recess. Newsletter publication and meetings will resume in September. Have a safe and splendid summer!