

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

May '07

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE APRIL 25 MEETING

#### **Community Discusses Harvard Development in Neighborhood**

"Harvard University and the Agassiz community are working to reach an accord around traffic, parking, and mitigation issues related to the new Harvard Law School building\*," stated Agassiz resident Willie Bloomstein.

Following the February ANC meeting, Mr. Bloomstein sent a list of requests and concerns from the community to Susan Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation for the City of Cambridge, and Mary Power, Director of Community Relations at Harvard. Since that time, he has met with Harvard, the Traffic Department, and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), the traffic consulting firm hired by Harvard. Mr. Bloomstein reported the outcome of these meetings to the council.

#### **Traffic at Everett St. and Mass Ave.**

The Traffic Department, working with VHB, reported that they expect the impact of the new 700 car underground garage at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Everett Street to be manageable. Changes made to the site, such as converting part of Everett to two-way and updating the intersection's traffic signal equipment, will allow more vehicles to exit the community via Mass. Ave. Currently, 50% of cars leaving the garage travel down Everett to Oxford St. Once Everett St. has been converted to two-way, VHB and the Traffic Department expect that only 20% of cars will choose to drive through the neighbor-



## TWO ANC MEETINGS IN MAY

### **ANC ANNUAL MEETING MAY 16 - 7:30 PM**

*Sacramento St. Gallery  
20 Sacramento Street*

#### **AGENDA**

*The Council will vote to approve the 2007 Board of Directors. All are welcome to attend, meet the ANC board members, and enjoy light refreshments.*

### **ANC SPECIAL MEETING MAY 23 - 7:30 PM**

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

#### **AGENDA**

- *Harvard discusses relocation of Victorian Houses on Mass. Ave.*
- *CCTV "Fair Competition/Local Control" petition presented by Paul Schlaver, chair of Massachusetts Consumers' Coalition*
- *Community discussion of Harvard development updates*

hood. The rest will exit out to Mass Ave.

Mr. Bloomstein added, "Susan Clippinger is confident that these numbers are accurate, and I'm as comfortable as I can be with the result." He also noted that Harvard has worked to reduce the number of commuters who drive to campus, and increase the number of those who walk, bike, and use public transportation. At this time, 15.1% of people commuting to Harvard drive alone, down from 27.4% in 2003.

#### Additional Items:

- As mentioned above, the City will update signal equipment at the Everett/Mass Ave. intersection, removing a 20-second phase for the exclusive walk and bringing it up concurrent with the green light. It is expected that 7 – 10 cars will be able to depart from the Everett Street garage during a light cycle.
- Cars will NOT be permitted to turn right on red at the Mass. Ave/Everett intersection, and Mrs. Clippinger will review the right-turn-on-red at Mass. Ave/Wendell.
- As parking will be reduced by ten spaces on one side of Everett to allow for two-way traffic, the street will be able to accommodate 18-wheel trucks entering and exiting the site.
- Cambridge Public Works, Community Development, and the both Harvard and Lesley Universities regularly discuss traffic and parking issues in the city.
- Residents are encouraged to call Harvard's construction mitigation hotline at (617) 496-0857 to report infractions or share any concerns they have with Harvard-related traffic and parking issues.

Mr. Bloomstein informed the council that the City expects the Mass. Ave/Everett intersection to be rebuilt soon, particularly to allow construction vehicles at the new Law School site to directly access Mass. Ave.

#### *Resident Parking in the Neighborhood*

31 metered spaces on both sides of Oxford St. between Wendell and Everett (17 on one side of

the street, 14 on the other) will be returned to resident-only parking. However, as reported by Mr. Bloomstein, the Traffic Department does not plan to increase the number of Parking Control Officers who monitor the street. These officers will ticket vehicles as normal, but they cannot tow. Additionally, Harvard and the City will review the shuttle bus stop on Everett and potentially convert those spaces (2) to resident-only.

#### *Pedestrian Crossing*

The city will not paint "zebra stripes" on the traffic calming tables on Oxford Street at Wendell and Garfield, as the surface area of each platform is considered a pedestrian space. However, since many drivers are not aware that they should yield to pedestrians on the raised tables, there are plans to paint white stripes on the ramps that lead to the tables this summer.

