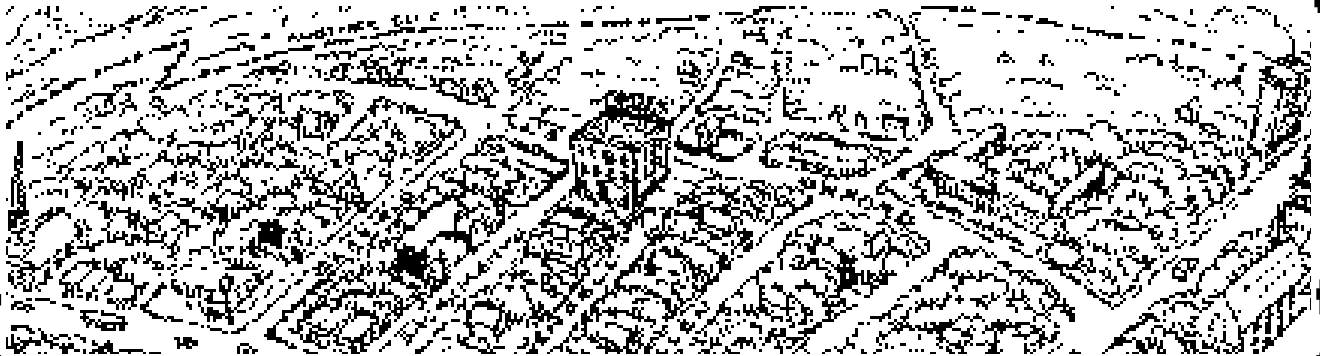


The Whistler

June 2002



Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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∨ ANC News ∨

Notes from the May 21 Annual Meeting

The only business at the Annual Meeting was the election of the slate of officers to the Board of Directors, listed below:

Elected to Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Willie Bloomstein, Vice Chairperson | Crescent Street |
| Denise Dussault, Treasurer | Cambridge Trust Co. |
| Andrea Walsh | Eustis Street |
| Burt Doo | Prentiss Street |
| Miriam Goldberg | Frost Street |
| Dave Wood | Gorham Street |

Returning Directors in mid-term:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Doug Varden, Chairperson | Frost Street |
| Sue Bergin, Clerk | Winter Street |
| Wendy Prellwitz | Wendell Street |

The ANC would like to thank the outgoing Directors: Benadette Manning, Sal Sagarese and Fred Willey for their years of service to the ANC. The ANC could not function as a community service organization without the voluntary services of our board members, and we are most appreciative to them for their time and efforts.

The Whistler is not published in July or August, and regular council meetings are not held. When necessary, special meetings will be scheduled and information will be sent if you are on the mailing list. The offices of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council will be open throughout the summer.



Outgoing Chairperson Joan Squeri, left, with past Chair Kathleen Manion. Joan was honored with flowers and a plaque for her tireless service on the ANC Board.

∨ Neighborhood News ∨

Sacramento Place Easement

The easement at 21-23 Sacramento Place that connects Sacramento Place to the Sacramento Field is an important entrance and exit to the field. Without it there would not be a 2nd access to the field, and that could compromise safety of children and others who use the park. Please take time to read and obey the sign that is posted as you enter the field at

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 18

7:30 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:

A.C.I.D. Agassiz Committee on the Impact of Development will provide an update on development issues resulting from Harvard construction plans.

Sacramento Place. A picture of the sign is on page 8.

The owner of the property has advised the City that he would like to terminate the easement since neighbors have not respected the rules. Please help us keep this easement open and obey the rules. If you see others in violation please remind them that the easement could be lost if the rules are not followed by all users. Thank you for helping!

Crime Watch

A neighbor has advised us that there was a man who posed as a Greenpeace canvasser in the neighborhood during the month of May. He went to a house one evening, and the resident remembered that she had first seen him five years ago when he was given a check by someone in the household (which he never tried to cash). He seemed suspicious for several reasons, and the resident called the Greenpeace office in Washington DC. They informed her that they do not have canvassers any more but they had heard of this man operating in the area. The police were also called. He returned several times. He is a scruffy, middle-aged white man with glasses. He carries a clipboard with a lot of xeroxed Greenpeace papers. He often comes to the door around dusk, although sometimes earlier. Finally the resident told him she knew he wasn't from Greenpeace and he ran away. If you see this man, call the police.

The Watery History of Sacramento Field

Charles Sullivan, Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, has sent us an interesting article from the February 4, 1922 *Cambridge Chronicle*, regarding the history of Sacramento Field.

