ANC News

Notes from the ANC Meeting

Willie Bloomstein, temporary ANC Chair, discussed the AGASSIZ COMMITTEE ON THE IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT (ACID) survey/wish list that had been sent out to the neighborhood to see how the Agassiz residents felt about the various issues and possible benefits related to Harvard development. There was a vote of 21-to-0 in favor of the wish list as summarized in the March 18 Survey Report. It was also voted 21-to-0 to give Harvard the flexibility they need on the following issues: FLEXIBILITY TO BUILD OUT AT THEIR CURRENT PROPOSED 50% OF ALLOWABLE ZONING- in other words, the Agassiz community accepts Harvard building out North Campus and the Law School at proposed densities in Harvard’s “framework” documents, which is one-half of what would be legally allowable under current zoning, and - FLEXIBILITY TO MOVE THE OXFORD STREET MUSEUMS (PEABODY) IN THE FUTURE.

The community reconfirmed its earlier appointments of Willie Bloomstein, Joel Bard, Miriam Goldberg and Ellen Friedman as the Agassiz representatives authorized to negotiate the Wish List with Harvard.

Neighborhood News

Results of Harvard Survey

The survey printed below was returned by more than 95 neighbors. The results, also listed, helped the A.C.I.D. Committee understand issues most important to Agassiz residents. See notes above from the March 18 ANC meeting for background information. If you would like more information about this March 18 Survey Report, or Harvard development, please contact Jonathan McMullen at 617 349-6287 x23, or The ACID Committee at <acid@agassiz.org>.

TRAFFIC, MITIGATION
Divinity Ave as second entrance/exit for Oxford St. garage
Highest (3): 53
High (2): 22 Subtotal: 75

ANC Announces Board Slate

Nominating Committee Members Joel Bard, Fred Levy, Joan Squeri, and Janet Rustow announce the slate for election as Board of Directors at the ANC Annual Meeting on May 20th, the third Tuesday in May.

Officers:
Co-Chair Burt Doo
Co-Chair Andrea Walsh
Treasurer Denise Dussault
Clerk Miriam Goldberg

Directors for election May 20th:
Stephen Diamond Frost Street
Hull Fulweiler Howland Street
Russell Gee Sacramento Street
Liz Peoples Crescent Street

Directors in mid term are:
Burton Doo
Denise Dussault
Miriam Goldberg
Dave Wood
Andrea Walsh-Parent Representative

An additional parent representative will be chosen through the Parent Steering committee and announced in May. Call Jonathan McMullen in the ANC office for more information 617 349-6287 x23 or jmcmullen@agassiz.org

Next ANC Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 15
7:30 p.m.

Baldwin School Dining Hall 28 Sacramento Street

Oxford Street Entrance - press buzzer for entry

Agenda:
Harvard will be updating the community on various projects including the proposed underground Biological Research Infrastructure (vivarium), Law School Feasibility Study now in process, current negotiations on the ACID Wish List, and more.
No delivery trucks north of Everett once bldgs are occupied

Hazard/Environmental Impacts
Highest (3): 45
High (2): 22 Subtotal: 67
Lower (1): 8
Can Remove (0): 1
Traffic/Parking Study
Highest (3): 51
High (2): 14 Subtotal: 65
Lower (1): 10
Can Remove (0): 2

Hazard/Environmental Impacts
Highest (3): 45
High (2): 22 Subtotal: 67
Lower (1): 8
Can Remove (0): 1
Traffic/Parking Study
Highest (3): 51
High (2): 14 Subtotal: 65
Lower (1): 10
Can Remove (0): 2

No additional parking spaces added or relocated to the North Yard from Harvard’s parking pool
Highest (3): 45
High (2): 20 Subtotal: 65
Lower (1): 8
Can Remove (0): 3

