

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

May 2008

## IN THIS ISSUE

**ANC News: Postal Service, Board Nominees, Lesley/Community Working Group, Principles of Development, Name Change Discussion** 1 - 3

**ABC Community: Annual Meeting, Street Cleaning Schedule, Block Party, New Baldwin Principal, Nstar Electric Followup** 3 - 5

**ABC School Programs: New School Age Director, Afterschool Open House, BBQ '08, Intro. Arts Event, Scenes from "Ocean Life"** 5 - 6

**City Wide: GoGreen Month, City Holocaust Commemoration** 6 - 7

**Sacramento St. Gallery: Love Monster** 7

## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE APRIL 16 MEETING

#### **Residents Seek Improved Postal Service**

Several months ago, in connection with the efforts of resident Carole Weinhaus, Council members discussed the quality of service at the Harvard Square and Porter Square branches of the US Postal Service. A number of council members complained of long wait times at what appeared to be understaffed Post Offices, and the loss of self-service machine access at Porter.

To address these issues, Joanne Killackey-Hogan, Community Relations Coordinator for the Boston District Post Office, attended the council meeting to listen to residents' problems and inform residents about Postal Service issues and improvements. Ms. Killackey-Hogan told the council, "We are interested in providing improved service to the residents of Cambridge. We're trying to develop a stronger presence in

the neighborhoods, and hope to create dialogue within the community."

On the path to providing better service, Ms. Killackey-Hogan explained that Cambridge already has an existing Customer Advisory Council with representatives for each neighborhood. She is currently seeking to fill six vacancies on the council, which meets monthly. Also, Cambridge has a new acting Postmaster, Cathy Barsotti. As many Post Office decisions are made on the national level, Ms. Killackey-Hogan noted the importance of receiving local feedback. "When we get feedback, we listen," she stated, "We're working to be responsive to our customers' needs."

Ms. Weinhaus thanked Ms. Killackey-Hogan for attending the meeting, stating, "There has been marked improvement since we first voiced our concerns."

Concluding her visit, Ms. Killackey-Hogan took note of the issues listed below. Residents with specific issues should contact her directly at (617) 575-8738, providing their names and addresses so that she can research delivery related problems.

Members of the Council voiced the following

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**MAY 21 - 7:30 PM**

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

### **AGENDA**

The Council will vote to approve the slate for the 2008 Board of Directors. All are welcome to attend, meet the Board, and enjoy light refreshments.

concerns:

- Long wait times
- Package delivery notices arriving late or not at all
- Mail frequently mis-delivered
- Residents would like postal rates posted at Porter
- Mail often arrives too late in day for a home business
- Residents request a visible clock at Harvard Square
- Residents ask that postal workers refrain from depositing rubber bands on the sidewalks
- Residents request a scale and new self-service machine at Porter

**Board Nominees To Be Announced**

Board Co-chairs Miriam Goldberg and Andrea Walsh informed the council that the Nominating Committee for the board will send notice of the Nominee Slate once it has been confirmed. This notice will be sent via email to attendees of the April ANC meeting, and printed in the May *Whistler*.

**Lesley Development**

**Notes from Lesley/Community Working Group Meeting**

Members of the Lesley/Community Working Group recently discussed the community's reaction to the proposed relocation of the Art Institute of Boston (AIB) to the corner of Mass. Ave. and Roseland Street. While they reported

generally favorable reactions, residents also felt Lesley University was attempting to fit too much programming at the North Prospect Church location, and that the proposed new building was too large.

In addition to other suggestions, residents asked Lesley to share its long-range plans for their other Porter Square properties (two parking lots across from University Hall on Mass. Ave.), so that the community can consider the AIB project within the context of Lesley's development plans in the Square.

Bill Doncaster, Lesley University Director of Community Relations, stated, "This has been a positive process and we want to keep the entire list of what the neighbors suggested intact. All neighbors are welcome to contact me with questions about the new AIB building at (617) 349-8525."