"The place referred to is the pumping station of the Middlesex Bleachery, Dye and Spring works of Somerville, which every day for the past 70 years has been supplying the vats of the bleaching company with from ninety to one hundred thousand gallons of water.

To the occasional observer, even in winter, it presents a beautiful appearance. An oblong yard, almost a hundred yards in length and fifty yards wide, bordered on three sides by arched arbors which in summer are weighted down with grapes but now are covered with nothing but the bare brown interwoven branches, is honey combed with paths bordered with flower beds and dotted with peach, pear and cherry trees. A rock-enclosed reservoir, many feet deep, fed by natural springs and artesian wells, occupies the far corner of the enclosure. The fourth side facing Massachusetts Ave. is bordered by a long, narrow building, its height accentuated by its extreme narrowness. On one corner it is surmounted by a high steel smokestack, the whole thing looking for all the world like a candy box lying on its side stuck through in one corner by a pencil.

The queerly proportioned house contains the working elements of the concern. It houses the single action steam pump and steam boilers that day in and day out for the past 70 years have been forcing 100,000 gallons of water daily through the long cement pipe that leads from the pump house underground beneath Beacon Street, under the FRR railroad bed and into the bleaching and dyeing vats of the Somerville company's plant.

This pumping station was established 70 years ago . . . At that time the land between Massachusetts Avenue and Somerville was open and except for a few farm houses entirely bare and used for pasturage. In the Sacramento Street section it was owned by one Mc Leod . . . who had gone to California in the gold rush with the "49'ers." He was one of the lucky ones, and struck it rich near Sacramento California. What's more he held on to his money and brought it back to Cambridge where he bought all the land on the east side of Massachusetts between Wendell and Porter Square. He laid out a street through the middle of his property and in memory of the place where he struck his bonanza, called it Sacramento St. On the property was a natural spring that was a mecca of the farmers of the section. They brought their cattle and horses to drink and at "watering time" It was the meeting place of the farmers of the neighborhood.

The owner of the bleaching plant, in dire need of water, heard of the the springs, investigated and finally bought the property around the spring. He enlarged the spring, deepened it about 30 feet, made a reservoir around it and lined the reservoir with rocks. Later, when the spring showed signs of giving out, he had several artesian wells bored in bottom of the reservoir, which kept the reservoir full irrespective of the drain on it by the pumps.

The bleachery owner also saw the possibilities of the place for recreation purposes. He fenced in the property which he had bought, hired gardeners to beautify it, planted trees, vines and flowers and stocked the reservoir with many varieties of fish. So beautiful did he make the place that in the summer with his friend he was in the habit of spending many hours there fishing and whiling away his time. . . .

Isaac Bradford, who lives at 46 Sacramento Street, tells me that up to about 40 years ago on the spot where the springs are located was quite a pond several feet deep with a stream running from it across Sacramento Street down through the Palfrey estate across the Fitchburg railroad and emptying into Miller's river. When the Agassiz schoolhouse was first built it was constructed on piles for the reason that the ground was so soft that it was difficult to find a solid bottom, due to the fact that it had once been a water course . . .



Two Brattle Square, Cambridge, MA 02138

Carol Kelly

Myra von Turkovich (Agassiz School Parent)

Jan Devereux (Agassiz School Parent)

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v City Wide v

Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee

City Councillor Ken Reeves, Chair of the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee has scheduled the following public meetings to discuss meeting with the Planning Board, a tour of additional sites presenting planning issues, neighborhood study updates, planning that emphasized green space and forest like areas near dense development, and a planning study of the Alewife triangle. There will be meetings on June 4 and 18 each in the Ackerman Room of City Hall, 795 Mass. Ave. at 3:00 p.m. For more information call the office of the City Clerk 617 349-4260.

Hazardous Waste Day June 22

The City of Cambridge will be sponsoring household hazardous waste (HHW) collections on June 22. The drop off area for hazardous waste is located in the back yard of the Concord Avenue Armory (450 Concord Avenue). For more information or questions on what to and what not to bring, please call the Recycling Hotline/HHW Info Mailbox at (617) 349-4005 or the Cambridge Department of Public Works at (617) 349-4800 or go to the DPW website at: <<http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks/hazwaste.html>>.

v Lesley University v

Lesley Clarifies Points from the May Whistler

Paul Karoff, from Lesley University, has made a few clarifications on the report issued from the April ANC meeting in the May Whistler. Below are his comments:

