

Whistler

newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

September 2006

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

ANC News

Notes from the June ANC Meeting WOK & ROLL Restaurant

Wok & Roll visited the ANC seeking support for their request for non-transferable beer & wine license. Attending for Wok & Roll were attorney Gill Goldberg and the owner/manager David Yue.

Goldberg and Yue advised the council that there would be no bar, just beer and wine service at restaurant. Without beer and wine service a restaurant is at an economic disadvantage. They explained also that their business was hindered by sidewalk construction on Mass. Ave. They predicted that 1/15th of their business will be alcohol. Closing time would be 10:15 PM.

The License Commission hearing had been scheduled for June 28 where they were seeking a "no-value, non-transferable" license, which means that the license can't be sold if the restaurant goes out of business. Goldberg and Yue encouraged residents to write letters of support to License Commission.

Harvard Working Group Update

Preliminary discussions regarding the Law School have occurred and they include the underground garage project, located at Pound Hall to Everett St. Under discussion is the possibility of demolish-

JUST A REMINDER!

**ANC monthly meetings
now held on the
THIRD WEDNESDAY
of each month!**

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE!

ing the existing garage, tearing down Wyeth Hall, and possibly re-designing Pound Hall. North Hall will be redesigned with parking spaces possibly underground. Look in *The Whistler* for more information in the coming months.

Lesley University Development Update

Lesley University and the MBTA are still in discussion over the Air Rights at Porter Square. Lesley officials report that they are optimistic about reaching a final agreement, and hope to be able to discuss the long-term lease in more detail as early as October.

A representative from Lesley will be at the Sept. 21 meeting to provide an up to the minute update.

Next ANC Meeting

Wednesday, September 21

7:30 p.m.

Baldwin School Dining Hall



28 Sacramento Street - Oxford Street Entrance

Agenda as of September 1:

Lesley U. will provide a very brief report on progress regarding their master plan, including the status of their Porter Square air rights discussion with the T - call 617 349-6287 x17 or email tdelancey@agassiz.org for email bulletins that will provide up to the minute information on this agenda.

WEST SIDE LOUNGE SEEKS EXTENSION

The West Side Lounge restaurant contacted the ANC this summer regarding an extension of their liquor license from 1 to 2AM. A hearing in front of the License Commission has been tentatively scheduled for September. Agassiz residents were polled by email, and there was widespread support on this side of Mass Ave. ANC will send a letter of support to the License Commission. However, residents who abut the restaurant on Bowdoin Street have expressed concern and plan to meet with the owners prior to the hearing.

Interim Traffic Calming Underway

Harvard's installation of Interim Traffic Calming will be getting underway this month. The improvements will include raised tables at Oxford and Wendell Streets and at Oxford and Garfield Streets.

This project is planned as an interim measure. When the City undertakes sewer separation on Oxford Street, it will construct permanent traffic calming improvements at these locations. The project is being coordinated with the Department of Public Works and funded by Harvard as part of the benefits received under the MOU that was created last year. We hope to have a report on the project in October. For more information call Thomas Lucey, Harvard community affairs at 617 495-4955.

Water Main Work in Cambridge Underway

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) began the rehabilitation of its 100-year old water transmission main in Cambridge this winter from Porter Square area to the Charles

River via Mass Ave. and JFK Street.