**Principles of Development**

Council members discussed and offered suggestions to strengthen the document titled, "Principles of Development regarding Lesley University Expansion," composed by long-time resident and community activist Willie Bloomstein. Mr. Bloomstein stated, "When we approach institutions like Lesley in a reasonable, appropriate, firm and consistent manner, good things can happen. Our hope is that President Moore will collaborate with us on a long-term strategic relationship. Just as Lesley has the opportunity to do something amazing at Porter Square, we have an opportunity to transform our relationship with the University."

Mr. Bloomstein clarified that Lesley is aware of this document and has agreed to discuss it with the community once it is ready. The document presents six principals and seeks to provide a structure for future conversations. The principles are as follows:

1. Each Lesley project should be reviewed within the context of the University's Master Plan.
2. Lesley projects should be designed and built with the goal of improving,

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not diminishing, quality-of-life in our neighborhood.

3. Lesley projects on Mass. Ave. should be designed to preserve and enhance the scale, retail use, and neighborhood-focused commercial character of the Avenue.
4. Lesley's capital improvements and day-to-day operations should emulate as green a University as possible, consistent with cost-effective technology and infrastructure constraints.
5. Lesley, working with the neighborhood and the City, should prepare a comprehensive construction mitigation plan for all projects.
6. Lesley should develop integrated transportation strategies to accommodate its expanded multi-site campus.

During the discussion of the document, residents reiterated that the Principles would be used as a tool to assist with, but not replace, direct face-to-face conversation and negotiations about individual projects. Board Director Miriam Goldberg stated, "While this is a temperate, well-constructed document, it's important to be aware that there will still be areas of conflict. We expect that there will continue to be opposing points of view between Lesley University and the neighborhood."

Bill Doncaster noted that the University's campus touches on many neighborhoods; discussions with one neighborhood group can easily impact others, making negotiations problematic. Further, he acknowledged that no document would prevent residents from speaking for or

against any proposal requiring City approval. The Council voted unanimously in support of the concept of the Principles of Development. A first draft will be circulated to the greater Agassiz community with an introductory letter to solicit input and comments from neighborhood residents about the content and wording. (Please find a copy included with the hard copy edition of this newsletter.)

### **ANCI/ABC Name Change Discussion Continued**

Miriam Goldberg and Andrea Walsh, Co-chairs, reported the Board's position about updating the agency's name in a way that is appropriate to and representative of both Board and Council.

The Board feels that the organization's original name, Agassiz Neighborhood Council, no longer fully reflects the Board's fiduciary responsibilities and the agency's function as a provider of citywide programs and services. However, both Board and Council agreed that taking separate names would divide the organization.

The Council and Board will continue to discuss and work on this issue.

## **ABC Community**

### **ABC ANNUAL MEETING**

On Wednesday, May 21, the council will vote to approve the slate (see below) for the 2008 Board of Directors.

Officers for a one-year term:

Andrea Walsh, Co Chair  
Miriam Goldberg, Co-Chair  
Hull Fulweiler, Clerk  
Maria Montgomery, Treasurer

Directors for a two-year term:

Andrea Walsh, Eustis Street  
Miriam Goldberg, Frost Street  
Stephen Diamond, Frost Street  
Fred Meyer, Hammond Street  
Anna Eckert, Kirkland Street



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Maria Montgomery, Cambridge Trust,  
1720 Mass. Ave. Branch

The board thanks the Directors who will retire in May:

Burton Doo, Director  
Denise Dussault, Treasurer

**All are encouraged to attend and meet the Board.** Light refreshments will be served.

**What:** Annual Meeting  
**When:** Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 PM  
**Where:** Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento Street, Cambridge

### **NEIGHBORHOOD STREET CLEANING**

Prepared by Cambridge DPW

The Street Cleaning Division is responsible for maintaining clean public ways through a contractual (currently Millennium Sweeper) street sweeping operation that runs from April through December each year.

Two contract sweepers are used to clean both residential streets and major City squares. The City squares are cleaned very early in the morning (between 4:00 AM and 8:00 AM). Approximately 11,000 street miles are cleaned each year, with over 5,000 tons of street refuse is collected.