1. Regarding the new acquisition at 815 Somerville Ave. -- Lesley will maintain the building MOSTLY as leased commercial space. However, Lesley will occupy one of the three floors with administrative offices.
2. Lesley's School of Education is currently housed in five buildings (not 51; that number represents out total inventory).
3. Near the end of the summary I am quoted as saying about AIB that "Lesley is not looking to increase residences. Most of the growth will be outside of Cambridge (Allston, Brighton and Somerville)." In fact, IF Lesley does decide to relocate AIB to Cambridge, we would not do so without expanding our residential housing capacity to accommodate those new students. Our discussion included the potential development of new dorms either on the lots across from Porter or the Mass. Ave./Wendell parcel, or both. The only time that Allston, Brighton and

Somerville came up was in response to a question about where AIB commuter students who choose not to reside in dorms now live.

v Announcements v

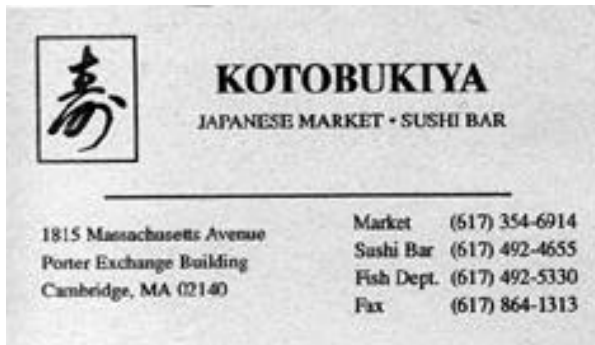
Student Seeks Position

I am a 20 year old male living in Brighton currently and attending the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University as a fine arts major. I have had eight years of experience working at a summer camp for mentally and physically handicapped children and adults, four years at a summer camp for children aged nine-fourteen, and I also worked at the Agassiz Afterschool program in the fall of 2001 as a teacher of arts, sciences and cooking activities.

I have previous child care experience with a family that used to be a neighbor in my hometown in Missouri. I care for three children most days after their school and several weekends. Reference available. I have also done several years of dedication to community service that has allowed me to work closely with children.

I am looking to have the living experience where I could do a set amount of hours with child-care or the elderly in exchange for free or reduced housing. I am taking on more courses next semester so I will not be able to hold a normal job with typical night or day hours. However, my schedule is open every day from two until six or seven in the evening.

I have references from a family, my community service mentor and a current employer. I am looking for a position beginning mid August. You can reach me via this email address: dustin_rennells@hotmail.com or by phone 660-646-0108. Dustin Rennells





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▼ BALDWIN SCHOOL ▼

The following letter was taken from the web site of the Maria Baldwin School, previously the Agassiz School

Dear Community of Learners;

We have initiated an important historical change that celebrates our own - Maria L. Baldwin, Principal and Teacher (1881-1922). On the evening of May 21, 2002 the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the recommendation to change the name of our school. Our new name is the Maria L. Baldwin School. While this recommendation is immediately in affect, those graduating this school year will be Agassiz grads.

A Transition Team comprised of School Advisory Council members and staff will work on plans to present a formal announcement and celebration in the new school year. This committee reports to the School Advisory Council and will conduct input sessions to solicit your ideas and suggestions. Although our name has changed, our school mission of helping each student to achieve high academic standards is still applicable. We are consistent in valuing community involvement and celebrating the diversity each child and family brings to our Community of Learners.

The transition process we will engage in will be positive and used as an educational tool to actively involve our students in learning Cambridge history and Maria L. Baldwin's contributions. Therefore, this is a change that benefits everyone. This is a natural part of the process of growth and change, which is inherent in our community. While the name change may come as a surprise to some, the School Advisory Council and I have been collecting public comment and feedback on this proposal for over a year and a half.

Please take a few moments to review with your child(ren) the brief biographical information provided about Maria L. Baldwin. If you or your child(ren) have ideas or suggestions for the transition process, please be encouraged to share them with any School Advisory Council member or me.

Thank you for your interest, input and support in this important matter.

Respectfully,
Dr. Sybil N. Knight, Principal
Maria L. Baldwin School
(28 Sacramento Street, Cambridge MA 617 349-6525)

Baldwin School Spring Fling June 14

Baldwin School will host its Annual Spring Fling, and event that is full of fun for all kids. It will be held from 3-7 pm at the Sacramento Field. Agassiz Neighborhood Council will sponsor the "Moon Walk" to add to the fun. Games, prizes, rides and refreshments.

