Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, January 16
7:30 p.m.
Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:
Sewer Construction Slated for Wendell St.
At the time of this meeting, sewer work will be in progress on Wendell St., and tank installation will likely have begun. Stop in and find out the latest. See if there have been any schedule changes, and ask questions. This will be a disruptive project, and residents are welcome to provide input here.

Anc News

Notes from the December 19 ANC Meeting
Ben Hamilton-Baillie, an architect and transportation specialist from Bristol, England and Loeb Fellow at Harvard, gave a very interesting slide presentation on the design and uses of the public spaces shared by pedestrians, bicycles, and motor vehicles. Innovative transportation plans—vehicular and pedestrian—from throughout Europe were shown. Mr. Hamilton-Baillie presented compelling and intriguing ideas for new ways to think about the "boundary lines" between traffic zones and social zones. He showed examples of different design features to make towns and neighborhoods function more safely and efficiently for all users. The presentation emphasized ways in which children have been impacted by the loss of space to traffic. Of particular interest was the "Safe Routes to Schools" program which has been implemented in the United Kingdom and enables children to bicycle and walk to school by improving street design, calming traffic, and creating traffic-free spaces.

(continued on page 2)
Mr. Hamilton-Baillie will be making his presentation to various groups and agencies during his stay in Cambridge. There are copies of his hand-outs at the ANC office. If you would like more information, please call 349-6287.

**West Nile Virus Spraying**

Sheldon Krimsky, Agassiz resident and member of the Department of Urban & Environmental Policy at Tufts University, discussed the dangers associated with the chemicals used in spraying for the West Nile virus. He stated that the dangers from the spraying far out-way the danger presented by the virus. Many Cambridge residents have formed a group, Cambridge Citizens for Alternatives to Pesticides, and are actively working to inform citizens about the risks involved. A website has been created (www.cambridgegreen.org - click on CCAP in list of organization names) and a petition is being circulated to call a halt to further spraying.

The Cambridge City Council has directed the Public Health Department to hold a public meeting about the spraying. This meeting will be held on January 31 at the City-wide Senior Center in Central Square. CCAP will hold a meeting to organize for the Jan. 31 meeting on Tuesday, January 9 from 7:00 to 9:00pm in room 113 at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.

Mr. Krimsky also distributed articles on synthetic pyrethroids from the ChemicalWATCH Factsheet, and articles on West Nile virus from Science Magazine (11/24/00 issue at www.sciencemag.org) and Rachel’s Environment & Health Biweekly (Issue 710 at erf@rachel.org). These are also available at the ANC office. Call 349-6287 for more information.

**Sewer Construction Update**

What’s Been done from October to December 20007
Francis Ave./Irving St.: Replaced gas main and gas services.
Museum St. West: Installed tank and pumping station.
Sacramento St.: Installed sewer flush vault at Carver St. intersection. Installed sewer and drain services.

What’s Going on Now?
Museum St. East: Installing tank between Carver and Beacon Streets.
Museum St. West: Installing sewer and drain services.
Sacramento St.: Installing sewer flush vault near Oxford St. Francis Ave./Irving St.: Installing of force main and electrical conduit. Doing Clean up work.

What’s Going to Happen Until March 2001?
Museum St.: Complete installation of the tanks and piping in early January. Conduct tree pruning in early January. Wendell St.: Relocation of water main and services will begin in early January to prepare for tank installation scheduled to being in mid-January. The tank installation will take approximately three months to complete.

**Parking During Construction**

Vacations: If you are taking a lengthy vacation and plan to park on a street where construction is taking place, 1. Check
with Ray Elie, SEA Resident Engineer who will check to see if there will be work taking place near your parking. 2. Give your car keys to a trusted neighbor in case your car must be moved, and give Ray that neighbor's name and phone number; and, 3. Park your car on another street.

Spaces have been made available in the Star Market parking lot on Beacon St. and the Harvard University parking lot on Oxford at Everett. If you will be using that parking, check with SEA or the Agassiz Neighborhood Council to see the permitted hours for use in each lot. Please be considerate and do not use the space if you do not need it.

Special Needs During Construction

If you have special medical conditions or receive special deliveries such as Meals-on-Wheels (or know neighbors who do), call Ray Elie at SEA. The contractor will ensure that special arrangements will be made.

Sidewalk Reconstruction

Once the utility work and roadway reconstruction are complete in each area, questionnaires will be distributed to each homeowner regarding preference of sidewalk materials two week prior to sidewalk reconstruction. The City policy is to replace concrete sidewalks with concrete and brick sidewalks with brick. The DPW recommends concrete sidewalk from a pedestrian safety, cost and maintenance perspective. If a property owner chooses to replace an existing concrete sidewalk with brick, then the cost to upgrade to brick will be the responsibility of the property owner. Homeowners are encouraged to avoid alternating materials on each street.

