ANC News

Notes from the March 24 ANC Meeting

Lead Safe Presentation

Lisa Motter from the Cambridge Community Development Department gave the council a presentation on lead safety. Most people believe they understand the dangers of lead, but Lisa demonstrated just how serious and just how extensive lead poisoning really is.

There was a great deal of discussion on the current law, responsibilities of the homeowner and landlords.

For more information on lead safety, see page 3. To reach Lisa Motter for more information on lead issues, call her at 349-4600.

Cambridge Common Planning Update

Rosalie Anders was the second guest, and she provided an update on the proposed renovations to Cambridge Common. She began by describing the conditions that had to be incorporated into their plan that limited change and then described the project. Basically the Common is used for transportation, and this use needs to be refined

There was much discussion on the rights of bicyclists to ride in the Common. Some believe that bicycles should always be walked for the safety of others, while others believe that bicycles should be given proper paths so that bicyclists might use the paths safely.

For more information on the project itself, see page 2. A hearing will be scheduled later this spring, and Rosalie has agreed to keep the ANC updated on the meetings. More information should appear in upcoming Whistlers. You can call Rosalie Anders at 349-4600.

Neighborhood News

Gates Locked at Norton's Woods

The property now leased by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), known formerly to many Agassiz residents as Norton's Woods has long been used as open space by neighborhood residents. During the 1970's it was the original site of OUTBACK SUMMER CAMP.

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 28
7:30 p.m.
Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda
1). Sewer Renovation Overview - Steve White
2). Traffic Calming Plan Review - Kathy Watkins
   and David Black (See page 4.)
When the property was leased from Harvard by AAAS in the late 1970's, use of the open space was limited to the public, and walls and gates have controlled the public use to the posted times during daylight hours.

Over the past years, the ANC has received many complaints regarding the inexplicable locking of gates during posted open hours. This has been most annoying when pedestrians cut through on one side of the property only to find that the gate is locked at the other side. AAAS has been contacted regarding these incidents, and they have reassured the ANC and residents that they do not intend to lock the public out. When they do, it is an unfortunate mistake unless posted. However, fears have been expressed that little by little the public use will be discouraged and diminished.

Recently a resident sent the ANC a copy of a flyer that was posted to the AAAS gates advising public users that the grounds would be kept private for five consecutive days in March. The resident saw this as a blatant disregard for public access, and referred to an agreement that was made between the Agassiz residents and Harvard regarding the public use of this space.

When contacted, the AAAS again assured the ANC that they are committed to keeping the property as open space. They said that the closing of the property was very unusual, and due to the fact that a very large group of special guests would be on the site. There were safety concerns, and Harvard Police had advised that gates be closed. AAAS expressed their own concern that unleashed dogs, that are strictly not permitted, have created on going safety concerns on the grounds.

The ANC has initiated discussion with the AAAS and Harvard in order to locate all original documentation on open space and see what can be done to ensure public access for the neighborhood.

Garfield Place Fire

The ANC contacted Cambridge Housing Authority to learn more about the morning fire in mid March at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Garfield St. They told us that the fire started on a back porch, the fire fighters got there right away and the fire was quickly put out.

The damage was minimal, and repairs will be made as soon as possible. The cause of the fire was not determined, and CHA is awaiting the report from Cambridge Fire Department.

Housing Issues

Know Your Rights

If you are facing eviction, public housing has been denied, you have left home to escape abuse or you need shelter, COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES AND COUNSELING CENTER may be able to help. Call them at 661-1010.

Traffic and Transportation

Street Cleaning Begins in APRIL

April is the first street sweeping month of the season, and for the Agassiz neighborhood, cleaning for one side of the street falls on an ODD DAY due to the third Monday Patriot's Day Holiday. So be aware of the changes:

Even numbered street sides will be Tuesday April 21
Odd numbered street sides will be Wednesday April 29

Prune Shrubs for Safe & Comfortable Public Ways

This is a good time of year to go out and walk along the sidewalk bordering your property to make sure that hedges are cut back to the inner sidewalk line, to prune tree branches lower than 6 feet growing toward the sidewalk, and to trim the branches of shrubs or ornamental trees that protrude over the sidewalk at anybody's eye level. (To make hedges grow sturdy, by the way, prune them narrower at the top than at the bottom.) To be a safe and comfortable way for all pedestrians, sidewalks need to be free of botanical obstructions. Cambridge does not yet have a botanical obstruction ordinance, but it is working on one.