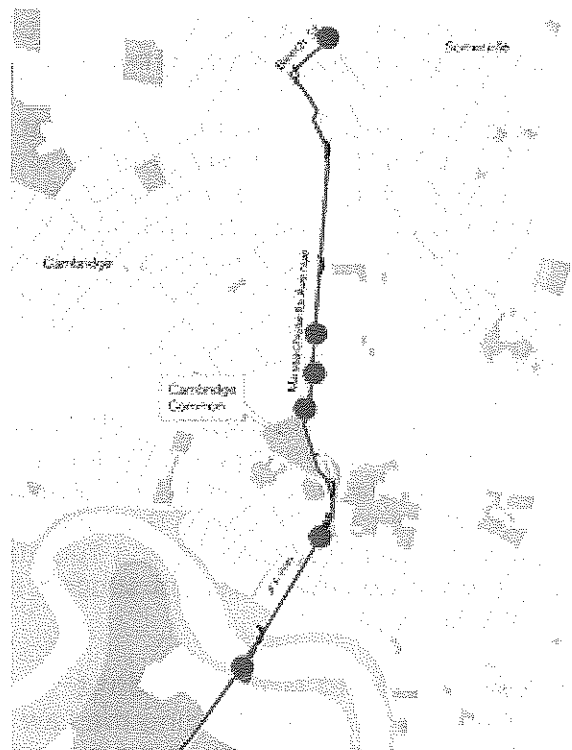
The water main is a 48-inch diameter cast iron pipe originally installed in the late 1890s, and it will be reconstructed by R. Zoppo, Corp. Old valves and joints seals will also be replaced to prevent leaks. Most of the work involves accessing pipe at 800 - 1,000 foot intervals to clean and cement mortar line the inside. This method protects water quality and strengthens water flow without the need for a full replacement. Construction sites are on the Larz Anderson Bridge and at the intersection of Beech Street and Elm Street. An access pit has been constructed between Beech and Allen Streets. All work in the Harvard Square area will be conducted from 9:00PM to 6:30AM.

Jeff McLaughlin of the MWRA Public Affairs Department will be the contact person for businesses and residents during the work. He can be reached at (617) 788-1170. More on the project can be found on-line at: www.mwra.com/04water/html/spotcamb.htm.

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City Wide

INFORMATION ON PUBLIC TREES

The City is responsible for the trimming of all public trees (those located on public streets and public land) including removal of limbs.

REMOVALS

If you trim on your own, shrub prunings and twigs thinner than your thumb and shorter than your arm are accepted in yard waste collection. Try the yellow pages for "landscape contractors" or "tree services" to arrange for pick up with a private hauler for larger items. Stumps can only be removed after being cleared for underground safety.

WHEN A TREE NEEDS TO BE REMOVED

City trees are rarely removed unless they are deemed a hazard (when a tree poses a threat to persons and/or property), and the city will promptly inspect requests for removal. Once a tree becomes potentially hazardous, a public hearing will take place. Maintenance may be required, and that work will be scheduled within priorities. Trees are not removed because they drop leaves or acorns, because of their size, because they cause shade or because of their location that does not pose a hazard.

PRUNING BY UTILITY COMPANIES

Pruning used by NStar contractors is called directional pruning, and, while sometimes unsightly, it provides the best balance between utility air space and tree health. The best way to deal with this problem is to plant the right tree in the right place. The City strives to limit the planting of trees under transmission lines to those species that will mature at a height of 25 feet or less. For more information, see our Recommended Species list.

HOW TO HAVE A TREE PLANTED

If there is an empty City tree well on your street, you may request a replacement, and it will be planted during the next planting season (if a tree is sustainable at that location) at no cost. If there is no tree well, the City will share the cost with you under its Client Tree Program. For \$140, the DPW will prepare a tree well and plant a tree, in exchange for

your pledge to water the tree. On average, your contribution covers about one-half to one-third the cost of planting. In either case, our City Arborist will consult with you about the appropriate species for the location.

ANC NOW HAS A TREE COMMITTEE

If you would like to plant a public tree in the Agassiz neighborhood, there is a fund, provided by Harvard U. as part of their Memo of Understanding, and the fund may underwrite the cost. Call the ANC office at (617) 349-6287 for more information.

CONTACT INFO

If you have a tree emergency, please contact the DPW 24hours a day at (617) 349-4800 or call (617) 349-4846 during business hours, or the Parks & Forestry Division at (617) 349-4886. Please leave your name, phone number and location of the tree. If you think a tree may need an evaluation by a certified arborist, you may contact the City Arborist at (617) 349-6433.



