ANC Council Notes

NOTES from February 23

Harvard Clean Up at Bence Site

Kathleen Manion, Chairperson introduced Happy Green, from Harvard Community Affairs, who introduced Ambrose Donovan. He is a representative from McPhail, which is the company that tested the soil behind 1607-1613 Mass. Ave. (known as the Bence site, home of Looks, Crimson Cleaners and Three Aces Pizza). McPhail found contamination from dry cleaning chemicals and recommended the removal method according to DEP standards.

Ms. Green also passed along a letter from Harvard to the community which stated that many neighbors had assumed that Crimson Cleaners had created the contaminated soil. Crimson Cleaners has advised Harvard that they have not used the chemical, tetrachloroethylene in the 25 years it has been in business at that site. Prior to Crimson Cleaners there were other cleaning establishments at that site. Harvard says in the letter “Crimson Cleaners is a hard working and established service to the community. Harvard Real Estate endorses and encourages your use of Crimson Cleaner’s dry cleaning services.”

Neighborhoods had concerns for safety during the clean up which will begin March 1 and take one week during business hours weather permitting. They will be delayed if there is snow on the ground or if temperatures are too low to repave. Mr. Donovan explained that the contaminated soil will be dug up, then sent to a special land fill in Buffalo, NY. The parking lot will then be repaved with asphalt. There will be no airborne threat, and no special procedures will be required, except that workers will wear protective clothing during the handling.

Happy Green invited the community to call her at 495-4955 if there were any further questions or concerns.

Harvard to Renovate Memorial Hall

Ms. Green stayed on to answer some questions about the upcoming renovations to Memorial Hall. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) at Harvard has initiated the programming and planning for the adaptive reuse of Memorial Hall (located at the corner where Oxford St. meets Kirkland St.) for freshman dining and a student commons. Additional renovation work will provide improved support space for Sanders Theater. The Memorial Hall project is closely linked to other reuse projects as well. Lowell Lecture Hall across the street is currently vacant and is scheduled to be renovated and reopened before the work begins at Memorial Hall. Once freshman dining moves to Memorial Hall, the Freshman Union will be converted into a Center for the Humanities.

Capital Plans in the university’s upcoming fund-raising campaign will be shared this spring with the Joint Neighborhood Committee, which includes representatives from neighborhoods that abut Harvard University. The three projects mentioned above represent the first components of the FAS campaign plan, and since these projects all abut the Agassiz neighborhood, Harvard is seeking three representatives from Agassiz. There will also be representatives from Mid-Cambridge, FAS, Harvard Planning, Harvard Real Estate, and Harvard Government, Community and Public Affairs, as well as appropriate city officials to meet biweekly until the summer regarding these projects. There will be scheduled one or two meetings.

UPCOMING ANC MEETINGS
Meetings will be held in the Community Room
North Hall 1651 Mass. Ave. (corner of Wendell St.)
7:30 p.m.
March 9, Tuesday Panel Discussion: Electromagnetic Fields
March 18, Thursday
April 14, Wednesday
May 20, Thursday
June 15, Tuesday

Tentative Agenda for March 18 Meeting:
Plan for the New Agassiz School

In This Issue:

- Oxford Street Garage ........................................ 2
- Electromagnetic Fields and Your Health .... 2
- Traffic / Transportation ..................................... 3
- Agassiz School Building .................................... 4
- Community School News .................................... 6
- Cultural News .................................................. 6
The Whistler March 1993

if possible over the summer to keep working together, then reconvene in the fall to review the status of the plans.

If you are interested in this committee, contact the council office at 349-6287.

By laws Review

By laws of the ANC were reviewed for comment (see The Whistler Feb 93). There was some clarification, but no objection to the changes.

Oxford St. Garage

Trustee Sidney Brodie of the Oxford Garage has applied for a Special Permit from the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to use the property located at 8-10 Eustis Street for the parking of automobiles. The BZA hearing will be held on March 4 at 8 p.m. in City Hall, room 200. Lesley College intends to purchase this site for parking.

The residents of the surrounding neighborhood on Eustis, Traymore, Oxford intend to protest the special permit to give the community more time to pursue more appropriate and desirable uses for the property. To that end they have developed a flyer to encourage neighbors to attend the March 4 Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Hearing and protest the granting of a special permit to allow use the garage for 30 parking spaces.