Construction Mitigation Measures
Highest (3): 42
High (2): 21 Subtotal: 63
Lower (1): 11
Can Remove (0): 2
Pediastrian Safety
Highest (3): 42
High (2): 19 Subtotal: 61
Lower (1): 15
Can Remove (0): 0
Zip Cars
Highest (3): 17
High (2): 25 Subtotal: 42
Lower (1): 22
Can Remove (0): 14

DESIGN, OPEN SPACE
No Expansion North of Wendell
Highest (3): 51
High (2): 18 Subtotal: 69
Lower (1): 7
Can Remove (0): 2

Minimize Building Heights
Behind 100-Foot Edge
Highest (3): 38
High (2): 27 Subtotal: 65
Lower (1): 8
Can Remove (0): 4

Optimize Green/Open Space
Highest (3): 42
High (2): 21 Subtotal: 63
Lower (1): 11
Can Remove (0): 2

Re-zone Norton’s Woods
Highest (3): 38
High (2): 25 Subtotal: 63
Lower (1): 14
Can Remove (0): 1

Invite Community into the Design Process
Highest (3): 35
High (2): 26 Subtotal: 61
Lower (1): 8
Can Remove (0): 1

Hammond Street Edge
Highest (3): 27
High (2): 32 Subtotal: 59
Lower (1): 12
Can Remove (0): 0

BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY
Trees and Landscaping
Highest (3): 19
High (2): 38 Subtotal: 57
Lower (1): 13
Can Remove (0): 3

Endowment for the ANC
Highest (3): 34
High (2): 21 Subtotal: 55
Lower (1): 8
Can Remove (0): 12

Agassiz Trust for Open Space
Highest (3): 35
High (2): 18 Subtotal: 53
Lower (1): 12
Can Remove (0): 10

THE PROCESS
Good faith "delay" of building permits
Highest (3): 51
High (2): 17 Subtotal: 68
Lower (1): 5
Can Remove (0): 2

MOU or similar agreement.
Highest (3): 46
High (2): 20 Subtotal: 66
Lower (1): 8
Can Remove (0): 1

June, 2003 Benchmark
Highest (3): 42
High (2): 19 Subtotal: 61
Lower (1): 8
Can Remove (0): 2

How many "top priority" (#3's) did each item receive?
Divinity Ave .............................................. 53
Retail on Mass Ave ...................................... 51
No Expansion North of Wendell .................. 51
Traffic/Parking Study .................................. 51
Good faith "delay" ........................................ 51
No delivery trucks ................................. 50
MOU ......................................................... 46
No additional parking spaces ................. 45
Hazard ............................................... 45
Optimize Open Space .............................. 42
Construction Mitigation .......................... 42
Pedestrian Safety .................................... 42
June, 2003 Benchmark ............................. 42
Minimize Building Heights ..................... 38
Re-zone Norton’s Woods ......................... 38
Agassiz Trust for Open Space ................. 35
Invite Community into Process ................. 35
Endowment for the ANC ......................... 34
Hammond Street Edge ............................ 27
Trees and Landscaping ........................... 19
Zip Cars ................................................. 17

FRESH POND BALLET

Classical Ballet
3 Year Olds * Pre-Ballet
Youth * Teen * Adults
Sprung Floor &
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Register Now

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City Wide

Street Sweeping begins in April
Remember to Move Your Car

Cambridge City street sweeping program begins once more this month. The Agassiz neighborhood is swept on the third Monday and Tuesday, so check the signs and be sure you are parked on the correct side of the street.

As always in the Agassiz neighborhood, the first sweep falls on Patriots Day, an official holiday. Due to that, the sweep for Monday, April 21 (odd numbers) will take place on April 29. It will be posted as a reminder before the special sweep.

April Events at Cambridge Forum
April 2 - The Global Warming Reality
A new book by Michael B. McElroy, Director of Harvard’s Center for the Environment, leaves no room for debating the impact of global warming. The data are in and public policy had better catch up before it is too late to curb the damage.