Additionally, Harvard has indicated it is open to re-painting the crosswalk at the hairpin turn on Oxford Street.

#### *Retail at Everett & Mass. Ave.*

Harvard will soon set up a meeting to discuss the future of the strip of retail stores along Mass. Ave. at the corner of Everett St. The Agassiz community plans to speak about result of this meeting at the next ANC meeting in May.

\*Harvard will soon relocate two wood frame houses and one carriage house to the North Hall site to make room for a new 250,000 square-foot Law School building that will be constructed at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Everett (60,000 sf will be below grade, 190,000 sf will be above ground). A new 700-car underground garage will replace the current garage at Everett. Additionally, part of Everett Street will be converted to two-way to allow cars exiting the garage to access Mass. Ave. directly.



### **Lesley Working Group Meeting Report**

The Lesley/Neighborhoods Working Group, appointed by Cambridge City Manager's office and comprised of city, Lesley, and neighborhood representatives, held a meeting on Wednesday, April 11 to introduce representatives from Bruner/Cott, a Cambridge-based architectural firm hired by Lesley to renovate the North Prospect Church site.

Stephen Diamond, one of several Agassiz residents appointed to the working group, described the meeting as "balanced and constructive." He relayed the community's concerns to the architects, including:

- Agassiz Preschool's relocation plans
- Preserving open space that will be accessible to the community
- Preserving the facade of North Prospect church and limiting the mass and height of the new Art Institute of Boston structure to be built in the adjacent lot
- Preserving the sanctuary and organ
- Not adding to traffic and parking congestion in the area
- Contributing to active street life and providing an open and lively face to Mass. Ave.

Mr. Diamond informed the council that Agassiz Preschool and the university continue to collaborate on the preschool's relocation. Lesley has stated its intentions to construct a new building for AIB next to the church that will use a substantial portion of the open space. Also, Lesley has no plans to change the exterior of the church and does not expect to retain the organ or con-

cert space, although other meeting spaces in the church and at Porter Exchange may be made available to the community. Mr. Diamond added, "Working on site-planning is very important and we [at Agassiz] want to be part of the process from the very beginning."

Bill Doncaster, Director of Community Relations at Lesley told the council, "It's a good group [the City Manager's office] has pulled together. This past meeting was probably the most promising meeting we've had so far."

Lesley will hold a well publicized, community-wide meeting before the Bruner/Cott architects "put pen to paper."

### **Harvard Square Post Office**

In response to longer wait times and other issues at the Harvard Square Post Office, Agassiz resident Carol Weinhaus will compose a letter to the new Cambridge Postmaster, Jim Holland. Copies will be sent to Paul Schlaver, Cambridge Consumer Council, and to Peter Gesell, Chair of the Cambridge Postal Customer Advisory Group. In particular, the letter will request that the number of full time staff at the location be increased. It will also address items cited by neighbors at the April council meeting, including the reduction of on-street mailboxes and pick-up times. The letter will be sent after approval by a vote of the council.

Agassiz residents who have additional concerns about the Harvard Square Post Office are invited to send them to the ANC Community Liaison Phoebe Sinclair by May 18. Please be specific as to location or pick up times regarding neighborhood mailboxes. Ms. Sinclair can be reached at [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org) or (617) 349-6287 x10.

### **City Street and Sidewalk Maintenance**

ANC meeting chair Stephen Diamond noted that many streets in the northernmost section of the Agassiz neighborhood are in poor condition, including Prentiss, Oxford, Frost and Roseland. The council seeks information on the schedule for repaving and repairing these streets and their adjoining sidewalks, as well as on how the

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Cambridge-wide sewer/stormwater project (see Whistler, November 2005) will affect the schedule. ANC Community Liaison Phoebe Sinclair has contacted the DPW several times regarding this issue, but has been unable to elicit a response.

**Correction from April Whistler**

Last month, in the article, "Agassiz Preschool Update," we stated that the preschool was considering a building near Kenmore Square. In fact, they were considering a location near **Kendall Square**. Please excuse the error.

