

the **Whistler**
 Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council
June '07

IN THIS ISSUE

ANC News: ANC Annual Meeting	1
ANC News: Community Discussion of Harvard Dev., Harvard Construction Updates	2 - 4
ANC News: Review of CCTV Petition, Letter to Harvard Postmaster	4 - 5
ANC Community: ANC Bids Farewell & Hello to Staff, Lesley Community Meeting	5 - 6
ANC School Programs: Register for Afterschool & Preschool, Afterschool Art Show	6 - 7
City Wide: Harvard Farmers' Market, Eco-Friendly Boutique	7

ANC News

NOTES FROM THE MAY 16 ANNUAL MEETING

Board Co-Chairperson Andrea Walsh introduced the ANC Annual Meeting and the 2007/08 Board of Directors slate. Ms. Walsh honored departing board members Arlene Holtzman and Ellen Friedman.

Arlene Holtzman of Prentiss Street, helped the board with fundraising, particularly with the Building Fund for the Maud Morgan Visual



Arts Center. She has taken a new job in development at Children's Hospital.

Ellen Friedman, formerly of Mellen Street, is a long-time community activist who has helped with development issues around both Harvard and Lesley Universities. She also served as a director on the Cambridge Agassiz Harvard Fund Committee. Ms. Friedman has left the institutional zone and moved to Somerville.

Following the council's vote to approve the slate, Ms. Walsh welcomed two new Board members. Wendy Prellwitz is returning to the Board. She has been active with the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center for the past 10 years, donating countless fundraising hours.

Phyllis Smith, is a mother of three, including one daughter who volunteers at ANC, and a Sales Specialist for IBM. Despite her very busy schedule, she still finds time to be active in her local community. Ms. Smith will serve as Parent Liaison on the ANC Board.

See below for a list of the 2007 ANC Board of Directors. Each director will serve a two-year term:

- Hull Fulweiler, Clerk
- Stephen Diamond

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING

JUNE 20 - 7:30 PM
 Baldwin School Cafeteria - 28
 Sacramento Street
 (Press buzzer for entry)

AGENDA

- Welcome Scott Walker of Greenward, an eco-friendly boutique
- Community Policing Sgt. Paul Oppedisano provides crime stats



Wendy Prellwitz
Emily Sample
Phyllis Smith

Board members in mid-term are:

Burton Doo, Co-Chairperson
Andrea Walsh, Co-Chairperson
Denise Dussault, Treasurer
Miriam Goldberg
Fred Meyer

NOTES FROM THE MAY 23 SPECIAL MEETING

Community Discusses New Harvard Law School Implementation Agreement

Agassiz resident Willie Bloomstein presented the results of a series of meetings between the Harvard Law School and community representatives from the Harvard/Agassiz/Neighborhood Nine Working Group, wherein the University formally responded to residents' concerns about a number of issues affecting quality-of-life and retail in the neighborhood, as well as concerns about the new Law School building to be built at the corner of Mass. Ave and Everett Street.

Mr. Bloomstein presented the ANC with a draft of a document titled, "2007 Harvard Law School Implementation Agreement." He explained, "This written draft agreement is the culmination of several years of discussions regarding Harvard Law School's development plans and their impacts on the neighborhoods on both sides of Mass. Ave. It's a positive conclusion to a long collaborative process with Harvard, and the second major negotiation under the Harvard/

Agassiz Memorandum of Understanding that was originally approved by the community back in 2004. The representatives who developed this with Harvard are here tonight to recommend that we be authorized to sign it."

Agassiz residents formally appointed to the Working Group include Joel Bard, Adrian Bishko, and Ellen Friedman.