April 9 - Schools & Society part III
Assessing Success. Paul Revile, executive director of the Center for Education Research and policy at MassINC, explores the trouble with the MCAS and standardized testing in our public schools. Is there a place for testing as a way to evaluate school success?

April 23 - Schools & Society part IV
Reinventing Public Education. Massachusetts State Representative Jay Kaufman addresses the need to reorient our thinking about the mission, governance, structure, and funding of a transformed public school system, and raises questions about how to effect meaningful change. What would Horace Mann invent today?

Cambridge Forum events take place on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the First Parish in Cambridge (Unitarian Universalist), 3 Church Street. The forums are recorded live for future radio broadcast on NPR stations and affiliates nationwide. Call 617 495-2727 for more information or <email director@cambridgeforum.org> or visit them at <www.cambridgeforum.org>.

Cambridge Public Schools
Latest Information on the School Consolidation Plans

On March 18, 2003, the interim superintendent, Dr. Carolyn Turk, presented the final elementary schools consolidation plan to the Cambridge School Committee. In summary, the plan would:
* Close the Harrington school
* Close the M.E. Fitzgerald school
* Move the King Open school to the former Harrington building and expand by one strand plus the OLA Program
* Move the Peabody school to the former Fitzgerald building and expand by one strand
* Move the the Longfellow school and merge with the Kennedy School
* Move the Graham & Parks school to the former Peabody building
* Move the Amigos School the former King Open building

This information was taken from www.cambridgepublic.us, a website created by a parent and dedicated to provide a forum for educational issues. For the complete plan and for up to date information on the Cambridge School Department, visit the website <www.cambridgepublic.us>.

Baldwin School

Carolyn L. Turk, Interim Superintendent of the Cambridge Public Schools, has announced the appointment of Mary S. Eirich to the position of Principal at the Baldwin School (Formerly Agassiz). Ms. Eirich has been the Acting Principal of the Baldwin School since September 2002.

Ms. Eirich received a Bachelor’s degree in History from Salem State College, a Masters’ degree in Administration and Policy Planning from Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Master’s degree in Speech and Language pathology from Emerson College in Boston.

Ms. Eirich began her educational career as a History teacher at Bishop Fenwick High School, Peabody, and at St. Mary’s High School, Cambridge. She joined the Cambridge Public School’s staff in 1978 as a Speech and Language therapist and served a number of elementary schools and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. In 1995 Ms. Eirich was appointed the Acting Principal of the King Open School, a position she held until late 1997 when she became the Executive Director of the Cambridge Partnership for Public Education.

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Announcements

BZA Hearing Continued to June 12
On March 27, the special permit hearing, scheduled before the Board of Zoning Appeals, was continued for the fourth time. This permit is needed to build the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center. Recently a group of Sacramento Street residents, concerned with various issues, have retained a lawyer who requested more time to familiarize himself with those issues.

Due to date conflicts within the Board of Zoning Appeals, abutters, and the ANC, the hearing was finally scheduled for June 12 at 7pm in the Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave., across from City Hall. No further continuances are expected.

New architectural plans have been created to save a large old sugar maple tree. If you would like to see the new plans, or if you have any questions on the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center, contact Terry DeLancey at 617 349-6287 x17 or <tdelancey@agassiz.org>.

Police Community Grants Program
Through the Executive Office of Public Safety Community Policing Grant, the Cambridge Police Department gives up to $500. “Partners in Problem-Solving” gives grants to neighborhood organizations and other groups to improve their neighborhood and foster better police-community relationships. This successful program can be used in a number of ways, but there are some restrictions on the funds. For more information, call Police Community Relations at 617 349-3236 or visit <www.cambridgepolice.org>.

Agassiz Afterschool Celebrates Earth Day
Agassiz Afterschool will be celebrating Earth Day with a whole week of events designed to teach kids about the Earth's natural resources and what we can do to help. As always, learning is fun here, so the week will include special performances, art, music, dance, and many more special projects. We hope you will join us for these events during April Vacation Week (April 22-25). For information about this or any other events at the afterschool, please contact Amy King at 617-349-6287 <aking@agassiz.org>.

