

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

February 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

ANC News: Harvard Construction, Lesley Dorm, Name Change, Quick Announcements	1 - 4
ABC Community: ABC Thanks Donors	4
ABC Community: Over Fifty Task Force Hosts Name Contest, Snow Removal	5
ABC School Programs: Hip Hop Festival 2008, Preschool News, Kids Create Mural, Enroll for Sacramento Street Preschool	5 - 6
City Wide: Author Event at Cambridge Public Library	7
Sacramento St. Gallery: "Books, Bottles, Boats, Etc."	7

ANC News

NOTES FROM THE JAN. 16 MEETING

Parking & Noise Problems Related to Harvard Construction

Recently, residents of Hammond St., Gorham St., and Mass. Ave. sought assistance from ANC regarding problems with Harvard construction in the area. These residents approached Harvard Construction Mitigation and the city with their concerns, but several report that the problems with early morning noise and parking persist.

Mr. Diamond told the Council that he spoke to Tom Lucey, Director of Community Relations at Harvard, on behalf of several neighbors. He explained, "Tom Lucey told me that Harvard has a new set of contractors working in the neighborhood. They're supposed to take a shuttle from Allston, but some don't. Harvard spoke to these contractors following complaints from the community and has issued fines to

offenders. He said that the contractors would fire workers who continue to violate the rules."

Residents discussed the possibility of the Harvard Mitigation Team setting up a website where residents can report infractions and license plates using an online form. Stated one resident, "The more visible it becomes, the more likely it will work." The council discussed inviting Harvard to attend a future meeting to further address this issue.

The following are recurring problems listed by residents at the meeting:

- Construction sometimes begins as early as 6:30 AM
- Construction continues on weekends
- While the Harvard Mitigation Team is polite and quick to apologize, conditions have not seemed to improve
- The threat of city-issued tickets does not deter construction workers who choose to park on the street
- Workers sometimes swap cars at meters, avoiding the fines for parking beyond the allotted hours

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



FEBRUARY 13 - 7:30 PM

Baldwin School Cafeteria
28 Sacramento Street
(Press buzzer for entry)

AGENDA

Neighborhood Safety Report with Cambridge Police Sgt. Oppedisano

Lesley University Provides Update on Proposal for New Dorm

Brief Updates on:

- *Lesley Campus Plan*
- *Maud Morgan Visual Art Center*

Lesley University To Build New Dorm

“This dorm will be the first new construction Lesley University has undertaken in two decades,” stated Jason Forney, an architect with Bruner/Cott, the firm that is also working to convert the North Prospect Church site into the new home of the Art Institute of Boston (AIB). Accompanying Mr. Forney were representatives from Lesley University, including Bill Doncaster, Director of Public Affairs, Mary Lou Batt, Vice President of Administration, George Smith, Director of Operations, and William Suter, Campus Planner.

Mr. Forney presented preliminary drawings of a proposed dorm on the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell Street, a site that currently houses National Car Rental and a Bank of America ATM.

Seeking to create 80 beds for undergraduate students, the university’s plans were within the limits of the site’s zoning. Mr. Forney displayed drawings of a U-shaped building that would be 35 feet tall, with four floors, retail facing Mass. Ave., and a 100-foot setback at the back of the building with some proposed green space. Students would enter the dorm from the building’s rear on Wendell Street. In addition to retail space, the first floor would house a small Residence Director’s apartment on Mass. Ave. and student suites along Wendell. Common space for students and some of the building’s mechanicals would be placed in a finished basement.

The proposed retail space would be 800 square feet, including the ATM. Additionally, Cambridge City Zoning code requires 21 parking spaces (one parking space for every 4 students.) However, these spaces are for university use only; students are not permitted to bring cars to

campus, and are encouraged to explore the city via public transportation and walking.

Stated Mr. Forney, “The new building would be as tall as the apartment building on the corner of Mass. Ave. and Sacramento Street, but smaller than Harvard’s North Hall.” He explained that Lesley wants to be an active streetscape participant on what they consider an under-utilized stretch of Mass. Ave. The university is also interested in sustainable building and design.

Following the presentation, council members asked questions:

Q: Why did the university place a residential unit (the RD’s apartment) at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell, instead of retail?

A: Lesley chose to house the RD in that location because they did not want to have undergraduate student rooms at street-level on Mass. Ave.

Q: What’s happening to National Car Rental?

A: They’re vacating the space.