The street sweeping schedule for the Agassiz neighborhood is as follows: every third Monday, from April to December, the odd side of the streets will be cleaned. Even sides will be cleaned every third Tuesday. For more information, or the full schedule, call (617) 349-4800 or visit the Public Works Department website at [www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/](http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/).

### **SACRAMENTO STREET BLOCK PARTY**

Prepared by Tyler Graham Neill

Join your neighbors on **Sunday, May 18, from 1:00-5:00 PM**, in a celebration of spring and good will. The block party will be a laid-back opportunity to meet each other, with music and

fun activities for kids ages 1 to 92. Some food will be provided, but we encourage you to feel free to bring food to share. The street will be blocked for all but local traffic for the duration of the party.

Email [tyler.g.neill@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.g.neill@gmail.com) to help make this event happen!

### **NEW BALDWIN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Cambridge Public Schools Superintendent Thomas Fowler-Finn announced the appointment of Rebecca Vyduna as principal of the Baldwin School to be effective July 1, 2008.

A 2008 graduate of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education School Leadership Program, Ms. Vyduna previously taught bilingual third grade in the Westdale School District in Northlake, Illinois, and additionally taught kindergarten at Colegio Interamericano in Guatemala City, Guatemala. She is currently completing her administrative leadership internship at the Tucker School in Milton with additional experience in the Boston Public Schools. Ms. Vyduna is fluent in Spanish, and also holds a BA degree in Education from the University of Illinois.

### **NSTAR ELECTRIC FOLLOWUP**

Prepared by Astrid Dodds, Resident

Near the end of March, I polled eight of my immediate neighbors to see how many had been getting phone alerts from Nstar prior to electrical power interruptions. The result was 50-50. Based on that (I thought) dispiriting result, I asked April Whistler readers to email me about their experience. Of the eight or nine



readers who responded, all but one said s/he had received a phone alert. Thank you to those respondents, but it sounds as though my theory of a widespread problem is baseless.

Meanwhile, there was an hour+ power interruption at about 2 AM on Wednesday, April 30. Because I got no warning, I asked the City Electrician if it was a planned interruption. It was NOT. As of late April 30, he said there was an "underground cable fault and Nstar is working to fix the problem." Meanwhile we have been "switched to another circuit." When we are "switched back to normal, there may be a momentary power outage . . . customers should receive prior notice before the switchover."

If you aren't sure if Nstar has an accurate phone number to match your electric account, get your last bill and contact Nstar Customer Service at 1 (800) 592-2000, or email your account number and and phone number to customer.service@Nstar.com.



## Agassiz Afterschool Programs

### ABC SCHOOL PROGRAMS BID FAREWELL AND HELLO

At the end of April, ABC said farewell to School Age Director, Andrea Bellomo. Ms. Bellomo was instrumental in recharging our passion for the arts at Agassiz Afterschool. Her knowledge of project based learning, and artistic vision helped make the "Flying Zucchini Cafe" a resounding success. We will miss her energy and wish her success in her move to the US's other windy city, Chicago.



In May, we will welcome **Jacy Edelman** as the new School Age Director for our arts-based afterschool and summer programs. Ms. Edelman earned her BA in English Literature from Wellesley College, as well as an MED in

Creative Arts in Learning from Lesley University.

Terry DeLancey, Executive Director, looks forward to Ms. Edelman bringing her talent and background to the ABC community. She states, "Ms. Edelman will be working with a great team of teachers and wonderful students, with a focus on project based learning. I am particularly excited about Ms. Edelman working with the Baldwin School to foster complementary learning."



Ms. Edelman states "I am thrilled to join the Agassiz Baldwin Community as the new School-Age Director! I look forward to working with the students, parents, teachers, and community members that make this program such a vibrant afterschool experience. And I am especially excited to forge ties with artists and organizations in the community in order to maintain the best of local arts programming at ABC. "

### AFTERSCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to attend the Agassiz Afterschool's Open House on Wednesday, May 7th from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Baldwin Elementary School, 28 Sacramento Street.