Agassiz Community School Programs

Agassiz Afterschool
Outback Summer Program
Sacramento Street Preschool

Registration for all children's programs is on going. If you would like more information, or a site visit, please contact Julia Garcia, the Afterschool and Summer Camp Director who can be reached at jgarcia@agassiz.org or 617 349-6287. Diane DiMaina, Sacramento Street Preschool Director, can be reached at ddimaina@agassiz.org or 617 349-6287.

Basketball
This will be the last month this year until next winter that drop-in basketball will be held in the Baldwin gym. It will continue through April on Tuesday nights for teens from 6 to 9 p.m., and Wednesday nights for adults from 6 to 9 p.m., run by Jermaine McKenzie. Cost is $1.00 for teens, and $2.00 for adults each night.

Use the Oxford Street door at the corner of Sacramento Street. Participants must be buzzed in and must sign in prior to playing ball. Contact Jonathan McMullen at (617) 349-6287 x23 or <jmcmullen@agassiz.org> for information.
Sacramento Street Gallery

April showcase of children’s art

AGASSIZ AFTERSCHOOL ART
April 24 through May 30
various work from children of the Agassiz Afterschool.
Gallery open Weekdays 9-5
Reception for artists, their friends, families and interested public
Thursday, April 24 from 4-6 p.m.

Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center News

Fund Raising Reaches $1 Million
and is celebrated at the Show and Reception
in Memory of Maud Morgan’s 100th Birthday

A very special Maud Morgan 100th Birthday Show was held on March 1st. The show included an interesting variety of Maud Morgan portraits. Some were self portraits by Maud Morgan at many times in her life, and a few portraits by others. A photograph of Maud by and lent by Jamie Cope was on exhibit. A second photograph by Elsa Dorfman was on view, showing Maud with David Murphy of Stanhope Framers, who lent the photo for the exhibit. Maud’s children, Vicky Benedict and Lex Morgan, lent two portraits, and other portraits were lent by Leonard Singer. A small painted portrait was lent by Bud Collins and Anita Ruthling Klauzen, and an abstract painting was lent by State Representative Alice Wolf. Two videos on her life were also on view.

Rosie’s Bakery created a delicious and beautiful cake based on a silkscreen print Maud created in the 1960’s. It was very jolly to remember Maud and all she meant to so many people of Cambridge.

Arts Institute of Boston Presents:
Realized in Wood: Contemporary Prints from China

Learn about a uniquely evolved version of a traditional Chinese art form and gain a greater understanding of the post-Mao Zedong era in one region of China at this exhibit, Realized in Wood: Contemporary Prints from China.

The exhibit, at The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University, runs March 17-April 21. The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University is located at 700 Beacon St., Boston. Gallery hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday - Saturday, and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The gallery is handicap accessible. For more information, call 617-262-1223.
Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

Cambridge Arts Council River Festival—CALL TO ARTISTS, CANOEISTS, and KAYAKERS
On June 14th the Cambridge Arts Council will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Cambridge River Festival, which for a quarter of a century has been bringing the visual and performing arts to the banks of the Charles River for a day of music, public art, poetry, crafts, dancing, storytelling, and international food. The Festival, which is one of the largest celebrations of the arts in Massachusetts and draws 100,000 people, takes place along a mile-long stretch of the riverbank on the Cambridge side.

The Cambridge Arts Council wants to make this event a celebration of the Charles River as well as a pageant of visual and performing art. Experimental, participatory public art has a long tradition at the Cambridge River Festival, and canoes have a long and illustrious history on the Charles. With that in mind, we are planning a collaborative event to be a part of the Festival intended to celebrate the arts, the river and canoes/kayaks. We would like this event to:

• enlist 100 canoes to become part of the larger Festival procession that will travel through the streets of Cambridge and end up at the riverbank
• be a demonstration of vibrant public and performance art
• culminate in a dramatic event on the River, using the 100 canoes to span the River’s width from shore to shore
• be celebratory, visually striking, and festive
• be of a scale to fill the space of the river/riverbanks at the Cambridge River Festival site.