Mr. Bloomstein listed the highlights of the document, including:

- Harvard has committed that it will not develop 1607-1615 Mass. Ave. (a Harvard-owned building containing retail stores referred to as the "Bence Pharmacy" site) before the year 2021.
- Harvard acknowledges that if/when it does develop the Bence site, it will work with the community in the context of the MOU process to identify ways in which the site can contribute positively to the character of Massachusetts Avenue, with the goal of "identifying and advancing opportunities for mutual benefit."
- Major traffic enhancements will be made to the Mass Ave/Everett St. intersection (including converting part of Everett to a two-way street) to divert traffic away from neighborhood streets.
- A full construction mitigation plan for the new Law School building has been approved and will be funded and managed by Harvard, much like the one for the FAS buildings currently under construction.
- Among other parking improvements, the Cambridge Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation will convert 31 metered spaces on Oxford St. (between Wendell and Everett) back into residential parking.
- Harvard will contribute \$50,000 to fund streetscape enhancements along Mass. Ave. between Wendell and Waterhouse Streets.
- Harvard added various design elements suggested by residents for the new Law School building to be constructed at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Everett.
- Harvard will build a sound mitigation fence at the Everett Street edge of the main con-

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struction site using jersey barriers and wood panels that will reach a height of approximately 15 feet.

Mr. Bloomstein commended the University for “showing good faith in staying with this process to the end.” Other residents stated that Harvard made a positive statement about its willingness to work with the community, going above and beyond the neighbors’ initial expectations.

At the conclusion of the discussion, meeting chair Stephen Diamond made a motion to support a general approval of the Implementation Agreement document. Neighbors present at the meeting voted unanimously to approve the document and authorize the Agassiz representatives of the Working Group to execute the Implementation Agreement on behalf of the ANC.

The next step is for representatives from the Working Group (both Agassiz and Neighborhood Nine) to work with Harvard Law School to finalize and execute the document.

Residents may contact Community Liaison Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org to request a copy of the draft 2007 Harvard Law School Implementation

Harvard Law School Construction Updates
Mary Power and Tom Lucey of Harvard Community Relations visited the council to provide updates about the relocation of the wood-

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frame houses at 1581-3 Mass. Ave and other campus construction projects. Information about the relocation has been distributed to residents in Agassiz and Neighborhood 9.

Harvard Relocates Houses

As part of historic preservation efforts of the upcoming Harvard Law School project, two Victorian houses and an associated carriage house will be relocated to the corner of Mass. Ave. and Mellen Street. Traffic will be disrupted on Mass. Ave. from Friday evening, June 22nd at 6:00 PM until Monday morning, June 25th. The houses will be moved on Saturday, June 23rd. Harvard University has worked with the City of Cambridge to coordinate traffic plans and to ensure access for emergency services.



North Hall



Houses prepped for move

During the time of the move, residents can expect the following:

- Both north and south travel lanes of Mass. Ave. from Waterhouse Street to Wendell Street will be closed
- Northbound traffic will be diverted to Waterhouse Street
- Southbound traffic will be diverted onto Linnaean Street
- Residents will be able to take a right from Wendell Street onto the north bound traffic land of Mass. Ave.
- Residents of appropriate streets traveling south on Mass. Ave can access their residences except during the times when the three houses are being moved along Mass. Ave.

Resident Access

There will be limited vehicular access for residents and business owners and their customers between Linnean and Waterhouse St. during the house move.

- MBTA bus service will continue as sched-

uled with temporary routing in place around the closed section of Mass. Ave. The bus stop on Mass. Ave. in front of North Hall (1651 Mass. Ave.) will close for the week-end.

- Pedestrians will be able to access this section of Mass. Ave.
- Emergency vehicles will always be able to access Mass. Ave.

Parking During the Move

“No Parking” signs will be posted 48 hours in advance of all work. Residents of the affected areas may park at 52 Oxford Street during the move by showing identification. The parking lot attached to the Guidance Center on Sacramento Street will also be available for resident use during the weekend.

Retail Shops

The businesses located at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Everett will remain open during the move. Harvard understands that businesses will be inconvenienced by the house move and, to that end, Mary Power asked residents support Looks, Crimson Cleaners, Central Barber, 3 Aces Pizza, and Fancy Fingers during their normal retail hours that weekend.

