Lesley to Begin Work in May
Harvard Updates on NW Building and Law School, Other Programs
Cambridge Holocaust Commemoration Program
Art Fresh Art Local
Introducing Art
Tree Committee
Local Cultural Events
March Community Calendar

Lesley to Begin First Phase of Construction in May

As part of its long-range campus plan initially unveiled in January, Lesley University will begin improvements to two of its buildings on May 23: White Hall (at 31 Everett St.) and the Student Center at 47 Oxford St. (facing the university’s quad between Everett and Mellen Streets).

Lesley’s Director of Operations & Campus Planning, George Smith, explained the short-term projects that will take place over the summer, including the beginning of work on a plan to ultimately triple the size of the current student center.

The new center will include a two-story glass wall looking across the university quad to the Ludcke Library.

Most of the work this summer will take place within the quad, and will not be easily visible from Oxford or Mellen Streets, and no trucks will be parking on Mellen (although parking for construction vehicles has not been defined yet).

The only portion of the Student Center work that will be visible from Oxford St. will be the creation of a door to the basement that will be necessary in order to install a new elevator.

The two-story glass wall will rest upon a 6-pile foundation. A “small pile-driver” will be required to do a week’s worth of work in June or early July, said Smith.

Smith said he expects the window wall to be in place midway through summer. Some noise may be generated by the removal of the above-ground walkway that currently sits above the quad, and the cutting of the spandrels in the archway. Each of those procedures will last about a week.

After the construction of the glass wall, most of the work will occur in the interior of the building, along with landscaping projects to be completed on the quad.

see “Lesley,” page 6

ANC Annual Meeting
Wed., May 18th, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento St.

ANC Staff and Board of Directors will honor Kelly Tyler at a reception immediately following the short business meeting that will include the Election of Board Members.

Everyone is welcome to attend.
Harvard Discusses Next Step for Northwest Science Labs, Other Projects

Harvard gave a general update on community programs and construction projects at the April Agassiz neighborhood meeting. The following is a summary report, divided into sections by category:

1. Upcoming Events

The university's Arts First festival will take place May 5 - 8 (see page 3 for more details). On Sunday, May 1, the Harvard Square Business Association sponsored its annual Mayfair, while the university provided beverages for Walk for Hunger participants.

2. Northwest Science Building

"The project is moving from the design/architecture phase into the construction phase," said Harvard spokesman Tom Lucey. Thomas Murray, President of the Casali Group - the Somerville-based project management and architecture firm overseeing the Northwest building - said that it would be broken down into three phases. The first year will be devoted to foundation work ("the worst part," said Murray), the second to above-grade work and the third to interiors and landscaping. Murray said that plantings should occur sometime in the spring of 2008.

By the end of 2005, a slurry wall will be built around the foundation both above-grade and below-grade in order to control groundwater flow. A fence will be built in order to mitigate sound.

The Harvard Construction Mitigation Call Center will be available to take comments and concerns from neighborhood members affected by the construction. The Call Center can be reached Monday through Friday from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. at (617) 496-0857.

3. Harvard Law School

There continues to be little news regarding the Law School project. "They’re moving slowly," said Lucey, "but they only get one shot." The project is at the end of the Programming phase begun in September, with a few decisions left to be made.

The university is looking to designate "swing space" to be used for programming displaced by the project. This may lead to the renovation of the yellow wood-frame house at 23 Everett St.

Harvard will next report on the Law School project once it enters the Conceptual Site Design phase.

4. Cambridge-Harvard Science Education Programming Initiative

In the fall of 2005, the Baldwin School's seventh and eighth grade science curricula will incorporate the Northwest Science Building construction project.

A geotech engineer will guide students through a project on soils. "Soils are a big part of our Northwest project," said Lois Stanley, an Arts & Science faculty member at Harvard. "There are many ways you can tie construction projects into a science curriculum."

5. Interim Traffic Calming

As reported in last month's Whistler, see "Harvard," page 3
interim traffic calming will happen on Oxford St. this summer.

"We're working hard to make this happen over the summertime, before kids return to school," said Stanley.

Two raised platforms like the one on Rindge Avenue near the Peabody School will be created on Oxford where it intersects with Everett and Wendell. This, along with repave- ment of the street, should happen in July or August.

These Harvard-funded improvements are intended to respond to the neighborhood's traffic calming needs before the city finds a perma- nent solution after its forthcoming sewer separation work.

6. Tree Fund

With the first installment of MOU funds now officially in the bank, the neighborhood will need to decide how to spend the $50,000 designated for street trees. Please see page 5 for more information.

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is seeking donations of a digital camera and an Apple computer.
If you would like to help, please call (617) 495-6287 or email Rob Watson at rwatson@agassiz.org.

Arts First 2005
A Harvard Celebration
May 5 - 8, 2005

Arts First, Harvard's annual arts festival, will take place over four days in May. Poet Maxine Kumin will receive the 2005 Harvard Arts Medal.

The festival, founded by actor John Lithgow (class of '67), is described as "people coming from all over [the] university, as well as from surrounding communities, to celebrate creativity - to laugh or be moved, to realize how truly boundless our imaginations may be."

The festival includes a vast program of poetry readings, public art installations, musical performances, dramas musicale, dance, portraits, pottery and photography spread across the Harvard campus.

For a full schedule of events, call Harvard's Office for the Arts at (617) 495-8676, or visit www.fas.harvard.edu/arts.

Fred Meyer, Realtor
83 Hammond Street
617-876-1200

Owner, University Real Estate, overlooking Harvard Square.
Past President, MA Assoc. of Realtors.
Licensed real estate appraiser.

