

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

November '07

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE OCT. 17 MEETING

Neighborhood Study Update

Jeff Roberts, Neighborhood Planner for the Community Development Department (CDD), joined the council to discuss an upcoming neighborhood meeting. Mr. Roberts works on zoning, land use studies, open space, and the neighborhood study program in several neighborhoods of the city, with his primary area of focus being the neighborhoods east of Mass. Ave. between Porter Square and MIT.

The neighborhood study program, which began in 1989, is a community-based planning effort which focuses on land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and open space. CDD conducted the previous neighborhood study for Agassiz in 2003. Mr. Roberts stated, "We review the short and long term timeframe, identify areas of concern, and provide recommendations for future planning."

The studies are updated approximately every four years. The update process centers on a large public meeting attended by senior staff from all the different program groups within CDD. All neighborhood residents are encouraged to attend.

The Neighborhood Study Update meeting for Agassiz will take place Saturday, November 17, from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Participants will have a chance to review the original study, and then break into smaller groups to discuss current and future planning issues for the neighborhood. The outcome of this discussion will then be used to develop updated recommendations, which will be reviewed and published in a report, along with next steps.

Additional information is available at www.cambridgema.gov/agassiz.

Will The Maud Morgan Visual Art Center Relocate to Porter Square?

"We explained to Lesley's president that this would be controversial," stated Terry DeLancey,

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



NOVEMBER 14 - 7:30 PM

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

AGENDA

- Sgt. Oppedisano provides update of Neighborhood Crime Stats
- Representatives from Cambridge Public Works discuss streets, sidewalks, and snow plowing
- Continued discussion: Should the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center relocate to Porter Square?
- Continued discussion of ANC/ABC name change

ABC Executive Director, referring to the potential relocation of the Maud Morgan Visual Art Center (MMVAC) to Lesley University's campus. Accompanied by ABC's ten-person board, Ms. Delancey recounted the history of the MMVAC and updated the council on new developments:

Five years ago, ABC received a special permit to convert the carriage house in back of 20 Sacramento Street into a visual art center, named for and inspired by the artist Maud Morgan. Since that time, we have been tied up in court through an appeals process that has prevented the center from being built. As things developed in Porter Sq, ABC thought we might be able to provide a new home for the Agassiz Preschool in our backyard, particularly because the preschool requires a space roughly the size of what we are planning for MMVAC.

A few weeks ago, two members of the board and I met with President Moore at Lesley. Lesley University expressed interest in the potential of housing MMVAC with the Art Institute of Boston at the North Prospect Church site. Dr. Moore seems very interested in moving things forward.

We understand that there are many people in this community who have strong feelings about the North Prospect Church and the open space beside it. The Agassiz community, and other stakeholders in this project, need to provide input.

Following Ms. Delancey's explanation, Bill Doncaster, Director of Community Affairs at Lesley, added, "The new president determined that MMVAC was a good fit with AIB and met with Agassiz Preschool to see if they'd be okay with this. President Moore then met with Terry Delancey, Wendy Prellwitz, and Miriam Goldberg. Right now, the offer is to build MMVAC within the new structure on the site, and build every-

thing at once."

A number of Agassiz residents offered their first impressions, including:

- Timing; Agassiz Preschool needs to relocate by September 2008
- Protecting and honoring the purpose, intent, and impact of MMVAC
- Building the preschool behind 20 Sacramento before building the art center in Porter Square would "be very tough for our donors and community"
- Combating the perception that ABC has dropped the option of the original site due to the appeal, or that ABC is a proponent of development in Porter Square
- Efficiently collecting different points of view from community members
- Can MMVAC be built in another, less contentious location on Lesley University's campus in Porter Square?
- Can the community trust that the placement of MMVAC will be permanent?
- Would the appeal have an affect on Agassiz Preschool's relocation to the carriage house?

The council will continue this discussion at the next ANC meeting. Community members are encouraged to attend and contribute to the conversation.

Over Fifty Community Update

Miriam Goldberg, ABC Board member and long-time Agassiz resident, provided an update of activities and events planned by the Over Fifty Community. In light of the new working title of Agassiz's aging in place initiative, she also noted that the initiative is still searching for a suitable name. Suggestions are welcome.

Highlights of this season's events are the Thursday lecture series, library workshop, tai chi class, and walkers group. Ms. Goldberg told the council, "For the first Thursday lecture, 'Aging in Community' with Ann Bookman, Ann gave us an overview of what is happening in many parts of the U.S. with regards to aging in place."

On Wednesday, October 10, the Over Fifty Community, in collaboration with the Cambridge Public Library, offered a workshop on how to choose books for oneself and others. Ms. Goldberg remarked, "Three librarians presented a very lively and informative workshop."

Next up in the series is a presentation on aging and wellness connected to the Strong Women program at Tufts University. Also, in late October, the walkers group invites everyone to join them on a historical walk around the Agassiz neighborhood led by Charles Sullivan of the historical commission.