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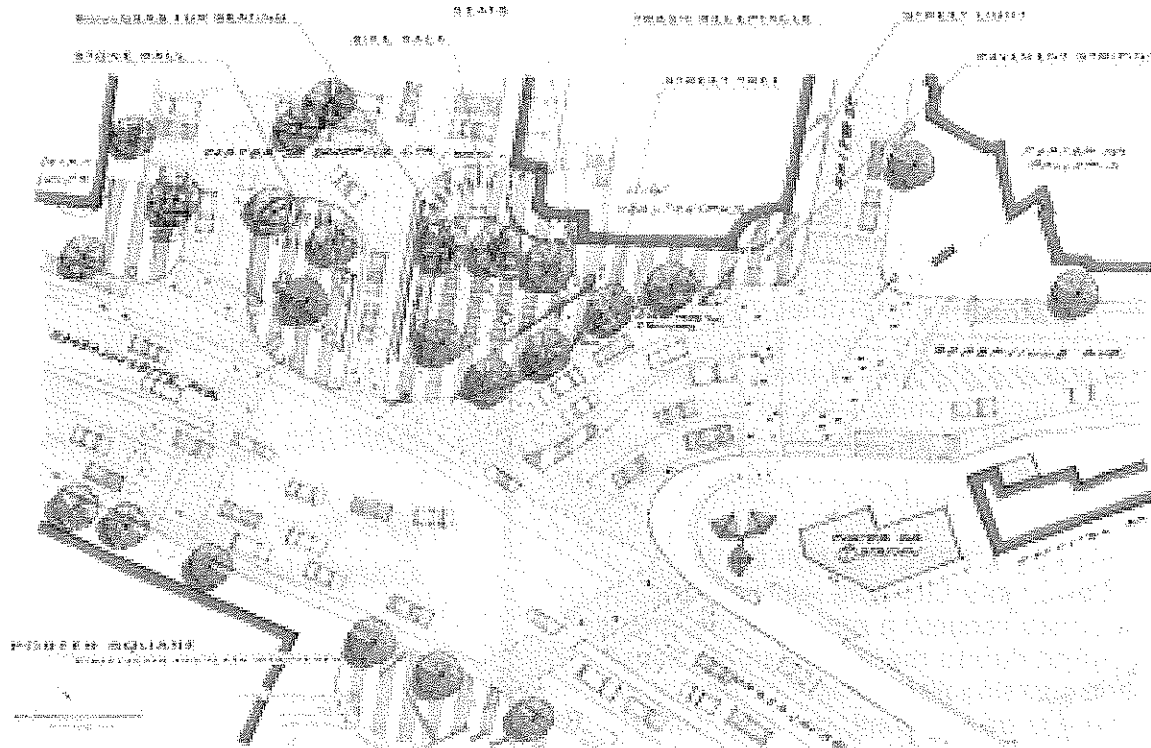
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PORTER SQUARE ROADWAYS PROJECT

The City is doing extensive redesign of traffic patterns through Porter Square to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. Artist Toshihiro Katayama has worked with the project landscape architect Cynthia Smith of Halvorson Design Partnership and developed a bold artistic concept for a prominent new public plaza in the center of the square. The goals for the design are to create a unique visual identity for Porter Square, integrate both sides of Massachusetts Avenue, unify the three parts of the plaza visually, and reduce the visual clutter of the busy intersection through simplification and clarity. A stonewall and boulders will create a sense of warmth through the use of natural materials, additional trees will be planted, and individual seats will allow people to rest on their way through the square. The plaza will be constructed as part of the streetscape improvements in 2004.

Toshihiro Katayama is Professor emeritus at Harvard University, where he taught for 30 years and served as the Director of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts. His work has been exhibited in more than 30 one-man exhibitions and he has created large-scale sculptures, murals, and environmental work in architectural spaces in the United States and Japan, including major work for the Ohara Art Museum in Kurashiki and the Panasonic Headquarters in Tokyo.

Further information about the streetscape project can be found on the Cambridge Community Development Department's web site: www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CDD/enviro-trans/infproj/portersq





ANC Programs

Fall Programs Start at ANC

Limited space is still available in **Agassiz Afterschool**, a program that offers school-age children safe and comfortable afternoons with activities of their choice ranging from sports to arts, and from drama to outdoor play. There is a homework choice with a teacher to help the older students with their assignments. Children may register part or full-time.