Contact Info

Harvard would also like to note that the dates of the house relocations are weather dependent. Residents are invited to contact Harvard’s Construction Mitigation office at (617) 496-0857 to request assistance connected with special needs or disability, ask questions, or voice concerns.

Cambridge Consumers’ Council Reviews Fair Competition Petition

Paul Schlaver, Executive Director of Cambridge Consumers’ Council and Chair of Mass. Consumers’ Coalition, introduced his organization and spoke about the CCTV petition. The Cambridge Consumer’s Council, a division of the City of Cambridge License Commission that works in cooperation with the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, investigates and monitors consumer problems and complaints. Their goal is to provide consumer information on rights and remedies with a self-help focus.

Mr. Schlaver explained that the Consumers’ Council encourages residents to be smart about buying vehicles. They also handle check fraud, scam issues, and work to mediate the outcome of consumer disputes. Additionally, the Mass. Consumers’ Coalition weighs in on legislative items, including a petition recently put forth by Cambridge Community Television. The petition, titled “Keep it Local –Fair Competition/ Local Control,” opposes state legislation supported by Verizon Communications that will affect current cable franchising rights in the state. Mr. Schlaver was invited to the council meeting to explain the petition to neighbors after CCTV approached ANC for support.

“The essence of the issue,” stated Mr. Schlaver, “Is that there’s a bill pending in the state house. Currently, a cable company like Comcast must negotiate with all towns. This triggers the funding for CCTV and various other community benefits. The new bill, pushed primarily by



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Verizon, permits a company to negotiate with the State Department of Telecommunication and Cable, instead of with each city, to develop their system.”

Supporters of the bill believe the new legislation will make it easier for new companies to compete in the current market. However, Mr. Schlaver’s organization and other consumer groups, including the Cambridge City Council and Mass. Municipal Association, disagree with this analysis. He noted that this bill will most likely not put an end to community services like CCTV, but it would allow cable companies that currently exist to bypass the city when negotiating their terms.

Although those who attended the meeting elected not to produce a letter in support of this issue, several neighbors expressed interest in sending individual letters to state and city representatives. A public hearing on this legislation was held at the State House on Tuesday, June 5th. Additionally, Mr. Schlaver provided the information below for residents to review.

To learn more, visit the sites below that support and oppose the new legislation, respectively.

Supporting: www.consumersfortechchoice.org

Opposing: <http://keepitlocalma.com>

For more information about Cambridge Consumers’ Council, call (617) 349-6150 or visit them online at www.cambridgema.gov/Consumer.

Community Letter To Cambridge Postmaster

At the April ANC monthly meeting, Agassiz residents discussed a letter to Cambridge Postmaster Jim Holland, addressing problems with service at the Harvard Square Post Office. This letter, penned by resident Carol Weinhaus, incorporates concerns raised by residents, including the reduction of on-street mailboxes and pick-up times. The letter was approved by the Council at the May ANC monthly meeting, after which Agassiz residents were given an additional four days to add their concerns. A final letter will be sent to Mr. Holland, Paul

Schlaver of Cambridge Consumers’ Council, and Peter Gesell, Chair of the Cambridge Postal Advisory Group.

ANC Community

ANC BIDS FAREWELL AND HELLO TO STAFF

Prepared by Terry DeLancey, Executive Director

At the end of May we said good-bye to Lynn Landon who moved home to Binghamton, NY. Over the past 2 years, Lynn provided exemplary service to the ANC, particularly the work she did to organize our retirement initiative and extend volunteer opportunities. Lynn was instrumental in attracting both national experts and local partners to our Time Banking initiative.

ANC welcomes Marsha Stewart as our new Director of Finance and Administration. Marsha has a background in both accounting and the visual arts, making her a perfect



match for our agency and this new position. Over the past few months, Marsha has helped in a consultant role as we converted our books to a new system. Marsha served as Executive Director at the Community Arts Center in Cambridge. She has a degree in fine arts and has provided accounting services for various non-profit agencies in and around Cambridge.