For more information call the Baldwin Parent Liaison Mark Kelsey at 617 349-4377.

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OUTBACK SUMMER PROGRAM

Opens June 24. REGISTER NOW for summer and FALL AFTERSCHOOL and SACRAMENTO STREET PRESCHOOL

For more information on all programs, contact Jenna Webster at 617 349-6287 x19 or <jwebster@agassiz.org>.

Babies Groups

Are you interested in infant/toddler play groups and activities? Are you seeking programs that respond to the needs of you and your baby? Then the Agassiz Neighborhood Council (ANC) would like to hear from you! For the past several years ANC has offered free weekly infant/toddler play groups and activities in response to articulated community interest. This program, functioning on a drop-in as well as a registration basis, is open to parents/caregivers and their infants/toddlers (newborns to two years-nine months). The program currently occurs in North Hall (at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Wendell Street). The atmosphere is relaxed, providing a community-oriented setting where parents and caregivers can socialize, learn more about ANC, and share parenting information. Beginning in fall 2002 ANC hopes to offer new infant/toddler registration activities (in addition to drop-in sessions). These activities might include baby yoga, music lessons, and art making sessions. Do you have other ideas for needed programming? ANC appreciates any suggestions and requests. Please contact Jenna Webster, 617-349-6287, ext. 19; jwebster@agassiz.org. The infant/toddler program is presently managed by Emily Winston.

Agassiz Community School Barbecue Wednesday, June 5

20 Sacramento Street Backyard 6-8 p.m.



Hot dogs and hamburgers, drinks and fixings will be supplied.

Please bring salads/sides enough for your family plus extra for your friends.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. A magician will provide entertainment.

Everyone is Welcome
Call 617 349-6287 for information

June 14th-Preschool Family Day

All families and friends of the Sacramento Street Preschool are welcome to attend the family day on June 14th at 11 a.m.

See a play starring preschool students! Visit with staff and parents! For more information on this event contact Diane DiMaina at 349-6298 x11

Agassiz Afterschool Players Go On the Road

Come to the "Once Upon A Time" Youth Theatre Festival and celebrate the successes of local student actors from Somerville, Cambridge, and Needham.


Arranged by "Once Upon a Time" company, this festival benefits inner-city afterschool programs run by the PlayGround Children's Theatre, a not-for-profit "Once Upon a Time" sister company.

The festival includes a performance of "Superheroes, the Musical" starring Agassiz Afterschool Players. The performance of "Superheroes" occurs on the Lyric Stage, Friday, May 31, 7-8:30. \$10/person (children under 2 are free).

The Lyric Stage is located at 140 Clarendon Street in Boston in the YMCA building (2 blocks south of the John Hancock Building on Boylston Street, across from the Hard Rock Café). Parking (for a fee) is available at the John Hancock Garage on Boylston Street near the YMCA building.

For more information contact Elyse Becker, onceuponatimetheatre@hotmail.com

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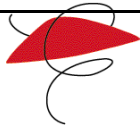
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Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center



The Spring/Summer edition of the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center newsletter has recently been sent out to interested people. It provides an update on fund raising, architectural planning and events that support ANC efforts to build the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center, a building that provides studios with programs focusing on children's art education and support to practicing artists.

Right now the architectural firm of Prellwitz/Chilinski Associates is working on the final plans for the center, plans that will incorporate all the information that has been gathered over the past year from many meetings with neighbors, artists, teachers, staff, and community members. ANC has also been able to include design refinements after extensive visits to art centers throughout the region. Best practices have been likewise observed and will inform the program planning as it is developed.

The ANC has followed all zoning requirements. In December 1999 a special permit was received to extend our current building use to the new building. This permit has lapsed, and the ANC will seek an extension of the permit this summer. There will also be a hearing of the Cambridge Historical Commission to review the building plans, since the carriage house is more than 50 years old. Charles Sullivan, Director of the Historical Commission has satisfactorily reviewed the plans. A butters will receive written notice from ANC in early June, and legal abutters will be formally informed by the City of the meetings when they are scheduled.

To receive a newsletter or to learn more about the hearings, please contact Terry DeLancey (617) 349-6287 x17 or <tdelancey@agassiz.org>.



Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento St. - Open Weekdays 9-5
"SPLIT COMPETITION" through 6/16

University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth students James DeLancey and James Ransavage present a show of photography, painting, mixed media and design. The work reflects their years of study in the visual arts.