(Item courtesy of Astrid Dodds)

Agassiz Traffic Committee Seeks New Members

The neighborhood has worked very successfully with the City to develop a traffic calming plan for the Agassiz neighborhood. When it is finalized, calming solutions will be in place for Oxford St.

There are a variety of problems on side streets that will not be addressed by the Oxford traffic calming project. Do you have problems on your street? Do you have some ideas for solutions?

Call the ANC office at 349-6287 for more information or to let us know that you want to be on the traffic committee mailing list. A meeting will soon be planned to discuss side street issues.

City Wide News

Cambridge Common Update

A citizen advisory committee has been studying the Cambridge Common since the fall. Rosalie Anders from the Community Development Department visited the ANC in late March to update us on their progress. Federal transportation funds were originally obtained to improve the paths, trees and street crossings in the Cambridge Common.

There are many issues that constrain improvements. The Common is a small park surrounded by wide streets with heavy traffic, used primarily by pedestrians and bicyclists as travel paths. Sports teams and a popular tot lot also make for heavy use.

One early idea to improve the open space was to remove parking around the common, but that proved to be politically very unpopular and was abandoned.
Trash containers

- Replace trash barrels with more appropriate trash containers.

Lighting

- Evaluate present lighting and upgrade where needed.
- Anyone who would like to receive the complete five page report can contact the ANC office at 324-6287. To discuss the project you can contact Rosalie Anders at Community Development, 349-4600.

New Scientific Evidence Proves Lead Dangers

Learn More About the danger of lead.

MEET JOHN O'CONNOR author of
“Getting the Lead Out”
for a discussion of his book
Thursday, May 2
6:30 p.m.
2050 Mass. Ave. (North Cambridge Senior Center)
for more information call
Lead Safe Cambridge 349-5323

Learning more about the dangers of lead will keep you and your children safe. Here are some myths:
- Children must eat paint
- Only high lead levels in blood are dangerous for children
- Only children in the inner city are in danger
- Only children in poorly cleaned or maintained homes are lead poisoned
- Poor parental supervision is to blame for lead poisoning
- It is more hazardous to delead than to disturb lead
- A child who appears healthy is not lead poisoned
- Lead poisoning is not a real problem

In fact, lead paint can be in ANY home built before 1978. Children are poisoned more often by ingesting dust from lead paint than by eating or chewing chips. They get it from contact with lead dust when toys or hands go to mouths. This dust is a result of repairs, renovations or simply opening and closing windows. These instances happen in all homes every day and cross all economic, racial and geographic barriers.

Even low levels of lead may have long lasting effects on learning, and damage to the nervous system and brain can be subtle, detected only by a medical exam.

To learn more about these issues, call Lisa Motter at Lead Safe Cambridge, 349-5323

SEEKING PARENTS OF INFANTS

I have formed a parent/infant play group that has begun to meet on Monday and Friday mornings from 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. Please call Debbie Miller at 497-0368 before 9:30 p.m. for more information.

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is currently working on the feasibility of developing a family center in the Agassiz Neighborhood. Call Terry Delancey to receive further information on that issue: 349-6287.
Oxford St. Traffic Calming Plan Develops

Plans were discussed in February with Katherine Watkins, Traffic Calming Director and Consultant David Black at the ANC meeting. Using the information discussed at the meeting, plans continue to be refined.

All Oxford intersections will have highly visible zebra crossings made of inlay tape, which means they will last as long as the paving. All crosswalks will be redone. All sidewalks will be repaved, and the current paving material will be replaced. In the case of asphalt or dirt, sidewalks will be replaced with cement.

The following descriptions and illustrations describe the status of the plans to date. For a complete presentation, come to the April 28 meeting of the ANC. (See box on page one for details.)

Oxford at Beacon

This intersection was first presented at the February meeting, and the following two options have been sent on to Somerville for official comments. Since the intersection lies in Somerville, it will ultimately be their decision.

Oxford at Forest

Original plans to build a chicane have been discarded since it would take away too much parking in that area. Curb extensions are planned for all corners.

Oxford at Prentiss

Curb extensions are planned for the corners, and currently the use of a raised intersection is being evaluated.

Oxford at Garfield

Originally slated for curb extensions, the intersection is now being evaluated for a raised intersection in hopes of slowing traffic BEFORE the Sacramento St. intersection.

Oxford at Crescent

A new crosswalk that reaches from the entrance to the Tot Lot diagonally across to the Oxford Spa. The loading zones there are being evaluated. Curb extensions are planned for corners and one on the Tot Lot side of Oxford at the driveway.