To contact anyone mentioned in this article, see the box on page1, where phone numbers are provided.

In the December informational flyer about the Agenda for Children, ANC neglected to mention the Cambridge Police as original partners. Sorry for the omission!

Special Thanks to
S and S Restaurant and Deli
for their generous donation of breakfast for artists and business people on December 5th and 7th and to the
Cambridge Common Restaurant
for their generous donations of refreshments for the ANC OPEN HOUSE on the evening of December 6th at which the model and plans for the Maud Morgan Visual Art Center were presented.

THANK YOU THANK YOU

❖ City Wide ❖

News Flash:
The Cambridge City Council, at a Special Meeting held Dec 7, voted unanimously to extend the contract of City Manager Robert W. Healy by an additional two years to June 30, 2003. (from Robert Winters Cambridge Civic Journal dated 12/70.

❖ Lesley University ❖

Lesley News On Line
You can find out what is going on at Lesley when you read the Lesley News on line. It is easy to get there via the ANC website. Go to www.agassiz.org then click on the Links heading. Look for the Lesley News heading, click and you are there.

❖ Harvard University ❖

On Wednesday, September 19, 2000, the architects, Perry, Dean, Rogers & Partners, introduced the initial designs for a building to house University Information Services at the corner of Oxford and Hammond Streets. Neighbors expressed a variety of concerns. Since then, Harvard and the architects met twice with a group of Agassiz residents to refine the project design.

The positive feedback and concerns of Agassiz residents expressed at the September 19th meeting and the working group meetings were incorporated into the design approach for the plans that were shared at a meeting on December 5 when a presentation of the current building design was made by Perry, Dean, Rogers & Partners. In addition, the firm of Michael Van Valkenburg & Associates gave a detailed presentation of the landscape design of the building and the building site. Another community meeting will be planned soon.

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Announcements

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

Slot Car Racing

Catfish International Speedway (CIS) is the Boston area’s largest 1/64th-scale slot car racing track. Catfish International Speedway is open most Wednesdays at 31A Sacramento St. in Cambridge, at 7:00 pm. If you’re interested to know more about the hobby of slot car racing, we’re very glad to have visitors. Please email me rhayes@berklee.edu or call 617-747-2566, if there are any questions call Rob Hayes, Catfish Motorsports.

Police Exam Application Deadline

There will be a Civil Service Exam for Entry-Level Police Officer to qualify as police for Cities and Towns and MBTA Police. The exam is sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the deadline for applications is January 26, 2001. The exam will be held on April 28.

Information and applications are available by calling 727-3777x246 or 800 392-6178x246.

Visit ANC at www.agassiz.org

The ANC is now on the web. You can go to our site to download The Whistler directly with Adobe Acrobat, usually installed with your web browser. You can also find information on programs and special bulletins. The Links page will connect you to many useful and important Cambridge sites. Stop in and visit the ANC at www.agassiz.org.

Please provide your email address when you visit. Just send us a message asking to be on the electronic mail list. ANC can inform you with uncommon speed of important issues and events if you are willing to share your email address. ANC WILL NOT SHARE LISTS with any other groups or organizations.
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.

Middle School:

An exciting schedule of after school classes will begin the week of January 29 for 6th through 8th grade students. There will be opportunities to learn cooking, video production, computer instruction, drama and other activities in a ten week series of classes. Call 349-6287 to receive a brochure.

Parents are welcome to visit our programs. Please contact Vicky Ragsdale at 349-6287 to schedule a visit or for information on program availability.

Basketball:

Get off the couch and get some exercise this winter! Come to the weekly drop-in basketball games in the Agassiz School gym at 28 Sacramento Street. The winter basketball program will begin the week of January 9, with nights for teens and nights for adults.

Tuesday nights from 6:00pm to 8:30 pm is for teens ages 13 through 17 and the cost is $1.00 per session. Wednesday nights from 6:00pm to 9:00pm is for adults 18 and over and the cost is $2.00 per session. Call 349-6287 for more information.

Computer Classes:

Computer Workshops will be offered by CCTV in the Agassiz School Computer lab. For January there will be an Introduction to Computers (on Mac) 2 Wednesdays, January 17 & 24, 6:30-9:00p.m. $25.00 Computer Members $40.00 Non-members

Two 2-hour sessions

Never used a computer before? Through hands-on activities in a guided setting, this course introduces mouse skills, basic computer terms, and file operations common to both Mac and PC computers.

