Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, MARCH 20
7:30 p.m.
Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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Agenda:

David Erlandson from Lesley University will be the guest of ANC. According to an earlier agreement, Lesley is required to return their building at 10 Wendell Street as a residential use. Might this be rental space or might it be sold outright as residential?

Dave will also discuss the recent lease by Lesley of basement space at the Porter Square Galleria (formerly Bed & Bath), and the recent sale of Lesley property on Washington Avenue as a private residence.

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❖ ANC News ❖

Notes from the February 13 ANC Meeting
Loeb Fellow Ben Hamilton–Baillie returned to the ANC for another intriguing presentation of his work in gathering the latest ideas from Europe on improving the relationship between traffic and people in cities. Author of Reconciling People, Places and Transport, a study of recent initiatives in Holland, Denmark, Germany, and Sweden, Mr. Hamilton–Baillie discussed how these countries have gone beyond traditional “traffic calming” towards innovative new ways to share public spaces for all users—children, the elderly, those in wheelchairs, bicyclist, and motorists. Of particular interest was the video on the “Safe Routes to Schools” program, utilized in the United Kingdom, which enables children to cycle and walk to school. The change from streets serving as multifunctional social space to only being used to move traffic has particularly impacted children in the way they perceive space.

Maud Morgan ✽ Visual Arts Center

Opening Reception Friday, MARCH 9
5:30-8:00 p.m.
Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street

See the designs that have been created by the ARTIST AND ARCHITECT COLLABORATION for site specific art work to enhance the visual arts center named for Maud Morgan.

See page six for details

SEWER CONSTRUCTION - CONTACTS

Field Office Eric Reed 661-7403
Ray Elie 354-8216
Community Relations Judy Kavanagh 498-4710

Block Captains:
Helen Lambert Sacramento St. 661-0690
Chantal Fujiwara Museum St. 661-6488
Kate Frank Crescent St. 547-5174
Amy Barad Eustis St. 492-6640

DPW 24 hour emergency service 349-4860
Check the kiosk at Agassiz or DPW Web Site for updates; http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks/
Neighborhood News

Sewer Construction

Oxford Street has been rescheduled for opening by the end of February. We hope it is as you read this notice!

1. Because the Constructor is ahead of schedule, construction on Crescent St. started the week of the February 12. This construction will involve the installation of a new water main, water services, drains, catch basins and some sewer work. This work will take approximately 6 weeks to complete. Because this street is not receiving any tanks, the work won’t be as disruptive as the work on Wendell and recently, Museum. There was a meeting in the Agassiz School in early February specifically designed for Crescent Street and Sacramento Street residents.

2. SACRAMENTO/CARVER STREETS. Temporary paving was completed on Sacramento and Carver Streets to improve the streets before the work begins on Crescent.

3. MUSEUM STREET. Construction is complete on both Museum Street East and West until late summer of 2001 when final paving, sidewalk reconstruction and tree planting will be completed. Until this time, the only impacts on Museum Street West will be truck traffic from construction on adjacent streets within the project area.

4. HAMMOND STREET. There was a water shutdown for Hammond Street residents on Friday, February 9 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The contactor made the connection of the new water line on Howland Street to the existing line on Hammond.

5. EUSTIS STREET. NStar Gas (formerly ComGas) will probably be on Eustis Street by mid-March to replace the gas line. The exact schedule has not yet been set. Residents will be notified when it happens.

6. WENDELL STREET. The water line work on Wendell Street is finished. The contractor is now starting to do the major tank installations. This work will continue for approximately 6 weeks more.

7. OXFORD STREET. There was an unanticipated bit of sewer construction on Oxford that caused a water shut-down in mid February.

8. Other NEWS. The contactor was told to put back the permanent signs that were taken down on Museum Street during the construction. This should be completed by the time you read this notice.

Please note that notices you receive at your door will now be color coded: Orange = Construction Activities, Blue = Water Activities, Green = Tree Work or Planting, Yellow = Utility Activities, Red = Parking/Traffic Notices

Updated Sewer Construction Schedule

For photos of sewer construction on the web go to: www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks/sewerstormrev/ag_photos1.html
Harvard University

Harvard Goes to Planning Council March 6

Plans for the new building at 60 Oxford Street (corner of Hammond and Oxford) will go to the Planning Council along with the transitional zone language that neighbors have crafted with Harvard over many months. This development will also include the relocation of the Palfrey House to a new location facing Hammond Street.

Planners incorporated feedback from neighbors in the building and site design. This includes a roof terrace garden, extensive landscaping for Hammond and Oxford Streets, and a ground floor pergola. (See illustration opposite: looking south from Oxford toward Hammond Street.)