Oxford at Sacramento

Curb extensions are planned for all corners but the one directly in front of the Agassiz School to accommodate busses. It is expected that the treatments done at Garfield and Wendell will help control Sacramento traffic.

Oxford at Wendell

Plans call for one curb extension at the south east corner and to raise the intersection.

Oxford at Mellen and Hammond

There will be a crosswalk between Mellen and Hammond with curb extensions at the end of each side of each street.

Oxford at Everett

Curb extensions are planned for each corner with a long curb extension in the no parking area in front of the Harvard building on the north east corner of Everett. A crosswalk is also in the plan.

Oxford from Everett to the Kirkland turn

This length of Oxford is exclusively Harvard buildings, and in addition to ANC meetings, Harvard has provided their own insight into traffic calming on that corridor. There are no through streets, but there is a driveway that provides access to the Harvard Law School area. Most issues are around crosswalks, and their sitting is being evaluated. One crosswalk is shown below, and it is close to the driveway, just at the bend in Oxford Street. It is located near the current construction of the Maxwell Dworkin building.

At the Science Center a new crosswalk is planned, and at the Kirkland turn there will be a better marked, wider crosswalk with better lighting.

For more extensive information on this plan, see the February edition of The Whistler. Call the ANC at 349-6287.

---

Oxford Street Realty
35 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

RENTALS
Landlords Are Never Charged A Fee
Applications, Credit Checks and Professionally
Prepared Leases On All Rentals.

MANAGEMENT
Custom-Tailored Packages
For Small or Large Property Owners

SALES
Personalized Attention And Top Priority
Given To Your Most Important Investment...
your home.

Call 617-354-3535 For Your Free Consultation.
or E-Mail: Oxford@tiac.net

YOUR FULL SERVICE
REAL ESTATE COMPANY
A Member of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board and Multiple Listing Service.


Harvard University

Renovations and Addition Planned to Improve the Harvard Divinity School Theological Library

The Harvard Divinity School has developed plans to address the Andover-Harvard Theological Library's pressing space needs. Several years ago the University began discussions with neighbors and the Joint Committee for Neighborhood - Harvard Consultation regarding plans to renovate the existing library and create an addition to address several important concerns. Improvements will alleviate cramped and overcrowded conditions for current staff. The project will also provide appropriate access for persons with disabilities and internal circulation between the Library and Andover Hall. Finally, the plan respects an interest expressed by the neighborhood that the Divinity School accommodate its space needs within its institutional property.

More specifically, the project includes construction of two new floors above the existing flat-roofed 1960s wing of the Library, continuing the gabled roof line of the rest of the building. The plan also calls for a modest two-level structure connecting the Library to Andover Hall. All existing library space will be renovated and equipped with upgraded heating, cooling, ventilation, electrical and data systems, and life safety and accessibility deficiencies will be addressed. These improvements should not generate additional traffic in the neighborhood since they are not being undertaken to accommodate any additional staff, rather the Divinity School hopes to provide more suitable space for people, activities and materials already in place at the Library. The new space, which will be only partially visible from the neighborhood, has been designed to respect and complement the architectural traditions of the School's buildings. The net result should be a considerably more attractive and better-functioning library facility.

Harvard would like to invite neighbors once more to review plans on Thursday, April 9th at 7:30 PM, at the Andover-Harvard Theological Library of Harvard Divinity School 45 Francis Avenue. Please feel free to contact Mary Power, Director of Community Relations at 495-4955 with any questions you may have.

Announcements

Learn Computers and Video Production

Cambridge Community TV, located in Central Square, provides inexpensive and free training on computers and video production in a supportive, relaxed environment that offers individualized attention. You can gain access to cable television by learning to use the studio equipment. You can easily learn the skills necessary to do your own show.

You can learn computer skills and access the internet in the CCTV computer lab. To learn more about these opportunities call 661-6600.

April Vacation Arts Program for 9-13 year olds

From April 21-25 there will daily sessions in the Harrington School that include dance, theatre, music and visual arts. The week will culminate with a performance and exhibition for parents.

This is a collaboration of the Department of Human Services, the Cambridge Arts Council and the Public Schools. For more information call Roz Shoy at 349-6227.

Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day April 25

The Department of Public Works will provide a day for Cambridge residents to drop off hazardous waste including poisons, oil based paints, chemicals, solvents, and adhesives at cul-de-sac end of Cambridge Park Drive (Ridge Ave. extension) at Alewife Saturday 4/25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 349-4800 or 4005 for more information.