Joel Hard looked over the documents for the special permit that were provided to us by Mr. Brodie’s lawyers. One letter from the Traffic and Parking Department, which granted the 30 spaces to the parking lot after the freeze on all parking in Cambridge, was of special concern. No one from the ANC had been advised of the public meeting which made an exception for these spaces.

Councillor Frank Duehay was contacted and he remembers the “gentlemen’s agreement” developed in the early 80’s with Harvard and Lesley to keep out of residential sections of the Agassiz neighborhood.

The ANC voted unanimously to oppose the granting of the special permit for 30 parking spaces in the Oxford Garage, and a letter to that effect will be sent to the BZA. The sense at that meeting was that since the garage is zoned residential, and since creation of any parking will cause a threat to safety and increase traffic, other opportunities for that property should be examined, particularly housing.

The other strong sense at the meeting was concern over the way the entire matter was handled by Lesley College. There was no prior discussion with Lesley on this sale, indeed the neighborhood initiated the contact with the college to come to the January meeting. Only after the neighborhood became angry at the lack of information provided at the January meeting did the college provide further information. It was agreed to pursue this issue with Lesley regarding their process with the neighborhood in this issue and in any further developments in the neighborhood.

Information on Next Meeting

New Agassiz School Plans

The Oversight Committee’s presentation of the final plan for the new Agassiz School is tentatively scheduled for the March 18 ANC meeting. Look for flyers and in the Cambridge Chronicle, or call the council office at 349-6287 to confirm.

We live in a sea of ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS ARE THEY DANGEROUS TO OUR HEALTH?

Find out what the experts have to say. Come to a panel discussion on MARCH 9 AT 7:30 P.M. in the Community Room at 1851 Mass. Ave. There is no consensus in the scientific community about health risks, and the public remains confused. The panelists represent a variety of disciplines related to electromagnetic fields, and they will respond to your questions about the issue.

Electromagnetic fields exist everywhere we find electricity. They develop from home wiring, electrical appliances, distribution lines serving homes, and high voltage transmission lines.

Local Cambridge streets have been measured with EMF at 12 milligauss. (A milligauss is a common measure of EMF.) A recently published and much quoted Swedish study has found that for every milligauss above one, an additional case of leukemia occurred per 10,000 children. Others have not found such systematic effects.

The panel discussion will be hosted by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council on March 9. Panelists will include David Caspari, Chairman of the Dept. of Environmental Health at Boston University; Charles Poole, Epidemiologist with Adjunct Professorships Boston University School of Public Health and Brown Medical School; W. Stephen Collins, Senior Environmental Administrator at Commonwealth Electric Co.; Peter Valberg, of Gradient Corporation and Adjunct Associate Professor of Environmental Health at Harvard School of Public Health and David Brodeur, researcher and President EMF Measuring Services.

For more information call the ANC at 349-6287.

Neighborhood News

Update on MBTA owned Garfield Lot

As most people know, the vacant lot at the corner of Garfield St. and Mass. Ave. is owned by the MBTA. It was used during Red Line construction, and it was earmarked many years ago for use by Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) as affordable housing in the Agassiz neighborhood.

We have heard from the new Director of the Office of Planning and Development, Len Charney, with an update. He told us where things currently stand:

1. CHA and the City of Cambridge continue to meet with the MBTA to discuss acquisition of the parcel as an affordable housing site.

2. CHA has recently been told by the MBTA that pending Federal Transportation Agency approval, they plan to recommend to the Board at either the March or April Board Meeting that the City and CHA be given the option to purchase the land to develop it for public housing.

For more information call the ANC at 349-6287.
3. CHA has begun to look at planning and land use issues that will impact site planning and building configuration.

Mr. Charney has offered to attend an upcoming ANC meeting to discuss item #3 with the neighborhood. For further information, call the council office at 349-6287.

Nominating Committee to Convene

Nominations are being accepted from members of the Agassiz community to serve on the ANC Board of Directors. Anyone who lives in the Agassiz neighborhood or who has children in the Agassiz School or Agassiz Community School is a member of the Agassiz community. This includes people who own businesses in the neighborhood.

The board acts as the governing body for the Agassiz Neighborhood Council Inc. which hosts monthly neighborhood council meetings and other issue based meetings, publishes "The Whistler", runs tuition based programs for children as well as special events and programs for families and adults in the Agassiz neighborhood.