DeLancey majors in graphic design with a special interest in typography. His paintings display a spontaneity that can only be found in the creative ideas, not the final pieces of a designer.

Ransavage works in photography. Many of the photographs that will be displayed depict unusual scenes from the Southeast shore around New Bedford, Mass.

Both artists are Seniors at UMass Dartmouth and will receive BFA degrees this year.



"Paper Box" by James DeLancey

"Competition" by James Ransavage

Coming June 18 - An exhibit of art work by local youth. For information contact Jenna Webster at 617 349-6287 x19 or <jwebster@agassiz.org>.

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

Dance Party June 21

Join in and dance in the streets of Cambridge Friday, June 21, from 7 p.m. -11 p.m. This dance extravaganza is a once a year opportunity for the entire Cambridge community to celebrate the beginning of summer with an evening full of music and friends. Everyone is invited to join in this free event and dance to the tunes of DJ Joey Demers.

After dark, spectacular lights will be launched, adding to the magic of the evening. Originally conceived in 1996 as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of Cambridge, the Dance Party will return to inspire young and old to step to the tunes! During the event, Massachusetts Avenue will be closed to traffic between Inman and Bigelow Streets—the heart of Central Square. The MBTA's #1 Bus Line will terminate in Central Square at 6 p.m. and resume full service at 11:30 p.m. (take subway between Central & Harvard Squares). For more information, call Maryellen Carvello at 617-349-4301. (Rain Date: Friday, June 28, 2002)

Rhythm & Rhyme

Cambridge River Festival June 15 Saturday

(rain date: Sunday, June 16th)

12:00 to 6:00 pm

Memorial Drive, from Central to Harvard Square

FREE

Wheelchair accessible

On Saturday, June 15th, hands will create, voices will sing, and feet will dance as the 24th Cambridge River Festival presents an exciting range of world, jazz, folk, gospel, children's, and dance performances on six stages, plus a new Performance Poetry Stage, art-making activities, public art, traditional folk arts demonstrations, and foods from around the world. This year's theme, Rhythm & Rhyme, reflects the pulsating energy of the festival and this year's programming emphasis on poetry. The Cambridge River Festival invites you to get some R&R and join this spring celebration along the banks of the Charles River on June 15th.

RIVER FESTIVAL cont.

Below are some of the highlights of the many interactive components of this year's festival programming:

Six Performance Stages:

There is an exciting line-up of new artists and bands who will be sure you get you movin' and groovin' to many different styles of sounds!

Traditional Folk Arts Tent:

The Traditional Folk Arts Tent is in its second year, with a wide variety of folk arts demonstrations around the theme of "Preparation and Process," curated by professional folklorist Millie Rahn (also Club Passim archivist). Artists are to be determined.

Chalk on the Walk:

The Cambridge Rotary Club returns for a second year to collaborate with the River Festival to bring the colorful tradition of street chalk art to Cambridge. For Chalk on the Walk, professional artists will transform Memorial Drive, from JFK to Ash Street, into a giant work of art using nothing but street chalk!

Children's Art Making Area:

Build a robot head with Cambridge's organization, "Build-It-Yourself;" create head dresses and jewelry with "Magical Headdress" and "recycle art" with Bobby Brown and the Boston Recycle Center. Meet live "critters" through the Harvard Museum of Natural History, make music with Cambridge's New School of Music, and have fun with bubbles and parachutes. A new presence in this year's Children's Area is Club Passim who will be leading a hands-on recycled instrument-making workshop, culminating in a percussion performance on the Children's Stage by local performers Tara Greenblatt, Dylan Callahan, and others.

Poetry Area:

2002 is the first year that the River Festival will be presenting a Performance Poetry Stage which will emphasize the union of music and performance poetry. Highlights include Jim Infantino and band who will get audience creating "napkin poetry," and Zumix, a Boston-based non-profit organization, where high school students will present their original poetry and songs.

Back by popular demand, the giant Poetry Wall returns to the River Festival, filled with everyone's favorite refrigerator magnets for creators of impromptu haiku.

Club Passim Collaboration:

The Cambridge River Festival is pleased to collaborate with Club Passim this year, both in the Children's Area and at the Folk Stage. In the Children's Area, Club Passim will present a recycled instrument-making workshop (see above) as well as a percussion performance on the Children's Stage. At the Folk Stage, Club Passim sponsors local favorite Kevin So as part of the stage lineup.