Crime Watch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-33.3%</td>
<td>+100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>+50.0%</td>
<td>-10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>-15.9%</td>
<td>-18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>-15.7%</td>
<td>-21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>-20.1%</td>
<td>-13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>-12.5%</td>
<td>-18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>-26.3%</td>
<td>-27.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Violent

796  643  572  -23.5%  -11.0%

Total Property

4824 4308 3858  -10.0%  -10.4%

Total

5620 4951 4430  -12.1%  -10.5%

In 1997, all index crimes except for murder showed a decrease; some slight, some enormous. Murder, the sole exception, increased from a single incident to two.

- The rape total in 1997 was the lowest reported in Cambridge in 25 years.
- The robbery total in 1997 was the lowest reported in Cambridge in about 35 years.
- The assault total in 1997 was the lowest reported in Cambridge since 1989.
- The burglary total in 1997 was the lowest reported in Cambridge in about 35 years.
- The larceny total in 1997 was the lowest reported in Cambridge since 1979.
- The violent crime total in 1997 was the lowest recorded in Cambridge in 30 years.
- The property crime total in 1997 was the lowest recorded in Cambridge in 30 years.

This report was taken from the 1997 Cambridge Crime Report. Information specific to the Aguaus neighborhood will appear in upcoming editions of The Whistler. If you are interested in the complete crime report, you can call the Cambridge Police Department at 349-3301 or the ANC office at 349-6287.
Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street Weekdays 9-5
David Faust “LANDSCAPES” through 4/10

The Sacramento St. Gallery is proud to present a show of oil paintings by David Faust. In this body of work Faust has been influenced by the history of places. He exploits the charged enigma of memory and he uses paint to remember places which are familiar and nostalgic. The drama of things is in the recollection; Faust’s memories are suggestive of the presence of a particular place, and paint flows onto the canvas as memory recreates events. The poetry of his work lies in their personal symbolic weight.

The show is free and everyone is invited.

Coming in May - Photography by CRLS students

Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children
April 8, Wednesday
Manguito - Music of Latin Culture
2:00 p.m.-Agassiz School Stage-Admission $1.00-Call 349-6287

April is NATIONAL POETRY MONTH
The Cambridge Arts Council has gone all out to celebrate National Poetry Month this year. There will be magnetic poetry walls in Harvard, Central and Kendall Squares at different times this month. Poetry readings, impromptu creations, slam poetry contests, and student work will be presented throughout the City in many clubs, stores and institutions.

There will be a contest sponsored by the Harvard Coop and Groller.
The Harvard Square location will be at the Holyoke Center, near Au Bon Pain.

May 9 and 10 from 12-5 p.m.
Jeanne Redmond
Karen Aqua
Linda Beers
Vicki Citron and others

11 Miller Street
OPEN STUDIOS

ARTS FIRST April 29-May 2
The Cambridge Arts Council is collaborating with Harvard University to encourage children and their families to attend and participate in the sixth annual Arts First festival. This four day event celebrates the talents of Harvard undergraduates, and it will include many activities and performances that are free to the public.

Children are encouraged to perform on the outdoor stage on Friday, May 1 and march in the parade Saturday, May 2.

To learn more about this event call Vanessa Trien at Harvard, 495-8676.

Stainer's "Crucifixion Thursday, April 9
The North Prospect United Church of Christ Choir and guests will be performing John Stainer's "Crucifixion" with soloists Dr. Mark Risinger and Murray Kidd on April 9 at 8 p.m. On Easter Sunday the soprano soloist for the 11:00 a.m. service will be Margaret O'Keefe.

The church is located at 1803 Mass. Ave. at the corner of Roseland St. No charge, but offerings are welcome. For information call 547-1448.

FRESH POND BALLET
Nina Alonso Hathaway
Studio
1798A Mass. Ave. • Cambridge
491-5865

• Classical Ballet
• Pre-Ballet to pre-professional
• Adult Classes

Gallery 57 - 57 Inman Street
VAL AKULA - The Accident Series: Recovery Through Expression
Wood block and linoleum prints document the artists gradual recovery from a severe auto accident two years ago.

Artists reception April 2 from 5-7 p.m. • Through April 28 • Weekdays 8:30 a.m -5:00 p.m.
For Information call the Cambridge Arts Council, 349-4381
Agassiz Community School Programs

Spring and Summer

OUTBACK SUMMER CAMP

Applications are currently being accepted for OUTBACK Summer Day Camp, which takes place in the backyard at 20 Sacramento St. (and in the Community Center, at Sacramento Field, and in the Agassiz School).