Please send a letter of interest to the Nominating Committee, ANC, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information on the ANC or duties of a director, call the council office at 349-6287.

Traffic/Transportation

The next neighborhood traffic meeting will be: 

Thursday, March 18 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. 

Agassiz Community Room, North Hall (immediately prior to the next Council meeting)

This will be a combined meeting of the Joint Somerville-Cambridge Traffic Committee and the ANC Traffic Committee. Cambridge Deputy Dir. of Traffic & Parking Lauren Preston will be there to discuss with us:

1. Whether an island or a "bubble" peninsula reallocation makes more sense at Beacon & Oxford (whether Oxford should be 1-way going north from Forest)

2. How the reallocation constructed by 9/1/93

3. How to proceed with making Forest 1-way between Oxford and Beacon

4. How to proceed with the Joint Somerville-Cambridge Traffic Committee agenda from now on

5. His own and Mr. Rossi's response to the 2/11 sent to Mr. Rossi by the ANC, the ANC Traffic Committee and the ANC School Oversight Committee [see below]

6. Why the ANC Traffic Committee was not informed of the Interim Parking Control Committee’s 10/14/92 approval of a request to exempt the Eustis St. garage from the requirements of the Parking Freeze, and what can be done to improve communication in the future.

ANC Feb. 11 Letter to the City

A letter signed by David Valenstein, Chair, ANC Traffic Comm.; Ken Basler, Chair, ANC School Oversight Comm.; and Kathleen Manlon, Chair, ANC, was sent on 2/11 to Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi seeking the City's commitment to a series of Oxford St. traffic improvements prior to the demolition of the Agassiz School. It asks for: pursuit of a truck ban; reconfiguration of the intersection of Beacon/Oxford; making Oxford one-way only north from Forest; a traffic signal at Oxford/Everett; 3-way stop signs at Wendell, Garfield-Eustis, and Prentiss; and a demand-only walk light at Kirkland & Oxford. A copy of the letter will be sent soon to everyone on the ANC Traffic mailing list. The City's response will be discussed at the next ANC Traffic Committee meeting on Thurs., March 18, 6-7:30 pm, ANC Community Room, North Hall. Your input is needed!

Update on old transportation issues

The #83 Bus: As a follow-up to the Jan. 12 Bus #83 meeting, Astrid Dodds is preparing a rebuttal to the MBTA's research, citing its several inaccuracies; reinforcing the Jan. 12 request for a phone survey of upper Beacon potential riders; and protesting the fact that despite the MBTA's claim to want to make a routing decision based on "objective fact", the MBTA's research to date casts doubt on whether it really means it. Shoveling the new bridge's sidewalks: The Mass. Highway Dept. and the Somerville DPW Commissioner are going to duke it out on this question very soon. We will stay on their case until someone agrees to do it. Shoveling the Somerville Ave. sidewalk between the bridge & Porter Station: Commuter Rail's commitment to doing it is real; the message just hasn't filtered down to the right person yet. We're on that case, too.

Walking on ice

At presstime, every block in the Agassiz neighborhood has one or more untouched sidewalk. If you don't report them, the DPW won't know. The DPW checks all reported addresses and issues warning tickets to 1st time offenders; $25 tickets to repeat offenders. 24 hours a day you can reach the DPW at 349-4830.

Unrestricted Parking Proposal

At the November ANC meeting, representatives from the Department of Traffic and Parking shared their proposal for the parking spaces in our neighborhood that are currently unrestricted. Below is the revised proposal. If you have any comments on this proposal, please contact either George Tiso, Director, Lauren Preston, Deputy Director or Brian Carey of the Dept. of Traffic and Parking at 349-4700.

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<th>STREET</th>
<th>SIDE &amp; # OF SPACES</th>
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<tr>
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Total # of Spaces: 104
City Wide News & Information

Share Your Views on Recycling
Cambridge seeks members for Recycling Advisory Committee. Meetings are every sixth Thursday from 7-9 p.m.

Give the City a resident’s view of recycling by becoming a member of the Recycling Advisory Committee. Write to: Robert Healy, City Manager, 795 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139. In your letter, state what you feel you have to offer the Committee. Representative of the City’s ethnic communities are encouraged to apply.

You can also share your views about recycling by calling the Recycling InfoLine at 349-4005 (24 hours a day). Leave a message about how recycling is working for you.