The open house will feature a puppet performance by Afterschool students at 6:00 PM, as well as highlights from this year's projects. Meet



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new School Age Director Jacy Edelman and enjoy face painting, weaving, and healthy snacks.

**ABC BBQ 2008 IN JUNE**

Our Annual Backyard Barbeque will be held this year on Wednesday, June 4th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM outback of 20 Sacramento Street. Children must be accompanied by adults.

Hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie options and drinks provided. Feel free to bring the following: side dishes, fruits, salads, desserts, and chips.

For more information, call (617) 349-6287.

**INTRODUCING ARTS - DEBBIE O'CARROLL'S MAGICAL THEATER**

Magician Debbie O'Carroll will preform "Magic Library," a captivating play that celebrates the joys of reading and writing. Ms. O'Carroll plays Debra Cadabra, a woman who gets lost in the library. There she, with the audience's help, explores different kinds of children's literature. Together they compose a fairy tale, a biography, a mystery, a cookbook, a science book, and a volume of poetry.



**When:** May 14, 2:00 PM  
**Where:** Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street  
**Tickets:** Afterschool groups free, \$2 per

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School groups please call ahead. For more information, call (617) 349-6287.

**OCEAN LIFE ART EXHIBIT**

Please enjoy these photos from the opening reception of Sacramento St. Preschool's 2008 art exhibit "Ocean Life."



**City Wide**

**GOGREEN MONTH**

Prepared by Cambridge Community Development Department

GoGreen Month occurs annually in May and is a month-long celebration of transportation options, recycling, and energy conservation. Events include Bike Week celebrations, commuter appreciation days, transportation fairs, and presentation of the GoGreen Business awards for outstanding environmental efforts.

For more information about GoGreen month

and the GoGreen awards, contact Stephanie Anderberg at (617) 349-4672, via the CDD TTY line at (617) 349-4621 or at [sanderberg@cambridgema.gov](mailto:sanderberg@cambridgema.gov).

See below for a GoGreen event:

**Cambridge Spring Bicycle Tour**

Join the Cambridge Bicycle Committee for a leisurely ride through the streets of Cambridge as part of the city's annual GoGreen Month activities.

The theme of this spring's bike tour is transportation history in Cambridge from pre-colonial times to the present (and maybe a glimpse of the future.)

The ride will be escorted by the Cambridge Police Department's Bike Patrol.

For more information, visit [www.cambridgebikes.org/Spring2008/](http://www.cambridgebikes.org/Spring2008/).

**Where:** Starting from Cambridge Common  
**When:** May 17, gather at 10:00 AM, depart at 10:30 AM

**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE CITYWIDE HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION**

Remembering all those who perished during the Holocaust, this year's program will again feature an interfaith evening of music, candle lighting, and remarks. Music presented by the Cambridge Community Chorus, clarinetist Ray Jackendoff, and Romani singer Petra Gelbart. Remarks will be made by Holocaust survivor Jack Trompeter. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call (617) 349-4321.



**When:** Wednesday, May 14th  
7:00-8:30 PM  
**Where:** Temple Beth Shalom of

Cambridge, 8 Tremont Street,  
Cambridge

Temple Beth Shalom is located on Tremont Street, off Broadway, near Central Square. Parking at St. Mary's Church at Harvard and Norfolk Streets is available.



**Sacramento Street Gallery**

**THE LOVE MONSTER**

Following the success of our Preschool art show, the Sacramento St Gallery presents "The Love Monster," a bright, bold, and sometimes scary collection of works created by Agassiz Afterschool students. Don't miss it!

Reception on Monday, May 5th from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. Visit the show from May 5 to May 23, 2008.

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



# Community Calendar

## May 2008

Monday, May 5	5:00 - 6:00 PM	Sacramento St. Gallery opening reception for "The Love Monster," an art show by Agassiz Afterschool students
Wednesday, May 7	5:30 - 7:00 PM	Open House at Agassiz Afterschool
Wednesday, May 14	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Wednesday, May 21	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Annual Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Monday, May 26		Memorial Day Holiday, ABC School Programs and Office closed

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### THE WHISTLER MAY 2008



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