WE NEED MANY ARTISTS AND CANOEISTS/KAYAKERS to make this event happen! Please contact the Cambridge Arts Council at: 617-349-4389 or e-mail: lilliah@ci.cambridge.ma.us or jbeal@ci.cambridge.ma.us.

Oxford St. Player Perform Shakespeare April 3-5
The Oxford Street Players at Lesley University will perform Shakespeare’s Henry VI, part I for their spring performance. The play runs April 3-6.

Shakespeare’s first play in the Henry VI cycle is centered on the siege of Orleans and two great soldiers, Sir John Talbot and Joan of Arc.

Performances will be in Marran Theatre on Lesley’s main campus, 29 Everett St., Cambridge. Show times for April 3-5 are at 7 p.m. Sunday’s performance is a 2 p.m. matinee. Admission is $5 and is open to the public. Marran Theatre is handicap accessible. For more information, contact Anne Pluto at 617-349-8948.

Outsider Artist Judith Scott Lecture April 24
Psychiatric art author John M. MacGregor, Ph.D., will discuss The Fiber Art of Judith Scott: On Women As Outsider Artists on April 24, at 7 p.m. in Lesley University’s Marran Theatre, 29 Everett St. A pre-lecture reception and Outsider Art show will take place in Lesley’s Alumni Hall.

Judith Scott, a 55-year-old woman with Down’s syndrome, has spent the past 10 years producing a series of non-functional objects that appear to be works of sculpture, except the notion of sculpture is beyond Ms. Scott’s understanding. Paradoxically, her compulsive involvement with the shaping of forms in space implies that Ms. Scott knows she is creating works of art.

Mr. Mac Gregor’s book is entitled The Art of the Insane and Metamorphosis: The Fiber Art of Judith Scott. For more information, call Christopher Smalley at 617-441-1895.

Saturday Scholars at Harvard Museums
Discover dinosaurs, animals, minerals, insects, oceans, micro-worlds, ancient civilizations, totem poles, and more - - when you become a Saturday Scholar! Designed and taught by Museum science educators, each class blends hands-on, activity-based learning with a healthy dose of fun to help kids of all ages develop a deeper understanding of our amazing world — and our place in it! Students handle museum artifacts, meet live animals, use scientific equipment, explore our exhibits, make craft projects, do outdoor activities. . . and more! Fees: $35 non-members, $31.50 members
Surfing the Sea (Preschool) April 5th 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Who lives in the sea? What is it like to live underwater? Discover who are the largest, smallest, most colorful, and strangest of our ocean creatures. Meet some live ocean dwellers, swim through our galleries looking for other sea surfers, and enjoy some stories about life in the sea. You’ll even make a creative critter from the sea to take home with you!

Awesome Eggs Grades K-1 April 5th 9:00 a.m. - Noon What’s going to hatch out of THAT egg? Could it be a dinosaur, a snail, a bird, a tadpole . . . or even a platypus? Whether big or small, round or oval, hard or soft, black or white - eggs are amazing! With fascinating creatures, gallery explorations, fun stories, and cool crafts, we’ll explore the mystery of how life begins for millions of animals.

Peer into the Past Grades 2-3 April 19th 9 a.m. - Noon Come to the Neotropics and snorkel over a coral reef, hang out in a steamy rainforest, and trek across a savannah in search of llamas and giant armadillos. Discover how the amazing Maya culture lived and thrived in these hot and productive habitats. Manipulate artifacts, meet live creatures and construct a biocraft -- a cool craft made from life of the tropics. At 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge Phone: (617) 495-3045.
Enjoy Two Spring Open Studios April 26 and 27th

NoCa Arts (North Cambridge Arts) announces the sixth annual All Arts Open Studios of visual artists, writers and performing artists on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. NoCa Arts announces the sixth annual All Arts Open Studios event April 26 and 27, 2003. NoCa includes painters, woodworkers, sculptors, photographers, jewelry makers, fabric artists, mixed-media artists, musicians, writers and poets. More than 30 artists throughout North Cambridge open their doors to the public. Readings and performances are at scheduled times.