## ANC Community

### ANC ANNUAL MEETING

On Wednesday, May 16, the council will vote to approve the slate for the 2007 Board of Directors. Additionally, please join us to honor two ANC directors who will be stepping down from the board this May, bid farewell to ANC Assistant Director Lynn Landon, and welcome Marsha Stewart as the new Director of Finance and Administration.

Please find below the slate for the 2007 ANC Board of Directors, as announced by the Board of Directors Nominating Committee. Each director will serve a two-year term:

Burton Doo, Co-Chairperson  
Andrea Walsh, Co-Chairperson  
Denise Dussault, Treasurer  
Hull Fulweiler, Clerk  
Stephen Diamond  
Miriam Goldberg  
Fred Meyer  
Wendy Prellwitz  
Emily Sample

Come meet the board and celebrate with ANC staff old and new. **All Are Encouraged To Attend!** Light refreshments will be served.

**What:** ANC Annual Meeting  
**When:** Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 PM  
**Where:** Sacramento St. Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge

### HARVARD COMMUNITY NOTICE

Prepared by Tom Lucey, Director of Community Relations

**Traffic Advisory for Massachusetts Avenue**

As part of the historic preservation efforts of the upcoming Harvard Law School project, two Victorian houses will be relocated from a parcel on Massachusetts Avenue south of Everett Street to the parcel at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Mellen Street. The current plan is to move the houses on Saturday, June 23rd.

This preservation effort will result in traffic disruptions on Massachusetts Avenue from Friday evening, June 22nd at 6:00 PM until Monday morning, June 25th. During this time, both north and south travel lanes of Massachusetts Avenue from Waterhouse Street to Wendell Street will be closed. North bound traffic will be diverted to Waterhouse Street and south bound traffic will be diverted onto Linnaean Street. There will be limited access for residents, business owners and their customers between Wendell and Waterhouse Street during the house move.

Harvard University will be doing additional outreach in the neighborhood as the move draws closer. If you need assistance or have questions about the house relocation effort, please contact Tom Lucey at Harvard's Office of Community Relations at (617) 495-4955.



**Existing view**



**Proposed view**

## City Wide

### POTENTIAL NEW FARMERS' MARKET AT PORTER SQUARE



Residents of the Porter Square neighborhood may have access to a Farmers' Market in their community, possibly as soon as the end of the summer! Although the market is still in its conceptual stage, members of the Porter community, including Simon Shapiro of Tags Hardware and Susan Hunziker of Porter Square Neighbors Association, have organized an effort to bring farm-fresh fruits, veggies, jams, honeys and more to the neighborhood on a weekly basis. Stay tuned for additional information in upcoming Whistlers.

### SUPPORT AGASSIZ PRESCHOOL

#### Two Fabulous Community Events this Month!

- 1.) **Agassiz Preschool's Annual Yard-Sale**  
Saturday, May 19, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM  
1803 Mass. Ave. in front of the North Prospect Church. Great bargains!  
Free admission.
- 2.) **Multi-band "Preschoolapalooza"**  
Concert in the North Prospect Church.  
Come see some of Boston's top bands, including The Everyday Visuals, Tim

Gearan, Jimmy Ryan, Miss Tess, and Babes in Boinkland. Plus the Boston Hula Hoop Troupe! Food and drink included with ticket price.

**Where:** North Prospect Church  
1803 Mass. Ave.  
**When:** Saturday May 12th, 7 PM - midnight  
**Price:** \$27 in advance and \$30 at the door  
**Tickets:** For sale at the door or at [www.virtuous.com](http://www.virtuous.com)



### CLUB PASSIM HOSTS PERFORMANCE AT AGASSIZ AFTERSCHOOL

**What:** Children's performer Nancy Cassidy  
**When:** Thursday, May 24, 2007  
3:30 - 5:30 PM  
**Where:** Agassiz Afterschool Program,  
28 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA

For more information, contact Club Passim Culture for Kids Program at (617) 491-2382 or email [lisa@passimcenter.org](mailto:lisa@passimcenter.org).