At the February 21 meeting, interim parking during construction, and initial plans for an underground parking facility along Hammond Street, adjacent to the building were discussed. The plan will go before the planning board on March 6th.

For further information contact Travis McCready or Mary Power at Harvard Community Affairs, 495-4955.

Lesley University

David Erlandson from Lesley University will be the guest of ANC. According to an earlier agreement, Lesley is required to return their building at 10 Wendell Street as a residential use. Might this be rental space or might it be sold outright as a residential?

Dave will also discuss the recent lease by Lesley of basement space at the Porter Square Galleria (formerly Bed & Bath), and the recent sale of Lesley property on Washington Avenue as a private residence.

City Wide

Citywide Rezoning Passed February 12

The Citywide Rezoning Petition is an integrated package of proposed changes to the zoning ordinance. Designed to manage growth and enhance the livability of Cambridge while preserving its urban diversity and economic health, these changes will promote the creation of more housing (including affordable housing), impose limits on future density and traffic growth, and provide opportunities for public review of significant projects. The web page [http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CDD/commplan/zoning/cityrezoneprop/index.html](http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CDD/commplan/zoning/cityrezoneprop/index.html) includes links to the text of the proposal as passed by the City Council on 2/12/01.

The petition results from an extensive dialogue among the Citywide Growth Management Advisory Committee, which met twice a month since Fall 1997; the Planning Board, which considered specific proposals since Fall 1999; and the public, many of whom attended numerous committee and Planning Board meetings as well as seven public workshops since June 1998. In addition, this petition has benefited from input received from the City Council at two round table discussions in March and May 2000.

Please direct questions about drafts of the proposal as written prior to enactment to Lester Barber, lbarber@ci.cambridge.ma.us, 617/349-4657.

Community Preservation Act and Cambridge

On December 14, 2000 the Community Preservation Act (CPA) became law in Massachusetts. This act enables communities to impose property tax surcharges in excess of their current levy limits to collect funds for open space, historic preservation, and affordable housing.

In Cambridge the City Council must first vote to adopt the CPA, then the question must be put to the voters at the next election, and a majority must approve it. November 2001 would be the first opportunity.

The surcharge could be up to 3% on local property tax with a state matching grant. A community committee of 5-9 with representatives from other city boards would determine
how funds would be spent. A minimum of 10% must be allocated toward each of the following: open space, historic site preservation, and affordable housing provision. The remaining 70% is at community discretion in any of those areas.

City Manager Healy estimates that adoption of the CPA by Cambridge could make the city eligible for state matching funds. It is estimated that a total of $26 million will be available for all of the communities that adopt the CPA. Healy says that it is expected that competition for the funds will be intense.

At the end of February City Councillor Jim Braude held a public hearing regarding this act in his role as Chair of the Housing Committee.

Changes Require 10 Digit Dialing April 2

On April 2, 2001 Eastern Massachusetts will get four new area codes. New area code 857 will "overlay" the current 617 area code; 339 will "overlay" 781; 351 will "overlay" 978; and 774 will "overlay" 508. Overlay area codes eliminate the need to split the existing area codes into smaller geographic areas and also make it possible for customers to keep their existing telephone numbers.

Beginning September 15, 2000 all customers in Eastern Massachusetts should start dialing 10 digits - the area code and seven digit number - for all local calls, and "1" plus 10 digits for all toll calls. For simplicity's sake, customers may complete all calls - local and long distance - by dialing "1" plus 10 digits.

Customers in the 617 / 508 / 781 / 978 area codes who have telephone equipment or communications service that currently dials seven-digit phone numbers in Eastern Massachusetts should reprogram that equipment (speed dialing and automatic modem dialing) or service as soon as possible to dial using ten-digits or "1" plus ten-digits for every seven digit number they dial today.

Cable TV Complaints and Concerns

MediaOne Cable TV or MediaOne Internet Express complaints and concerns are coordinated for the City by the Consumers' Council, so please consider contacting them instead of the City's Cable TV Office or the Mayor. AT&T has taken over the MediaOne Cable TV Company; thus, the City now has a license agreement with MediaOne offering services as AT&T Broadband. As of January 1, this license was renewed for ten years. However, to foster a competitive climate, the city is in the process of negotiating a cable franchise agreement with RCN. Once the agreement is signed, a lengthy construction period will commence, and service will not be available for several years.

Shovel Your Walk/ Melt that Ice

March can still bring major snow and ice. Even though it doesn't last very long, it still will keep a wide group of our neighbors indoors if sidewalks are not clear. Please be a GOOD NEIGHBOR and clear the sidewalks. Help educate others to understand the importance of shoveling snow and spreading ice melter so that sidewalks are passable.