The past successes of NoCa Open Studios have established NoCa as a beloved North Cambridge community institution. North Cambridge is geographically compact, making it an easy stroll through the entire neighborhood. All events are free and maps are available at the NoCa Arts information booth. For more information, visit our Web site, www.noca-arts.org, which includes artists’ statements and examples of artists’ work, plus information on public transportation and free parking. Or, call (617) 538-4353.

NoCa Arts is an association of accomplished, professional visual and performing artists living and/or working in North Cambridge with a strong commitment to the neighborhood and community.

NoCa Arts is partly funded by generous contributions from local merchants and community residents.

Miller Street’s EIGHTH ANNUAL OPEN STUDIOS Saturday, April 26 & Sunday, April 27, Noon - 5:00 p.m. Artists studios will be open and work will be on display and for sale. Also featured will be the 2nd annual sale of one-of-a-kind handmade artists’ books at 11 Miller Street, Somerville (adjacent to the Beacon Street Star), For information call: 617-868-8116 or visit<http://www.technofrolics.com/MillerStreetOpenStudios>

Miller Street Studios is a community of professional mid-career artists, all of whom have at least 20 years experience in their fields. Peggy Badenhausen was a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome last spring. Violinist Vicki Citron received a grant from the Somerville Arts Council, and she will perform with her students on Saturday and Sunday at 3:30. Jeanée Redmond received a 2002 Artist Award from Society of Arts & Crafts. Animator Karen Aqua’s films recently won awards at Black Maria Film Festival & Fayetteville FilmFest. Several of her new pieces for "Sesame Street" will premiere on the show this spring. Sculptor Nancy Webb exhibited work at the Atlantic Gallery in NYC and the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center in Cambridge. Gail Martin exhibited drawings and paintings at at Flora in Arlington and Gargoyle’s in Davis Square. Alicia Dwyer will exhibit sculpture & paintings. Alessandra Mariano will be exhibiting paintings & drawings. Artist/inventor David Durlach’s TechnoFrolics melds art & science into performance sculptures. Dancing Banners were a centerpiece at an MIT building dedication and medical students are using the work to learn about new surgical techniques. Jonathan Shay, author of Achilles in Vietnam and Odysseus in America, will be signing books. Debra Olin (monoprints/collage/constructions) will exhibit at the Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, April 13-June 15. Akos Szilvasi will exhibit his black & white portrait photography. Also participating are: printmaker Francois Berelowitch; painters Monrùd Becker, Michael Compton, Steve Imrich; collage artist Kathrynn Lloyd, and James and Carolina Duncker (drawing, painting & mixed media).

We sadly note the passing of folk artist Jack Redmond in February at the age of 81. Jack was an enthusiastic and much-loved member of our artists’ community, and he will be greatly missed. A selection of his work will be on exhibit at Open Studios.
Community Calendar

April 2003

Tuesday, April 15  6:00 p.m. ANC Board Meeting-Public Welcome
20 Sacramento Street 2nd Floor
7:30 p.m. ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda)
Baldwin Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street

Wednesday, April 16  sundown  Passover Begins

Friday, April 18  Good Friday Cambridge Public Schools closed
for April Vacation reopen Monday, April 28

Sunday, April 20  Easter Sunday

Monday April 21  Patriot’s Day

Thursday, April 24  4 - 6 PM  Agassiz Afterschool Art Reception
A show of Children’s Art (through May 30)
Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Family, friends and public welcome

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 each month at <www.agassiz.org/whistler.html >. 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 April 2003

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