If you would like to help promote recycling in your neighborhood, community group, apartment building, school or place of worship, leave your name, phone number and the best time for us to call you back. Call the Recycling InfoLine at 349-4005.

Proposed Changes to Zoning Ordinance
The Planning Board will hold a meeting on March 16, Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Community Development Conference Room at 57 Inman St., 3rd floor to discuss amending the zoning ordinance (Section 8.2) on Non conformance. The amendment would substantially revise section 8.22 which would permit the change, extension or alteration of pre-existing non conforming structures to be allowed without a special permit from the Board of Zoning Appeals. This would be allowed in cases where proposed changes, extensions or alterations would be in conformity with the existing zoning. Call Liza Malenfant from Community Development at 349-4600 for more information.

Growth Policy Draft Document Available
Community Development Department has copies of the draft growth policy document available. A public hearing was held at Cambridge Hospital on February 23 to discuss the document which will be forwarded to City Council. There will be additional opportunity to discuss the document when it is discussed in City Council. For more information on this document or to obtain a copy call Community Development at 349-4600.

Agassiz School News

AGASSIZ AUCTION MARCH 27
The Annual Agassiz Auction will take place in Baldwin Hall on Saturday March 27 from 7-9 p.m. Refreshments will be available. Child care at $1 per hour will also be available.

There will be a combination of silent and public bidding. Contributions of goods or services are needed and will be greatly appreciated. Local artists and businesses are encouraged to donate. A list of items will be available approximately one week before the actual auction.

For personal donations please contact Lisa Norton-parent liaison at 349-6827. Business donations can be made by contacting Linda Costa at 661-3593.

SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

Notes from the Oversight Committee 2/11/93
The first 20 minutes of the meeting were concerned with traffic patterns on Oxford St. Ken Basler presented a letter drafted by David Valenstein. The letter was to Mr. Rossi, and included five points (ranging from banning trucks on Oxford St. to installing stop signs or traffic lights at different intersections along Oxford St.) A copy of the letter can be obtained by calling the ANC office at 349-6287. The group approved the letter written by David Valenstein, and it was hand delivered to Mr. Rossi.

Mr. Rossi was then asked to introduce the issue concerning additional play space for the school. Mr. Rossi said that the City would not be acting responsibly if it did not raise the issue of moving the house next to the Agassiz school at 26 Sacramento St. He noted that during construction there will need to be a staging area, and the tot lot would not be optimal. It would be better if the construction could be staged on the site. This would be difficult because the building takes up the entire footprint. Mr. Rossi suggested that there area couple of alternatives that would allow play space on the site. He said that if the play space is not contiguous, the City would not obtain 90% reimbursement for the cost of constructing it. He agreed that many other alternatives were feasible, such as putting the play space on Sacramento Field - but he believes that those would not be the best possible solutions. None of the owners of nearby land were very happy about selling their property, although the owner of the House on Oxford St. next to the tot lot might be willing to rent land for parking for a fixed period of time. Mr. Rossi asked us all to keep an open mind and listen to the points on various sides.

Mother & Daughter Cleaning
RESIDENTIAL CLEANING
VERY GOOD SERVICE — REFERENCES
1770 MASS AVE 200
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02140
617-661-3408
LEAVE A MESSAGE
George Metzger, architect from HMFH, then presented two alternatives for contiguous play space. Mr. Metzger brought a detailed scale model to the meeting. He noted that they have changed the plans so that there is more space between the school and the house at 26 Sacramento St. The present design is not based on the assumption that that house moves, but moving it may enhance the school and the neighborhood. Metzger said that the only changes since last design meeting are a) the bays (light wells to the cafeteria in the basement) have been changed slightly: there are fewer of them, and they are a little bit wider; b) there was a vestibule on the Sacramento St. side, which has been pulled back. c) The building has been pulled back 6 feet from the house at 26 Sacramento St. They removed some square footage from the building to accomplish all of this. They have to create additional small bays in order to make the shared work areas between classrooms.

Metzger then discussed a plan to move the house at 26 Sacramento St. to part of the parking lot next to the Guidance Center at 5 Sacramento St. This plan also includes a long narrow parking lot, located next to the Guidance Center (extending further back, using about half of the present lot - the relocated house would be on the other half). The large tree near the guidance center would most likely have to go. Metzger said that there is a large survey going on to accurately locate where all trees area. There were several questions about access to and from the lot, the status of the basketball court, and related issues; Metzger said that these questions were a bit ahead of things... the current question is the site of the lot and play space, and the details will be worked out only after the site is selected. Metzger noted that the Historical Commission will have to approve relocating the house, and that they would prefer that it remain a house on a street.