Residents agreed to support the university’s plan in terms of amending zoning and decreasing the parking requirement, and offered to approach Cambridge City Council on Lesley’s behalf. They expressed great desire for a building that meets the goal of dynamic use (including first floor retail) on Mass. Ave., in addition to the needs of the university. At the community’s request, Lesley agreed to organize a new working group for the dormitory project, to include six residents who volunteered at the meeting.

Addendum

Prepared by Bill Doncaster, Dir. Public Affairs

A working group comprised of seven neighbors has met twice with Lesley since the ANC monthly meeting. They are working together on an alternative plan that would meet both neighborhood goals as well as the University’s housing needs.

Neighborhood goals now being incorporated into new designs include:



- First floor retail along the entire front of the building along Mass. Ave.
- Exploring a second, wood frame structure on the rear lot that would screen parking so it would not be visible from the street, designed in a manner consistent with the character of the rest of Wendell Street.
- Aesthetic improvements to the façade

Lesley and working group members intend to present new plans to the Agassiz Baldwin Neighborhood Council at February 13th meeting.

“The planning for this site has changed dramatically from what was previously presented, moving towards a project that meets both the University’s housing goals and the neighborhood’s priorities for a better streetscape,” said Bill Doncaster. “It’s truly been a remarkable collaboration, and a great example of neighbors and institutions working together. We’re very grateful to the members of the working group for a great process, and look forward to showing the results of our rolling up our sleeves together.”

ANC/ABC Name Change Decision

Co-prepared by Stephen Diamond, Meeting Chair

The name subcommittee, Joel Bard, Stephen Diamond, Astrid Dodds, Fred Meyer, and Willie Bloomstein, made its report to the Council. All the views expressed in advance by its members had been made available in writing and were considered by the subcommittee.

Their first conclusion was that the Board and Council are the same organization and that one name must apply to both. Second, the addition of the Baldwin name was felt to acknowledge the broader reach of our local school; and third, the word "neighborhood" was preferred to "community" to retain the strength of our historic local area.

The recommended name was: Agassiz Baldwin Neighborhood Council, Inc., with the acronym ABNC rather than ANC. A shorter version of

the acronym, ABN, could be used on a new logo.

There is no plan to change the names of the various programs run under the umbrella of ABNC, but the subcommittee did recognize the need to revise and update the by-laws of the organization (dated 1985, last revised 1993), as the size and scope of the programs administered by the Board and the concerns of the Council have greatly expanded. The subcommittee also noted that they desire to build a closer relationship between the Council and its Board of Directors.

Residents at the Council meeting voted unanimously to approve the name presented by the name sub-committee.

Quick Announcements

Green Decade Cambridge

Green Decade Cambridge, a group of residents concerned about climate, is currently in the process of initiating greening projects across the city. They’ve contacted ANC and are interested in attending a future meeting to discuss their initiative. To learn more, visit them online at www.greencambridge.org/greencambridge.

Post Office Service

Joanne Killackey-Hogan, Customer Relations Coordinator for the Cambridge Post Office, has volunteered to answer questions and respond to concerns and issues related to service at Harvard and Porter Square Post Offices at an upcoming

	Peter J Meyersohn, CFP Senior Financial Advisor
	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Financial Planning• Mutual Funds• Life and Disability Insurance*• Long Term Care Insurance*
400 W. Cummings Park #3650 Woburn, MA 01801 - 6591 (781) 933-2067 ex.108	* Insurance products are offered through insurance companies with which Waddell & Reed has a sales arrangement.
Registered Office 48 Sacramento Street Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 661-3080 Peter33087@wradvisors.com	Investing, With a Plan ® Member SPIC

Council meeting. A form is available for anyone who would like to ask a question or voice a concern. They can either be picked up at 20 Sacramento Street or be requested via email. Individuals are also welcome to contact Ms. Killackey-Hogan directly at (617) 575-8741.