DON'T PUT AWAY THE ICE MELTER!!!!
YOU HAVE NEIGHBORS WHO DO NOT GO OUT BECAUSE THEY CANNOT NAVIGATE ICY SIDEWALKS.
Agassiz Community
School Programs

Outback Summer Program and
Counselor-in-Training Program (C.I.T.)
Registration is currently underway for our fun-filled summer program for children who will be entering the first through 6th grades in the fall. The program will run for eight weeks beginning June 25 and ending August 17. Outback is in session Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 2:30pm with an extended day option available until 5:30pm. Sign up for all eight weeks, just one week, or any number in between. Applications are also being accepted for C.I.T. positions for youths entering 7th, 8th or 9th grades in the fall. Call 349-6287 for registration information.

Sacramento Street Preschool
Registration is now taking place for the 2001/02 school year for children that will be two years and nine months of age by September. The Preschool is full for the current year but if you would like to register your child in the program now, there are occasional openings. To register for next fall or to be placed on the waiting list for the current year call Diane DiMaina at 349-6287.

Afterschool Grades K-5th
The Agassiz Afterschool program offers stimulating and enriching activities for children in a safe environment with experienced teachers, augmented by specialists in the arts. Children may register for one, two, three, or five days of after school care. Monthly fees are $279 for five days, $156 for three days, $104 for two days, and $52 for one day.

Space is currently available in the Kindergarten and 1-5 grade programs on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. You will be placed on a short waiting list if you would like to register for other days.

Parents are always welcome to visit our programs. Please contact Vicky Ragsdale at 349-6287 for information.

Computer Courses for Adults
Introduction to Microsoft Excel
Wednesdays, April 4 & April 11, 6:30-9:00pm
This two–session course introduces students to the power and usefulness of spreadsheets for organizing, calculating, and displaying data. Introduction to Word Processing or the equivalent is a prerequisite. The cost is $40 for CCTV computer members and $60 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. Classes will be held in the Agassiz School Computer lab. For registration information, call CCTV at 661-6900 or visit their web site at: www.cctvcambridge.org.

Baby Groups

Rummage Sale
Don't miss out on the bargains at the Baby & Toddler Group rummage sale which will be held on Friday, March 30 from Noon to 6:00pm and on Saturday, March 31 from 10:00am to 4:00pm at North Hall. Maternity clothes, baby clothes, toys, and baby equipment will be available at very affordable prices. Proceeds from the sale will be used to buy toys and books for the baby groups.

Valentine’s Party A Success
Approximately 30 babies and toddlers celebrated Valentine’s Day with their “sweethearts” on Feb. 15th at North Hall. Festive decorations and special treats were enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a success.

You can join one of our free baby and toddler groups any time and enjoy a friendly play space with your child during these stormy months. You’ll have an opportunity to chat with other parents and make new friends.

Children from birth through two years nine months are welcome. Each baby must be accompanied by a parent or caretaker. Siblings of the appropriate age are also welcome. There are two groups daily Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 12:00pm and from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. 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.

Drop In Basketball
for Teens & Adults
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. With nights for teens and nights for adults, this is a great reason to get out of the house.

Teen Night: Tuesdays from 6:00pm to 8:30pm for ages 13 through 17. $1.00 per session.
Adult Night: Wednesdays from 6:00pm to 9:00pm for ages 18 and over. $2.00 per session.
Call 349-6287 for more information.
Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street

Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center
ARTIST ARCHITECT COLLABORATION
DESIGN EXHIBIT
Opens Friday, March 9
5:30 - 8:00 pm

Over the past three months, eight Cambridge artists have worked to create design elements for the proposed Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center to be located behind the Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street.

Gail Boyajian      Mitch Ryerson
John Devaney       Rhonda Smith
Phyllis Ewen       John Tagiuri
Linda Lichtman    Nancy Webb

With these art elements, the building will reflect the exuberance and sense of exploration that art brings to our lives. Taking a cue from the arts and crafts movement, artists work will be integrated into the building and its grounds.

For the outdoor areas, Mitch Ryerson has designed a series of curved benches that will interact with the colorful paving patterns of Gail Boyajian. Also outside, Nancy Webb’s miniature bronze plaques of Cambridge insects will be randomly placed in the paving as little treasures ready to discover. Webb’s bugs will be found also inside as light plates and faucets.

At the entrance to the building, a glass and steel awning by Linda Lichtman will be found. John Tagiuri’s steel and bronze paint brushes will open the front doors, and a mosaic floor piece by Rhonda Smith will welcome you to step inside. A sculpted water fountain by Phyllis Ewen will be found in the entrance and exhibit hall. Walk through to the stairway and you will find a round mural by John Devaney that depicts fantastic animals all working in their own way on their artwork in the new center. Look carefully and you will find Maud Morgan.