See all available homes now on www.agassizhomes.com
At the Sacramento Street Gallery

The Sacramento St Gallery presents

Art Fresh Art Local
Emerging Artists in Cambridge
Leah Gadd
Anni Irish
Kazuhito Naganuma
Paige Catherine Largay

Opening reception: Friday May 13, 7 - 9PM
Exhibition: May 13 - June 30, 2005
open weekdays 9 - 5
Introducing Art Presents:

Boston Dance Collective

Tuesday, May 10
2:00 P.M.
Baldwin School Stage

Boston Dance Collective creates dances from falling, sports, sign language, martial arts, newspapers, and even gets tangled up in phone cords. This program offers an entertaining introduction to dance, dancers, and choreography. Four dancers provide explanations and demonstrations of how choreographers and dancers work together to make contemporary dances, set to a variety of music. At the end of the performance, students learn that dance is irresistible when they get a chance to improvise a dance out of natural, everyday movements.

$2 per person, $5 per family

Tree Committee Seeks Members

A $50,000 segment of Harvard’s million dollar fund will be used for the annual planting of street trees in the Agassiz neighborhood. The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is seeking seven community members to serve on a committee that will oversee the use of the funds.

Committee members will be responsible for:
- fielding neighborhood requests for use of the money
- developing a budget
- working with the city arborist to develop a schedule that corresponds with the planting season

Any resident who is interested in serving on the Harvard Tree Fund committee should email Terry Delancey at tdelancey@agassiz.org, or call (617) 349-6287.

NEWTOWNE SCHOOL
SPRING FAIR
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 10-2

games, moonwalk, live music, face painting, arts-and-crafts, curious creatures, great food, giant rummage sale

Newtowne School Parent Cooperative
11 Garden Street
Harvard Square
617-354-0919
ewtownneschool.org
The other project set to begin this summer is the improvements to White Hall, which currently holds classrooms and a dining facility. The plan is to add student housing to the building as well.

Most of the work on White Hall will be on the interior, according to Smith. Projects include renovation of the restrooms, new carpeting, painting and drywall. Smith noted that the installation of a sprinkler system in the building will make Lesley one of the only colleges or universities with 100% sprinkler compliance in its dorms.

Certain aspects of the project will affect the exterior. A Dumpster will be placed either on the corner of Everett and Oxford or midway down Everett. It has yet to be decided whether the Dumpster will sit on the sidewalk (which would require a permit from the city) or replace an on-street parking space.

In order to install the pipe needed to upgrade the sprinkler system, about 10 days’ worth of saw-cutting will take place outside the building, on the corner of Oxford and Everett. This will be followed by drilling through the foundation in order to install the pipe, which Smith said would produce the majority of the noise caused by the project.

After that, according to Smith, the remainder of work will occur in the interior of the building save for a ventilation piece that must be lifted to the roof of the building. This will be a one-day project.

Payton Construction will serve as the contractor for the both the White Hall and Student Center projects.

The university again expressed interest in working with Agassiz neighborhood members throughout the construction process. As the White Hall and Student Center projects begin May 23, the university has agreed to host a meeting with neighborhood members in order to hear neighborhood feedback (details to come). If you are interested in serving on the neighborhood committee work with Lesley, please contract Rob Watson at (617) 349-6287 x 10 or rwatson@agassiz.org.

Cambridge Holocaust Commemoration Program

The City of Cambridge Holocaust Commemoration will take place on

Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 P.M.
Temple Beth Shalom
8 Tremont Street, Cambridge

The program will include readings, candle lighting, remembrance and music by members of the Cambridge Community Chorus and A Besere Velt.

Keynote personal remarks will be shared by Holocaust survivor Ilse Heyman.

The event is free and welcoming to all people. Parking is available at St. Mary's Church, Norfolk and Harvard St.

The event is sponsored by Cambridge city departments Mayor Michael A. Sullivan's Office, Human Rights Commission, the Multicultural Committee of the department of Human Services Programs, the Peace Commission, Public Library, School department and community agencies including Cambridge Community Television, Congregation Eitz Chayim, Temple Beth Shalom of Cambridge and Rep. Alice Wolf.

For more information call (617) 349-4694, (617) 492-0235 (TTY).
This Month’s Local Cultural Events

The 8th annual
North Cambridge All Arts Open Studios

Saturday & Sunday, May 14 & 15, 2005,
11 am - 5 pm

Events (performances/readings):

Thursday, May 12, 8 pm
Saturday, May 14, 11 am - 5 pm; 8 pm - 9 pm
Sunday, May 15, 12 noon - 5 pm

www.noca-arts.org

Cambridge Community Chorus

Saturday, May 28, 7.30 p.m.

Kresge Auditorium, M.I.T., 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge.

MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/M.I.T.; Bus #1 from Harvard Square.
Admission $10 ($5 students and seniors).

The Chorus, led by Music Director William Thomas, presents Exodus – A Journey To Freedom: A Celebration In Music, Words And Dance, featuring Handel’s Israel in Egypt, Part I and works from the African American and Jewish traditions. Featured soloists Jean Danton (soprano), Krista River (mezzo-soprano), Gospel diva Renese King and klezmer clarinetist Michael Winograd
Community Calendar

TUESDAY, MAY 10
2 PM  INTRODUCING ART: BOSTON DANCE COLLECTIVE
       Baldwin School Stage

FRIDAY, MAY 13
7 PM  ART FRESH ART LOCAL OPENING
       Sacramento Street Gallery

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18
6 PM  ANC BOARD MEETING
       20 Sacramento St.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18
7:30 PM  ANC ANNUAL MEETING
          20 Sacramento St.

MONDAY, MAY 30

MEMORIAL DAY
ANC Closed