ABC Community

AGASSIZ BALDWIN THANKS 2007 END-OF-YEAR DONORS

Donors - Gifts of \$100 or More

Steven Bonsey and Elisabeth Keller
Janet Burns
Ruth Butler and Carl Kaysen
Dr. Roberta Cohen
Meg and Mike D'Ambra
Russell and Linde Gee
Richard Griffin and Susan Keane
Mary, David and Charles Groark
Victor and Margret Guillemain
Marcia and Daniel Halperin
George Hein and Emily Romney
Stewart Kemp
Kazuhiko and Mihoko Kurosawa
Peter Lang and Katherine LaPierre
William Laskin
Steve and Judy Leff
David and Clare Leslie
Fred and Maria Meyer
Mary Nagatomi
Peter and Carmel O'Reilly
Robert Preyer
Mark and Julie Schlack
Mark Schuster
Ellen Semonoff and Daniel Meltzer
Scott and Carin Sharp
Alison Spray
Lucy and Dan Stroock
Peter and Mary Jeanne Tufano

Donors

Deborah Black and Cliff Risack
Paul Blackborow and Jessica Daniels
Eric Blumsack and Deborah Miller
Kevin Brown and Deborah Galef
Ruth Butler and Carl Kaysen
Anthony Cicariello

Jon and Lenore Cummings
Mary Jean Farrington
Steven A. Fischer
Susan Fleischmann
Kate and Thomas Frank
Miriam and Haim Goldberg
Charles W Harris
John Hermanson
Lila M. Hexner
Margaret Hutaff
Craig and Kat Hyland
Peter Kelsey and Ginger Ryan
Peter and Kyoko Kirby
Jane and Jeremy Knowles
Mary Jane Kornacki and Jack Silverstein
Elliot Kronstein and May S. Baldwin
Sharon McBride
Fong and Mary Ning
Charles and Diane Norris
Rebecca Ramsay
Julie Shaw
Albert Silliman and Seija Halva
Skidmore and Zarrow Family
Martha Slocum
Cynthia Sunderland
Meredith and Eugene Thompson
Mario and Isabelle Torroella
Jacqueline Alice West
Susan White-Shaffer and Doug Shaffer

BECOME A DONOR!

Donations to the Agassiz Baldwin Community provide valuable funds for many programs and services, including this newsletter. Donations also fund scholarships, community events, and mailings.

Tax deductible donations can be sent to: Agassiz Baldwin Community, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138.



AGASSIZ'S "AGING IN PLACE" NAME CONTEST

The Over Fifty Task Force, an Agassiz Baldwin program working to create a sustaining community for older Cambridge residents, is holding a name contest. The winning entry will be an original, appealing name for the initiative designed to assist people continuing to live in their homes and community as they age.

Examples of names that have been suggested in the past are:

- The Over Fifty Community
- RESIDE
- Neighborhood Net

Contribute your ideas NOW! **Deadline March 1st.**

The Over Fifty Task Force, through the generosity of Porter Square Books and Tavern in the Square, will reward the winning entry and runner-up.

Please email or mail your suggested names to Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org or 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

SIGN UP FOR AGASSIZ SNOW REMOVAL

New to the Agassiz Snow Removal program, Socelvic Company is family-owned and provides building, carpentry, painting and snow removal services for residents of the Greater Boston area. The snow is still coming --contact us if you would like to sign up! Call (617) 349-6287 x10 or email psinclair@agassiz.org.



BONNY LAMB

Hammond GMAC Real Estate
Two Brattle Square • Cambridge • MA 02138
Office: (617) 497-4400 ext. 282 • Fax: (617) 661-0719
Cell: (617) 803-8080
bonny@greatlistings.com • www.greatlistings.com
blamb@hammondre.com • www.hammondre.com



Agassiz Afterschool Programs

INTRODUCING ARTS AGASSIZ HIP HOP FESTIVAL

Don't miss the highlight of our Introducing Arts performance series for children: the 12th Annual Hip Hop Festival. Billed as



"...an age-appropriate performance of a style of music children love..." and "a great way for students from across Cambridge to interact...[and] a networking opportunity for young performers," the Agassiz Baldwin Hip Hop Festival is a guaranteed crowd-pleaser.

We welcome back Master of Ceremonies Naheem, favorites OrigiNation, Jam'nastics, CAC Kids, and new addition Deborah Mason School of Dance.

Free admission for afterschool programs --RSVP now! General admission is \$2 per person and \$5 per family group.

What: 12th Annual Hip Hop Festival
When: Thursday, February 21 at 2:00 P.M.
Where: Baldwin School Stage, Maria L. Baldwin School, 28 Sacramento Street

Call or email for more information: (617) 349-6287 or abellomo@agassiz.org.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Prepared by Jessica Simons, Preschool Site-Director

Winter is in full swing and Sacramento St. Preschool is busy exploring it in many ways. The children have been working on art activities related to winter, which include building igloos out of sugar cubes, puffy paint snow scenes, "The Three Snow Bears" (author Jan Brett) mural, and winter chalk art. We've talked about animals that hibernate during the winter and created homes that represent where each animal would sleep during this time. The children also enjoyed discovering what happens when salt and colored water are added to blocks of ice during one of our science experiments.