This project was made possible through a grant from the Cambridge Arts Council.

Introducing Art
A Performance Series
for Children

North Winds Wind Works
Tuesday, March 13

2:00 p.m.  Agassiz School Stage
Admission $1.00  - For information call 349-6287

Don’t miss North Winds, five of New England’s best wind instrumentalists, for their presentation of Wind Works at the March 13 Introducing Art performance. This quintet will perform an engaging mix of pieces from several countries and historical periods, highlighting the function of various wind instruments and exploring several of the concepts of compositions. The program will conclude with a rendition of the legendary Scott Joplin Rags, with audience volunteers. Call 349–6287 for more information.

Save the Date: On MAY 9 Underground Railway Theater will present Raven & the Village Without Daylight, a story of the Yupik Nation of western Alaska.
SANDERS THEATRE MARCH EVENTS
(corner of Kirkland and Quincy Streets)

2 Friday 8:00pm
Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra-Marjorie Merryman, Bartok
3 Saturday 8:00pm
Harvard Glee Club & Radcliffe Choral Society-Utterly Mozart
4 Sunday 2:00pm
*SOLD OUT* Ladysmith Black Mambazo
4 Sunday 8:00pm
Masters of Persian Music
9 Friday 8:00pm
Back Bay Chorale presents -J.S. Bach Mass in B Minor
10 Saturday 8:00pm
BeauSoleil’s 25th Anniversary Tour 2001
11 Sunday 3:00pm
Masterworks Chorale presents A Choral Odyssey
16 Friday 8:00pm
Harvard Wind Ensemble presents
Salute to Composer Henry Brant
17 Saturday 8:00pm
Harvard-Radcliffe Veritones
18 Sunday 3:00pm
Newton Choral Society-Brahms. major works
18 Sunday 7:00pm
Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra
Gunther Schuller 75th Birthday Celebration
19 Monday 7:30pm
Taraf de Haidouks-Gypsy music.
23 Friday 8:00pm
John Gorka with opening act the Nield Sisters
25 Sunday 7:30pm
Boston Chamber Music Society
Beethoven, Ravel: Introduction, Tchaikovsky
30 Friday 8:00pm
Altan-traditional Irish band
31 Saturday 8:00pm
Boston Philharmonic-Jazzical VIII
For more information and ticket prices, call 496-2222.

African Dance Performance
The Teriya African Dance Troop
Newtown Cooperative School
Saturday, March 3rd at 3:30 p.m.
Tickets: $5 each, call 354-0919

For more information:
Harvard University Arts Office
200 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 495-8128

THE WHISTLER - MARCH 2001
Community Calendar March 2001

Tuesday, March 6 9:00 pm  Planning Board Public Hearing on 60 Oxford St. Harvard University data center Cambridge Senior Center, Ballroom, 806 Mass. Ave.

Friday, March 9 5:30-8:00 pm  Opening Reception Artist & Architect Collaboration present original designs by eight Cambridge artists to enhance the proposed Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street

Tuesday, March 13 2:00 pm  North Winds - Wind Works (See page 6 for details) Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children Agassiz School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street entrance (Adults welcome. Groups please call to reserve) Admission $1

Friday, March 16  School Closed - St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday, March 20 6:30 pm  Monthly Meeting - ANC Board - Public Welcome 7:30 pm  Monthly ANC Meeting - See Page 1 for Agenda Agassiz School Dining Hall - 28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Friday, March 30  Noon to 6:00 pm  Baby and Toddlers Groups Rummage Sale

Saturday, March 31 10:00am to 4:00pm  North Hall, 1651 Massachusetts Ave. (See details page 5)

The Whistler March 2001

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 349-6287
Fax and Hot Line 497-4388
EMail Agassiz@concentric.net

DO NOT FORWARD

Save These Dates!!

March 9, Friday - 5:30-8:00 p.m.
through April 6
ARTIST AND ARCHITECT COLLABORATION
Opening Reception in 20 Sacramento St Gallery
See artist’s designs for the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center

April 27, Friday - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
through May 24
MAUD MORGAN: PRINTS
FROM THE 1960’S AND 1970’S
and paintings from the Morgan family collection
Opening Reception in 20 Sacramento Street Gallery

May 6, Sunday - 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
GALA PARTY TO CELEBRATE MAUD MORGAN’S LIFE
AND THE ART CENTER NAMED FOR HER
Adolphus Busch Hall (former Rusch Reisinger Museum, 29 Kirkland Street)