Sacramento Street Preschool, for children from 2 years, 9 months to kindergarten age also offers full and part time program options between 8:30AM and 2:30PM. Some spaces are still available in this developmentally based preschool.

ANC offers vacation weeks, early release day performances and many community events and activities.

Baby Groups

Groups for parents and their babies (and toddlers) from birth through age 2 will soon begin in North Hall, at the corner of Wendell Street and Mass. Ave.

The Baby Groups provide a place where parents can meet other parents, have a chance to socialize and relax while the babies have space to play. Contact Lynn Landon (617) 349-6287 or london@agassiz.org if you are interested in these groups.

Outback Hosts Chhandika

On July 12, CHHANDIKA came to Outback Summer Camp as part of **Summer in the City**, a series of performances for children in many Cambridge venues sponsored by the **Cambridge Arts Council**.

Chhandika presented a Kathak dance performance. From its origins in ancient India to its dramatic emergence on today's international stage, the storytelling art of Kathak blends classical theater with dynamic rhythms and exquisite dance movement.

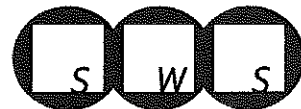
The Outback Summer program kids, along with others who came to see the show, were spellbound by the outdoor performance. The dancers spent some time in the audience, showing the children hand movements and steps from their performance.



Photo: Christina R. Alvarado

Coming in October

The 5th Annual



SMALL WORKS SHOW

Cambridge ARTISTS support the

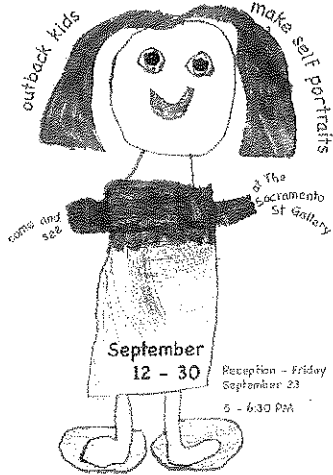
Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center

Opening Reception Friday, October 14th from 5-8PM



The Sacramento Street Gallery Presents

"ART from OUTBACK CAMP"



Come and see some of the art that the kids at the Outback Camp did during the summer! We will have portraits and other work plus our special portrait quilt created last year by

CLARA WAINWRIGHT
AND

CHILDREN FROM THE AGASSIZ AFTERSCHOOL.

September 12 - 30, 2005

Reception: Friday, September 23, 5-6:30 PM

GALLERY HOURS: Monday-Friday 9AM - 5PM
20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge MA 02138



Introducing Art:

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2PM on the BALDWIN SCHOOL STAGE at 28 Sacramento Street
Admission \$2.00 each, \$5.00 for family groups. All general seating.

Groups please call ahead. Contact Lynn Landon at 349-6287 x12 or email llandon@agassiz.org for more information.



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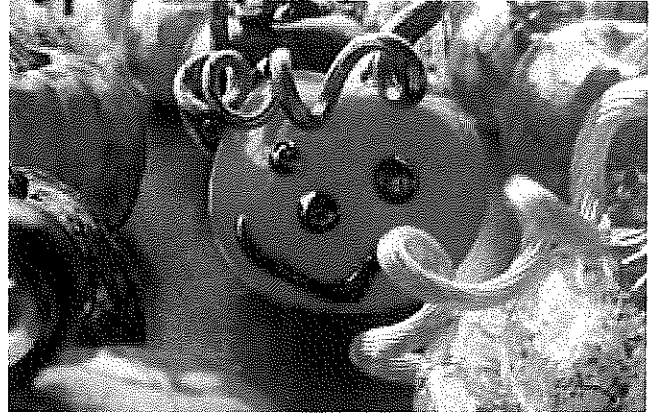
MIT 5th Annual "Great Glass Pumpkin Patch" September 23-24

It's a bumper crop you won't want to bump too hard. The MIT Glass Lab's fifth annual Great Glass Pumpkin Patch will sprout September 23-24 on MIT's Kresge Oval, 48 Mass Ave (in front of Kresge Auditorium) featuring over 1,000 unique, one-of-a-kind, hand-blown glass pumpkins and gourds.