Metzger then presented a variation on the plan: To shift 26 Sacramento Street away from the school, closer to 24 Sacramento Street, and use some of the back yard of 26 Sacramento St. as play space. Metzger noted that moving the house next to the Guidance Center would fill a "missing tooth" on the street. Jerry Alexander noted that by shifting the house closer to 24 Sacramento, it would make the street look more cramped.

Astrid Dodds asked about an "alternate tot lot" for very young kids, which would be fully accessible all day long. With the increased number of kids, the school really needs use of the entire tot lot area. Helen Kukuk asked for a review of the present square footage of the tot lot and the square footage that would be provided by moving the Chase's house. The new space would be roughly equal to half the entire tot lot (including the paved area). It was clear that both play areas (the tot lot and the new space) would be necessary. By having two distinct play spaces, the older kids would not terrorize the younger kids. So having two spaces is not necessarily bad; if there were only a single large space, it can be bad for the younger kids. Mrs. Paddock, Agassiz School Principal said that one of her biggest challenges this year is how to have the younger grades have fun when the seventh and eighth graders are out.

Faith Chase asked how the people in the Guidance Center feel about the plan, and also wanted to know how the school felt about the two scenarios. Susan Ayers, Guidance Center Director, commented that the parking lot is an eyesore and difficult to monitor. She has an office on that side and knows people's cars, but it nevertheless difficult to monitor who uses the lot. Every afternoon all of the spaces are used by Guidance Center clients. If a house is put there, she was concerned that it would be impossible to monitor the use of the lot. She said that a key and gate arrangement would be a problem for clients. Mr. Rossi said that they plan would "solidify" the lot as a residential lot for now and forever. Mrs. Paddock then said that the school does not feel comfortable trying to impose its view on the neighborhood, and does not want to promote a divisive discussion. Nevertheless, she said that the full space next door would be best. But she said that the school would be grateful for any space they can get.

Janet Rustow asked whether there was any assurance that if the space next to the school were used for a play space, would it have that use indefinitely? Metzger said that the way the building is designed, it is not capable of expanding. The gym is contiguous to the open space and is not expandable. Mr. Rossi suggested that the City might be willing to put a restriction on the deed of the land specifying that it can only be used for play space. Janet noted that living on that street, losing a parking lot and getting a play space does not sound like a bad trade-off. But losing a parking lot to gain another institutional building was not comforting.

Helen Kukuk then asked another informational question. She thinks it is very important that the basketball court be maintained in Sacramento Field; it is used a great deal of time. Ken Basler suggested that there needs to be a smaller committee to work out exactly who Sacramento Field would be configured. Basler noted that the community did have an agreement that no houses would be moved, but that developments have led us to consider the issue again. Basler would like some resolution on the issue of moving the house. The people most affected were asked to speak. Faith Chase said that she would like to stay in the house, and in the community. She would like to see the house moved a little closer to 24, if possible, but she is not willing to leave the house or neighborhood. Mrs. Chase said that she would prefer not to have the house moved next to the Guidance Center. Sherri Wexler then reported that there was an informal consensus of people on the street: It was acceptable to shift the house closer to 24, but it was a bad precedent to move it to another location. Janet Rustow, who lives across from the Guidance Center, thinks that the street would look better if the house at 26 Sacramento were moved there. She feels that the agreement
is not cast in stone. But she feels that if the Chases would rather stay where they are, that counts for a lot. Ken Wexler than noted that moving the house opened such a can of worms that it might actually delay building the school. Given the consensus on the street, moving the house to the Guidance Center parking lot would result no only in bad feelings, but residents would also fight variances, etc. Shifting the house slightly would not disrupt the neighborhood much, and because the foundations would be shaken by construction, some sort of work on the house would be necessary anyway.