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LESLEY UNIVERSITY HOLDS COMMUNITY MEETING

Lesley University held a Meeting on June 6 at the Amphitheatre located in the Porter Exchange Building. They were joined by the architectural firm Bruner/Cott, who have been retained to plan and design a new Arts Center on the site of the former North Prospect Church. The University explained that they consider community meetings to be an important part of the planning process. They seek to facilitate the process by which the architectural team interfaces with neighbors and learns their concerns, insights, and questions before moving to the design phase.

For more information on the planning process, visit www.lesley.edu/portersquare. You may send e-mails with comments or questions to portersquare@lesley.edu. Additionally, the ANC has included a copy of the info/comment sheet from the meeting for your viewing. Please mail your comments to Lesley University at the Office of Public Affairs, 29 Everett St., Cambridge, MA 02138.



Agassiz School Programs

REGISTER NOW FOR AFTERSCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

Agassiz Afterschool

Enrolling in the Agassiz Afterschool Program,

licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), is an exciting opportunity for kids entering grades K through 5. Our enrollment represents diverse families from all neighborhoods of Cambridge, and we offer a variety of activities and special events that encourage exploration, creativity 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 Michelle Quinlan, ANC Director of Children's Program at (617) 349-6287 x11 or mquinlan@agassiz.org. Registration forms may also be downloaded from our website at www.agassiz.org/ANCPrograms.asp.

Sacramento Street Preschool

The Sacramento Street Preschool, also licensed by the 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 regular hours (8:30 AM to Noon) or extended

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Quinlan at (617) 349-6287 x11 or mquinlan@agassiz.org.

CELEBRATING AFTERSCHOOL ART

Prepared by Alex Lewis, Afterschool Director

The gallery show at 20 Sacramento Street displayed the talents of our grades 1-5 Agassiz Artists.

Many preparations were made for the art show and pieces were submitted right up to the day before the opening. The children were involved in all aspects of the show. Afterschoolers baked ginger snaps and oatmeal raisin cookies to serve, and also designed the wonderful invitations. The work ranged from portraits and sculptures to dye art and handmade paper that sparkles in the sun.



All the children experienced the feeling of a gallery opening. They went to the show in small groups so they could really appreciate one another's artwork. The kids liked seeing each other's work, but it is tough to say which they enjoyed more, the art or the refreshments! Cookies and juice disappeared nearly as quickly as the veggie sticks and dip!



City Wide

HARVARD FARMERS' MARKET RETURNS

Get fresh, Massachusetts-grown produce all summer and fall at the Farmers' Market at Harvard that will begin on June 19. This year the market runs on Tuesdays from 12:30-6:00 PM until October 30. Four farms (including three organic) and two bakeries will be selling produce every week, plus there will be a rotating specialty vendor, with products ranging from cheese and chocolate to herbs and dessert sauce. Cooking demonstrations with local chefs will take place weekly from 1-2 PM.



E-mail farmersmarket@harvard.edu to receive weekly updates on what's available and who's cooking. Located at the corner of Oxford and Kirkland Streets on the Harvard campus.

NEW ECO-FRIENDLY BOUTIQUE ARRIVES ON MASS.AVE.

Prepared by Scott Walker

Greenward—located in Porter Square at 1776 Massachusetts Avenue—is a new boutique specializing in eco-conscious gifts, stationery, housewares, baby items, books, magazines, jewelry, handbags, and urban bicycling accessories. Started by the soon-to-be husband and wife team of Scott Walker and Simone Alpen, Greenward arrives on the retail scene well-poised to provide the latest in earth-friendly goods.

Greenward's hours are:

Monday: closed

Tuesday-Saturday: 11 – 6

Sunday: 12 – 5

To contact the shop, email info@greenward-shop.com or call (617) 395-1338. You may also visit Greenward online at www.greenwardshop.com.

Community Calendar

June 2007

Wednesday, June 13	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ANC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Sunday, June 17		Happy Father's Day!
Wednesday, June 20	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Monday, June 18		Baldwin last day of School
Thursday, June 21		First day of summer!

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THE WHISTLER JUNE 2007



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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!