The glass pumpkins were created by students and instructors in MIT's Glass Lab. Pumpkin-making is overseen by glass artist Peter Houk, currently in residence at the MIT Glass Lab.

For more information--including an illustrated step-by-step description of "How We Make a Pumpkin," see:http://web.mit.edu/glasslab/sales_pumpkin.html, or call (617) 253-5309. The Great Glass Pumpkin Patch begins with a

preview reception (no sales) on Friday, Sept. 23 from 5-8 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 24 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m, visitors of all ages are invited to stroll through the patch and buy a pumpkin.



Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

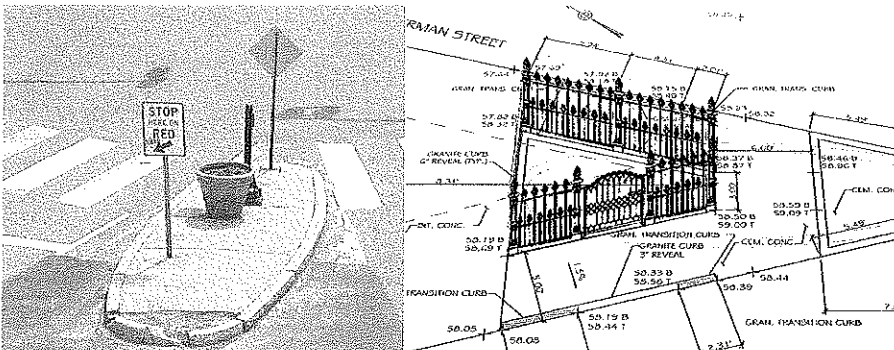
The CAC Gallery is proud to present a public art exhibition created by artist Paul Ramirez Jonas and curated by Amy Mackie in Taylor Square, the recently renovated site of the Engine 8, Ladder 4 fire station at the intersection of Garden Street, Huron Avenue, and Sherman Street in north Cambridge.

Taylor Square will be the smallest public park in Cambridge, measuring only 57 square feet, and will have locked gates. It will be transformed into a communal space through the distribution of thousands of keys and the invitation to the public to duplicate them endlessly.

Simultaneous with the opening of this park, 5000 artist-designed keys will be mailed to Cambridge households and will be made available at the Engine 8, Ladder 4 fire station. Each key is embossed with the phrases "Taylor Square" and "Copy Me". Further distribution of the keys and, thus, the sustained life of the park will be the task of the public. Duplication of the keys is strongly encouraged to increase access to the park for an expanding community. In the artist's words, "Taylor Square belongs to the public. It is closed, yet simultaneously open, re-emphasizing that the ownership of public space resides in the public itself."

The keys for Open are a tangible symbol of this relationship between public space and the public. Ramirez Jonas's artwork activates our sense of civic pride, identification, and responsibility.

Ramirez Jonas lives and works in New York. For more information, visit: www.automat.com.



Community Calendar

September 2005

Monday, September 5		LABOR DAY
Thursday, September 8		Agassiz Afterschool/Sacramento Street Preschool Open
Wednesday, September 21	7:30PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda) Baldwin School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street Oxford entrance (ANC Board Meeting 6PM, 20 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor-Public Welcome)
Friday, September 23	5-6:30PM	<i>Art From OUTBACK CAMP</i> Opening Reception Show runs Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM September 12-30 Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Thursday, September 29	2PM	Cambridge elementary school early release day 2:00 p.m. INTRODUCING ART Leeny DelSeamons in "Kudos for Courage and Kindness" Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street Admission \$2/\$5 for family groups (See pg 6 for info.)

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 each month. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler September 2005



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(617) 349-6287 Fax and Hot Line (617) 497-4388
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