Jerry Alexander then noted that the Oversight Committee’s charge is to inform the community if there are any changes in the agreement. Thus, if the house is to be moved, this is a change. Thus, Ken Basler asked whether there was a consensus of the group, although it would not be binding. The tentative plan would be to move the house at 26 Sacramento 12 feet from the house at 24 Sacramento, creating a play space roughly 40 feet wide, extending back by the width of the school plus a portion of the back yard of 26 Sacramento St. Janet Rustow was concerned that the space not become a hangout at night. She also suggested moving the small kid’s apparatus in the lot lot to another location, say in Sacramento Field. Thus the entire lot would be given to older elementary school children. Joel Bard noted that a group of parents spent a long time designing the lot lot, but they are not present. A subcommittee will be considered to administer the new space in the lot and Sacramento Field. Ken Wexler wanted to ensure that people in the neighborhood be included in the committee that will design the new space.

In summary: The plan is to move the house at 26 Sacramento St. so that it is about 12 feet from the house at 24 Sacramento St., which would create approximately 4,000 square feet (depending on how the back yard is configured). An effort will be made to preserve the trees or replace them. And we would dedicate the lot lot to elementary school children. The school would control the lot lot. All but one of the 36 people present voted for this plan.

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**Community School News**

**Call for Parent Representatives:**

The Agassiz Community School is represented on the ANC board by two parent representatives. The representatives are parents with children in one of the Community School programs. These parents share in the governing of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, Inc. which supports a wide range of activities including "The Whistler", neighborhood forums, programs and activities for all members of the Agassiz community. If you are interested in representing children's programs on the ANC Board, please call the council at 349-6287 or send a letter of interest to Parent Steering Committee % Steve Winter, Program Director, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge 02138.

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**Introduction to Acting**

This Afterschool course is especially designed for children in kindergarten and first grade who would like to learn acting skills in a low pressure situation. Depending on enrollment, classes will last either one or two hours on MONDAYS beginning with the Spring Afterschool Term. Class size limited to 8. Carol Huntman will use theater games to work on voice and movement as the basic tools of acting. For more information call Steve Winter at 349-6287.

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"Miss Baldwin of Agassiz" Reprise

The Agassiz Afterschool Players Stage II has been asked to perform "Miss Baldwin of Agassiz" as part of a year end celebration of the Agassiz School’s past. This event will celebrate the closing of Miss Baldwin’s building to make way for a new and better Agassiz School.

Seventh and eighth grade students who appeared in the play in its first two productions are especially invited to reprise the parts they originally played or to try new roles. Students in these grades will not return to the new Agassiz. They will graduate from the temporary Agassiz site.

To join you may sign up for AAP Stage II if you are in 6-8th grade. Rehearsals will take place on Thursdays and Fridays beginning with the new Spring Afterschool Term. Call Steve Winter for more information at 349-6287.

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**FOR INFORMATION ON:**

- SPRING AFTERSCHOOL TERM
- OUTBACK SUMMER CAMP
- COUNSELOR IN TRAINING PROGRAM
- FALL 1993 AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS
- FALL 1993 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

**CALL STEVE WINTER AT 349-6287**
Cultural Happenings

Sacramento Street Gallery

M.P. DuPont’s “Explorations In Sculpted and Colored Canvas, 1993” comes in March to the Sacramento St. Gallery located at 20 Sacramento St. in Cambridge. Hanging sculptures developed from a series of sculpted and colored canvas inspired by nature’s bizarre exploitation of color, shape and texture.

March 8-26 from 9-5 p.m. 2 receptions March 10 from 5-8 and March 20 from 3-6

Agassiz Afterschool Players

The Agassiz Afterschool Players presents its Winter Production on Saturday March 20 at 7 p.m. and Sunday March 21 at 3 p.m. In Baldwin Hall, Agassiz School. This term Stage I (children in grades 1-4) will present two short original plays, “Cursed?” and “The Conning Game” and Stage II (youth grades 5-8) will present an original musical, “Rats,” based on The Big Dig, the construction of the central artery and harbor tunnel. Scripts are written in part or in full by the players with help from Director Carol Hantman, who is the AAP Director. Ada Snider is Musical Director for “Rats.”

A donation is welcome at the door.

Players who will act in “Cursed?” include: Joanna G. Levy, Lucy Lindsay, Marla Harris, Diana Kaya’a, Tori Bishop, Liza Littenberg-Brown, Asoka Fozard, Rose Berkleheimer, Rebecca Slatin, Jenny Pilman. Participants in “The Conning Game” include: Naseem Makiya, Evan Ragon, Akiva Leffert, Jessica Jeune, Laurence Vannicelli, Ben Ewen-Campen, Robert Aguero-Hoffman, Michael Riley, Michael Akula, Christian La Rosa-Waters, Amanda Pillsbury.