The Spring Revels Opens June 21, Friday

A Celebration of Spring with music, songs, and folk tales from England and Africa. Directed by Patrick Swanson; George Emlen, music director at Sanders Theater, 45 Quincy Street in Cambridge.

Every year Revels celebrates the seasons with its 70-member cast performing lively music, exhilarating dance, traditional folk songs, and seasonal rituals from around the world. This spring is no exception! Come with Revels as we voyage from Cornwall, England to Africa seeking the origins of one of England's oldest folk figures, the Padstow Hobby Horse, a strange and symbolic fertility figure whose annual appearance in a tiny fishing village has become a welcome harbinger of spring. Along the way you'll enjoy rollicking sea chanteys, hornpipes and ballads, as well as African drumming and dancing, folk tales, poetry and a giant outdoor Maypole celebration! This extraordinary fusion of African and English cultural imagery features legendary traditional singers John Roberts and Tony Barrand, De Ama Battle's acclaimed ensemble Art of Black Dance and Music, the 35-member West Country Chorus, musicians David Coffin and Derek Burrows, The Pinewoods Morris Men, Nigerian poet Ifeanyi Menkiti and The Clovelly Children. Not to mention you, The Audience, who participate in our voyage.

A wonderful family event from the producers of the ever-popular Christmas Revels thru Sunday 06/23/02. Call the Box Office for Tickets 617.496.2222

ARTS at MIT

Go to the MIT website at <web.mit.edu/arts> and learn about the many interesting things available to Cambridge residents through MIT. Their offices are located at 77 Mass. Ave. Room E15-205.

Young Artists At Work

The Cambridge Public School's Elementary Students Art Show Exhibition is on view at Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second Street, Cambridge. It will give you a glimpse of the artistic expression of students in the kindergarten through 8th grade organized by Visual Arts Curriculum Coordinator Al Ferreira. The reception will be held Wednesday, June 5th from 5-7 p.m. Call 617 577-1400.

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Community Calendar June 2002

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| Wednesday, June 5 | 6-8 p.m. | Annual Agassiz Barbecue (See page 5) 20 Sacramento Street Backyard |
| Friday, June 14 | 3-7 p.m. | Spring Fling (See page 4) Sacramento Field, behind 5 Sacramento St. |
| Saturday, June 15 | Noon - 6p.m. | Cambridge River Festival Rhythm and Rhyme (See page 6) Memorial Drive between Harvard and Central Squares |
| Tuesday, June 18 | 6:00 p.m. | ANC Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 20 Sacramento Street upstairs, Public Welcome |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting Baldwin School, 28 Sacramento Street entrance |
| Tuesday, June 18 | | Last Day of Cambridge Elementary Schools |
| Monday, June 24 | | Outback Summer program Opens |

There are no scheduled ANC meetings in the summer, but meetings will be scheduled and neighbors notified as necessary. ANC Offices are open throughout the summer.

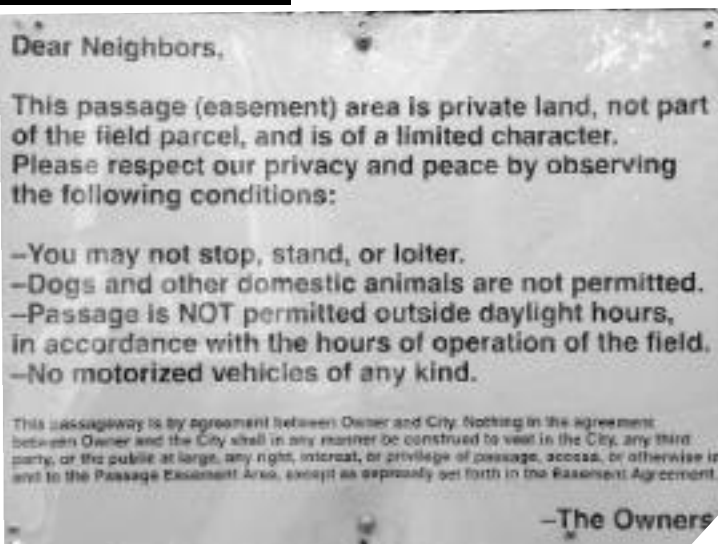
The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Call 349-6287 to be on the mailing list. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration to address below, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler June 2002



AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 349-6287 Fax and Hot Line 497-4388
www.agassiz.org email: whistler@agassiz.org

DO NOT FOR WARD



Above are restrictions posted at the Sacramento Place entrance to Sacramento Field. Please obey the rules and help the city keep the easement open. See page 1.