Over the next few weeks, we will be talking about polar animals and the environments that they live in. The children have also expressed an interest in using different materials to make art. We will be using empty boxes, buttons, string, paper, and extra supplies to create "junk art projects" which we will display in our classroom.

AFTERSCHOOL KIDS CREATE MURAL

Prepared by Sally Dewart, Afterschool Teacher

The students and I have been working on a mural that represents healthy eating habits, as well as various foods from around the world. Each child involved has done a wonder-



ful job depicting a food or foods they like to eat, as well as foods they may not be so familiar with. The mural also depicts foods that should be eaten in moderation; such as pies, hamburgers, and cookies, which we have discussed together as treats that can be made in alternative, healthier ways.



ENROLL FOR PRESCHOOL

Enroll for Sacramento Street Preschool, a licensed program that provides a small, individualized, developmental program for 20 children



ages 2 years 9 months to 4 years of age. It focuses on social and emotional growth of children both as individuals and as participants in a group context. Children can attend full or half days two, three, or five days a week.

Sacramento Street Preschool has open-enrollment until all available slots have been filled. To learn more, download enrollment forms or our Preschool brochure, visit www.agassiz.org/SacramentoStPreschool.asp. You may also contact Preschool Site-Director Jessica Simons with questions at jsimons@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x14.



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

Owner, University Real Estate, overlooking Harvard Square.
 2000 President, MA Realtors.
 Licensed real estate appraiser.

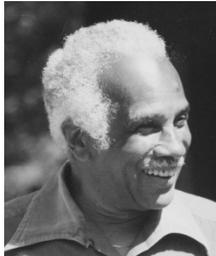
See ALL your choices,
 from all real estate companies:

harvardyard.com
agassizcambridge.com

City Wide

AUTHOR EVENT AT CPL

Ashley Bryan, award-winning illustrator and author is coming to Family Night on Thurs., Feb. 28 at 6:30 P.M., Pearl Street. "Let It Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals" and "Beautiful Blackbird" are among his many books. He has won two Coretta Scott King Awards and recently received the Lifetime Achievement award from the Society of Illustrators. His passionate and joyful presentations have delighted audiences throughout the country. Pizza will be served. Free admission. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cambridge Public Library.



Copyright Bob Rosen 2001

Best for ages 5 and up. Please register by calling (617) 349-4409, TTY (617) 349-4421.

What: Family Night with Ashley Bryan
When: Thursday, February 28 at 6:30 P.M.
Where: Central Square Branch Library, 45 Pearl Street

Grow Your Business

ADVERTISE

With a web and hard copy circulation of approximately 900, *The Whistler* newsletter is a great vehicle for getting the word out about your business or event.

- * Ads start at \$50 per month for business card size!
- * Scan your business card, or let us design your ad!

More info: contact Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x10.



Sacramento Street Gallery

BOOKS, BOTTLES, BOATS, ETC.

Watercolors by Brenda Engel

Beginning February 22nd, through March 28, Sacramento St. Gallery is proud to present watercolors by Brenda Engel.

Ms. Engel says, "Until recently, I painted directly from life: plants and flowers, landscapes, boats and waterfront scenes, streets and houses, arrangements of objects. More recently I have begun using photographs which I find a useful way to simplify the world, helping to reduce it from three to two dimensions...I find myself, like so many artists, moving towards the less representational."

Ms. Engel, at age 84, now knows that she, "wants to do what she knows how to do." She lives in North Cambridge with her husband and members of her extended family.

Please join us for the Opening Reception on Friday, February 22 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Light refreshments will be served.

Gallery Hours: M-F, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



Community Calendar

February 2008

Wednesday, February 13	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Wednesday, February 13	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Monday, February 18		President's Day Vacation ABC School Programs and Office closed
Tuesday, February 19	3:30 PM	Club Passim Hosts performance at Agassiz Afterschool, Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento St.
Thursday, February 21	2:00 PM	12th Annual Hip Hop Festival Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento St. Don't miss it!
Friday, February 22	5:30 - 7:30 PM	"Books, Bottle, Boats, Etc." opens at Sacramento St. Gallery 20 Sacramento St, 1st Floor

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. The newsletter is also posted each month online at www.agassiz.org. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

THE WHISTLER FEBRUARY 2008



Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
P: (617) 349-6287 F: (617) 497-4388
www.agassiz.org

DO NOT FORWARD