Participants in the musical “Rats” include: Luna Brill, Ned Colby, Rebecca Ennen, Alexia Loomis, Bushra Majidi, D. Aron Novod, Mako Takahashi Parker, Nick Pillsbury, Daniel Piper, Claire Singer, Nade Gundy, Michael Littenberg-Brown, Justine Nagurney, Natalie Akula, Mekeen Lynch, Sasha Warner-Berry, Kara Chadbourne, Henry Townsend.

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Massachusetts Cultural Council announces April 15 as the application deadline for schools to apply for funding to work with professional artists on short or long-term, curriculum related projects. The Event and Residency programs offer three types of grants: Event (1 to 3 consecutive school days), Extended Event (4-10 days), and Residency (11 to 40 or more days). All three grants are for grades pre K - 12 and can be conducted in any discipline by artists listed in the MCC’s Artists Directory. Grants support a percentage of the costs based on the numbers of days a program runs. Interested principals, teachers or parents can call the Education Program and Services staff at 727-3668, TTY: 338-9153 for directories and applications.

Ads and Announcements

Marcie Mitler, M.Ed. Offers Courses

RECLAIMING YOUR BODY is healing work for women with histories of sexual abuse and violence using a therapeutic movement and exercise class in a safe and protected environment. Tuesdays 6:30-8 p.m. at the Cambridge YWCA.

Partners of Survivors of Sexual Abuse: An evening gathering will be held March 24 from 7-10 p.m. at a cost of $40. It will be a place to share, and will focus on setting boundaries, validating feelings, having needs met and other skills.

For information on either class, call 497-5283.

Jamnastics Inc. offers Gymnastics

Jamnastics Inc., a gymnastics, fitness and dance organization run by former Agassiz student and resident, Anara Frank, is having a fund raising and scholarship drive to help in the formation of a Cambridge gymnastics team.

Ms. Frank already has teams set up in Jamaica Plain and Boston. Several Agassiz students are now involved with the Cambridge team.

The group is selling T-shirts and Balloon Bouquets. The T-Shirts are turquoise with a white logo, and are available in children and adult sizes from $7.50.

The balloons are assorted pastel and jewel-tone colors. Red hearts are also available. They are air filled stick balloons and sell for $1, spies $5 for six or $10 per dozen. They are perfect for parties or in place of flowers, and 24 hours advance is needed. Contact Sue Bergin between 7-8:30 p.m. for more information.

Got a computer you could donate?

School #238, St. Petersburg, Russia, needs used IBM or IBM-style computer to communicate via E-mail with the CRLS Russian language program. Receipt for tax deductible donation to the Cambridge Public Schools can be arranged. Call Astrid Dodds, 354-6553.

CAMBRIDGE NATURAL FOODS

1670 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
(617) 492-4452

Open 7 days a week until 8 p.m.

Natural Foods - Vitamins
Organic Produce - T-Shirts
# Community Calendar March 1993

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<th>Date, Day</th>
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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>March 4, Thursday</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing</td>
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<td>Oxford Garage Special Hearing</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>City Hall Room 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9, Tuesday</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Panel Discussion - Electromagnetic Fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (corner Wendell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10, Wednesday</td>
<td>5-8 p.m.</td>
<td>&quot;Explorations in Sculpted and Colored Canvas&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>by M.P. DuPont at the Sacramento St. Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reception 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11, Thursday</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Oversight Committee on new Agassiz School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (corner Wendell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17, Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td>St. Patrick's Day - No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18, Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz Traffic Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Community Room 1651 Yass. Ave. (corner Wendell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20, Saturday</td>
<td>3-6 p.m.</td>
<td>&quot;Explorations in Sculpted and Colored Canvas&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>by M.P. DuPont at the Sacramento St. Gallery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reception 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20, Saturday</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz Afterschool Players Spring Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21, Sunday</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Baldwin Hall Agassiz School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 27, Saturday</td>
<td>7-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz School Auction</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Baldwin Hall Agassiz School</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**MARCH 1993**

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**The Whistler**

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

20 Sacramento St.

Cambridge, MA 02138 349-6287

**DO NOT FORWARD**

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We live in a sea of **ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS**

**ARE THEY DANGEROUS TO OUR HEALTH?**

Hear the Experts on March 9

(See page 3)

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The Whistler is printed on 100% recycled and recyclable paper.