This camp is for children entering first grade, and it runs for 8 weeks beginning June 28. Camp costs $100 per week from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and $130 per week for extended day until 5:30 p.m. Children can sign up for any number of weeks, extended day can be used for just some weeks.

Kids enjoy drama, arts, sports, nature, trips to the beach and much, much more. Staff is mainly comprised of teachers from the Afterschool program, and is co-directed by Dawn Greene (camp day) and Michael Brown (extended day).

There is a Counselor in Training Program for children entering 7-9th grades next year. These children work six hours a day for a two week period. A stipend is provided at the end of the two week period.

For a brochure or more information, call Dawn Greene at 349-6286 mornings or Michael Brown at 497-4284 in the afternoons.

Afterschool

The Agassiz Afterschool is currently enrolling children for next fall. Children who attend Cambridge Public School can attend the Afterschool program either part or full time. Transportation is provided to the Agassiz from all public elementary schools.

Kindergarten children attend Afterschool at the Agassiz Community Center, where they have their own playground and specialized kindergarten activities. Children in grades one through five attend "Afters" in the lower level of the new Agassiz School.

Each day children have a menu from teachers and specialists who provide dance, drama, sports, visual arts, crafts, cooking and much more every day. Full day vacation week child care is provided for all school vacation weeks.

The programs are fully licensed by the Massachusetts Office for Child Care Services.

The "Afters" program currently has spaces for children who would like to join in for the spring.

Call the office at 349-6287 to register, get a brochure, visit the programs, or learn more about openings and special activities.

Sacramento St. Preschool

This program provides a developmental preschool experience in a cozy, individualized atmosphere. It serves a small group of children from age 2 years, 9 months to kindergarten age. This program runs from 8:30-1:30 five days per week with many part time options. Call soon to register for next year. Limited space is still available this year.

For more information or to visit call 349-6287.

Agassiz Public School

Consultants Have Made Report on Agassiz School

In March CMI-The Negotiating Group made its recommendations to the Agassiz School community regarding relations between the principal and the school community.

Copies of the report are available at the Agassiz School. Call 349-6525.

Do You Hear Noise from Agassiz School?

Just after the Agassiz School was built, some residents complained of a low pitched roar or humming sound coming from the Agassiz School. Adjustments were made, and the sound is now softer. However, it is still an annoying problem for some residents. The sound goes on and off during the day, usually before ten at night.

The school department has been looking into the problem and is trying to identify just when and where it can be heard. If you can provide any information on this subject, or if you are willing to keep a log of when you hear the sound, please call Terry Delancey at the ANC, 349-6287.

MAY 9 Sale to Benefit Grades 2/3

Outside the Agassiz School on Saturday May 9th, there will be a Rummage Sale, Raffle and Flower Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Everyone in the community is invited to come and join the fun while supporting the activities in grades 2 and 3.
## APRIL 1998 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Sunday, April 5**
- Daylight Savings Time Begins

**Wednesday, April 8**
- 2:00 p.m. - Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children Presents MANGUITO - Music from the Latino Culture
- Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St. entrance Admission $1.00.

**Friday, April 10**
- Good Friday, Passover Begins at Sundown - School Closed

**Sunday, April 12**
- Easter Sunday

**Saturday, April 18**
- 9:00 a.m. - Agassiz Tree Walk - learn how to care for Agassiz trees
- Meet in the Alden Tot Lot across from Agassiz School

**Monday, April 20**
- Patriots Day

**April 20-24**
- Schools Closed - April Vacation Week

**Saturday, April 25**
- 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF DAY
- Cambridge Park Drive (Rindge Ave. extension) Cul de sac end

**Tuesday, April 28**
- 6:30 p.m. - ANC Board Meeting - Open to the Public
- ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda)
- Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance

---

**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**

**TREE WALK in the Agassiz Neighborhood**

**April 18, Saturday**

**with Larry Acosta, Cambridge Arborist**

Meet in the Alden
Tot Lot across the street
from the Agassiz School
at the corner of
Sacramento and Oxford
Streets. At 9:00 a.m.
there will be a demonstration by Larry Acosta
who will provide participants with information
about the care of trees.
The walk through the neighborhood begins at

10:00 when common tree issues and problems will be identified and solutions discussed.

For more information call the ANC at 349-6287.