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**CELEBRATE DANCEMONTH 2007**

**DanceMonth is ...**

DanceMonth is a citywide celebration of the movement arts in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Neither a festival nor a showcase, it is a way to focus on the richness of dance that is already an intrinsic part of our lives. For more information and to view the full list of DanceMonth performances, visit [www.dancemonth.com](http://www.dancemonth.com)

Highlighted events:

**Kick off Party**

**What:** Join Senator Jarrett Barrios, Rozann Kraus and Cambridge residents to kick off DanceMonth '07.

\$1 suggested donation.

**When:** Saturday, May 5th, 8:00 PM

**Where:** Dance Complex

**More info:** (617) 547-9363

**Tuesdays @ Noon Series**

**What:** Partake in a healthy serving of food and culture.

**When:** Four Tuesdays, beg. May 8th

**More info:** Call (617) 547-9363 to reserve tickets.

**FAMILY NIGHT AT THE FOGG MUSEUM**

Explore this wonderful art museum by joining us for stories by librarians, gallery tours for chil-

dren, a scavenger hunt, an arts and crafts project and refreshments. This program is appropriate for children ages 4 and older. Free admission.

**When:** Wednesday, May 16, 6:00 – 7:45 PM.

**Where:** Fogg Art Museum  
32 Quincy Street, Cambridge

Jointly sponsored by the Harvard University Art Museum's Department of Public Education and the Cambridge Public Library.

For more information, please call (617) 349-4409; TTY (617) 349-4421.

**WHEELOCK FAMILY THEATRE PRESENTS WINNIE-THE-POOH**

A.A. Milne's delightful menagerie celebrates the bear with a certain way of doing things. Agassiz resident Alana Blumsack and two other children from Cambridge will be performing in this show. Recommended for ages 3 and up.

**Dates:** April 13 - May 13. Performances are Friday nights at 7:30 PM, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:00 PM

**Tickets:** \$23 - \$15. For more information or to purchase tickets call (617) 879-2300.

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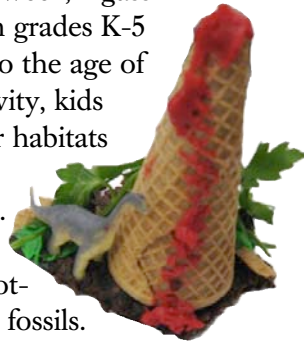


# Agassiz School Programs

## VACATION WEEK FUN-O-SAURUS

Prepared by Alex Lewis, Afterschool Director

For the April vacation week, Agassiz Afterschool children in grades K-5 traveled back in time to the age of dinosaurs! In one activity, kids learned about dinosaur habitats by making volcanoes out of ice cream cones. In other activities, the kids made dinosaur footprints in the sand and fossils. The kids also watched the classic movie 'The Land Before Time.'



## SPRING ARRIVES AT KINDERGARTEN AFTERSCHOOL

Prepared by Lydia Kim, Kindergarten Site Director

April showers bring May flowers! Spring is finally here! The kindergarten students have been enjoying the nice weather. In April, we made our own sunglasses. We also talked about gardening, and made our own pita veggie pizza. They were delicious!

We are having our own Kindergarten Art show in May! The title of the show is "Colors of the World," and it will focus on different art around the world. We will be preparing for the show throughout the month of May.

The Kindergarten students will display their



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work in the Sacramento St. Gallery. Opening day of the show is May 31st. Please mark your calendars!!

## AGASSIZ AFTERSCHOOL GRADES 1 - 5 ART SHOW 2007

Afterschool Grades 1 through 5 present:



## ANC BBQ 2007


### Everyone Is Welcome!

Join us at our Annual Backyard Bar-"Bee"-Que on Wednesday, June 6th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.


Hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie options and drinks provided. Feel free to bring the following: side dishes, fruits, salads, desserts, chips.



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



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# Community Calendar

## May 2007

Wednesday, May 9	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ANC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Wednesday, May 16	7:30 PM	ANC Annual Meeting Sacramento St. Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street All are encourage to attend
Wednesday, May 23	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Special Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Thursday, May 24	2:00 PM	Club Passim Event hosted at Agassiz Afterschool Baldwin School Stage
Monday, May 28		Memorial Day Holiday Baldwin School, Agassiz School Programs, and ANC closed

*The Whistler* is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. The newsletter is also posted each month online at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org). 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 MAY 2007



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