Babies Groups

Baby & Toddler Groups

Join one of our free baby and toddler groups and enjoy a friendly play space with your child during the cold winter months. You’ll have an opportunity to chat with other parents and make new friends for you and your child. 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 also 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.

SKI TRIP IN EARLY FEBRUARY

The annual Agassiz ski trip adventure will continue when the group returns to Pat’s Peak in New Hampshire on Sunday, February 4th. The group grows each year, approaching 100 hardy children and adults. This trip has been organized by Joel Bard and George Pillsbury for many years, and both Agassiz School families and Agassiz residents have participated and enjoyed the event. Call Joel Bard at 547-3210 or George Pillsbury at 547-8947 for more information.

Fred Meyer, Realtor
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Boston Globe Reports on Maud Morgan Prize and New Art Center

Christine Temin, Boston Globe Art Writer and Critic, in her Perspectives column on December 13 reported on the Maud Morgan Prize, given this year to photographer Shellburn Thurber.

Temin says:
In Cambridge, where Morgan lived for many years, there's a move to create yet another tribute to her, a Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center to be ensconced in a renovated 19th-century carriage house at 20 Sacramento St. and administered by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. The center's goal is to offer accessible arts programs to a diverse constituency. The council has acquired the property from Harvard University, and plans and programming are well underway. Architects Prellwitz Chilinski Associates have been selected to redesign the property. Working with the Cambridge Arts Council, the ANC has signed on Cambridge artists Linda Lichtman, Gail Boyajian, Mitch Ryerson, Phyllis Ewen, John Taguiru, John Devaney, Nancy Webb and Rhonda Smith to create site specific work for the building.

The artists met twice in December with the architect and other planners. They will check in with designs in January and final designs will be presented at the end of February. There will be a show in the gallery to present the artist's designs in March.

Hold the Dates !!!
Several important events will occur this spring.
April 27th, Friday from 5-8 p.m. Opening Maud Morgan Prints from the 60's and 70's, Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.
May 6, Sunday from 3-6 p.m. Event to Honor the Life of Maud Morgan Busch Hall (formerly Busch Reisinger Museum)

Call 547-1647 for more information.

Through January 12
“Crops” Photos by 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.

Opening January 19
Cambridge Painter
Johanna Winter Harper

Through February 23 - See The Whistler in February for details on the Winter Harper show

State Representative and friend of Maud Morgan, Alice Wolf (left) views the design while Terry DeLancey (center), ANC Executive Director and Joan Squeri ANC Chairperson, explain the details.

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THE WHISTLER JANUARY 2001

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Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

SANDERS THEATER EVENTS FOR JANUARY

1 Monday 3:00 pm Boston Baroque presents
First Day Concert featuring Vivaldi and Handel

6 Saturday 7:30 pm Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association presents Chinese Classic Music Concert

7 Sunday 3:00 pm Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra
Gisele Returns Villa-Lobos, Britten

7 Sunday 7:30 pm Boston Chamber Music Society
Durufle, Rachmaninov

13 Saturday 8:00 pm World Music presents Chava Alberstein
“The First Lady of Israeli Song”

14 Sunday 5:00 pm Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center presents A Joyful Noise-14th Annual Gospel Concert

21 Sunday 3 pm Boston Philharmonic presents
Classical Fever! not just for young audiences

Jan. 27 Saturday 8:00 pm MultiStage Productions presents
Kate Clinton The lesbian who proves that feminists are funny

Jan. 28 Sunday 3:00 pm Handel & Haydn Society presents
Bach and Vivaldi
Call 496-2222 or visit www.fas.harvard.edu/~memhall
for more information
Community Calendar January 2001

Monday, January 1
New Year’s Day Holiday

Sunday, January 14
5:00 pm
“Joyful Noise” 14th Annual Gospel Concert
Sanders Theatre, corner Oxford and Kirkland
Produced by Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
Tickets $20 Call 496-2222 for more information

Monday, January 15
Martin Luther King Holiday - No School

Tuesday, January 16
6:30 pm
ANC Board Meeting - Open to the Public
7:30 pm
ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda)
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Friday, January 19
5-7 pm
Artist's Reception for Johanna Winter Harper
Cambridge Painter - Call 349-6287 for details

Wednesday, January 31
Public Meeting-West Nile Virus Mosquito Spraying (see p 2)
Cambridge Senior Center across from City Hall
Call 349-6287 for time of meeting and more information.

Through January 31 Photographs by the Community Art Center's Teen Media Program on exhibit at Cambridge Community Television’s Drive-By-Gallery, 675 Mass. Ave, entrance on Prospect St.
Accompanying videos may be seen Sunday nights at 7 pm on channel 10.

The Whistler January 2001

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