Ms. Goldberg reminded the council that anyone interested in participating with The Over Fifty Task Force, the committee that is setting the path and planning events for the Over Fifty Community, is welcome to get in touch with ABC. The Over Fifty Task Force meets once a month at 20 Sacramento St.

In addition to the Agassiz community's efforts, a consultant has received a grant from the Cambridge Agassiz Harvard fund to publish a directory of services available to the senior population. The city also holds quarterly meetings held at the Senior Center where organizations from all over the city can network around this issue.

"Things are evolving on a very positive level,"

Fred Meyer, Realtor
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stated Miriam, "We'll keep you posted as these initiatives develop."

Name Change Discussion

A discussion was held on the recent Board decision to change the name of the existing non-profit corporation from Agassiz Neighborhood Council to Agassiz Baldwin Community. The name "ANC" would continue to be used for the organized community meetings each month. Several community members expressed surprise and objections to the change, and Board members present agreed that more community involvement should have taken place.

The Council and Board have elected to continue their discussion of the name change at the next ANC meeting. Additionally, council members who wish to take part in working on the agency's bylaws to clarify the present situation are welcome to contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

ABC Community

ANC SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is seeking input from the residents regarding a potential partnership with the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center and the Arts Institute of Boston (a program of Lesley University.) For more information, please read the selection below. To get involved contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

History & Overview

Earlier this year, a committee that included Terry DeLancey, Wendy Prellwitz and Miriam Goldberg explored the subject of a partnership between the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center (MMVAC) and the Arts Institute of Boston (AIB). The committee met with President Joseph Moore of Lesley University in late September regarding this topic. Dr. Moore expressed genuine interest in a partnership, and in moving ahead with plans. However, he emphasized that the

MMVAC must be located at the church site where all other AIB studio space would also be sited.

The ANC group feel that, if the art center is relocated to Porter Square, it should be sited in University Hall, formerly the Porter Exchange building, for several reasons: the location seemed the safest to drop off children in Porter Square, it was somewhat separate from the college-age students and any possible unsuitable subject matter, and the group hoped that the center would be built soon. This would allow Agassiz Preschool to work toward a new building in the carriage house behind 20 Sacramento Street, where the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center was originally proposed.

The architects, Bruner-Cott, had advised the community at an open meeting that Lesley would need to seek zoning relief for the church site in order to meet the needs of AIB. Since the Maud Morgan Visual Art Center would be part of that renovation, it seemed necessary to advise the ANC, which the committee did at the October meeting. The committee, concerned that the possible partnership would cause conflict in the community, urged the ANC to help begin a process where the issues regarding Lesley's plans for the church property could be fully explored and discussed.

THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES

Agassiz "After Fifty" Thursday Lecture Series presents a talk by Rebecca Seguin: "Growing Stronger: Healthful Eating and Exercise for Older Adults."

Date: Thursday, November 8
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Lesley University Amphitheater University Hall, (formerly Porter Exchange) Second Floor 1815 Mass. Ave, Enter at south door (nearest to Roseland St.)

Rebecca Seguin directs the Strong Women Program –a nationally disseminated, research-based community exercise program targeted to mid-life and older women.



Responsible for the training and support of more than 1,500 program leaders across 41 states, she also manages the ongoing research efforts related to that program.

Ms. Seguin, a freelance writer and editor, is also lead author of the book "Growing Stronger: Strength Training for Older Adults," a public-health focused book for older adults that was funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

TAI CHI AT ABC, Q & A

Prepared by Seddon Wylde

We meet at 20 Sacramento Street in Cambridge. The class has started but will continue forever, so join us on Mondays at 6 PM. Please read below for questions asked of Tai Chi teacher Marin Spivack.

- Q. What can I do to help me walk on Cambridge brick sidewalks?
- A. Well for one, Taijiquan practice will help develop basic balance and sensitivity to information coming to the brain from the limbs. Since we do so much work with feeling how we place our weight on the ground, uneven surfaces become more manageable. Besides that, we also work on developing better strength in standing structure of the body, which allows us to transfer weight better and lift our feet up while walking.



Q. How will Tai Chi help me do that?

A. It is complicated to explain but, as we learn to differentiate between Yin (empty) and Yang (substantial) in the legs, the leg stepping forward is always empty, (meaning does not hold the body's weight) therefore, catching one's toe (on an empty leg) on a raised brick is much less likely to cause the whole body to fall. It's a lot of work with the weight on one leg, even when two legs are on the ground.

Q. Would Tai Chi help my aching knees?

A. I believe it would. Some of the annoyances of aging are not possible to reverse as we know, but many can be managed at least and kept in check to a certain extent. When arthritic knees become painful, for example, many people will tend to simply use them less, which results in a sort of overall weakness of the joint. This becomes a compounded problem that leads to the joint not only being painful, but unusable as well.

I suggest everyone check with their own medical providers for the best advice about this, but it seems most often people are recommended some form of physical therapy to keep the knees strong. Taijiquan practice will definitely strengthen the musculature supporting the knee joint. It may not stop arthritis, but it will help the knees to be supported and useful, and it's more fun than physical therapy. This opinion is, of course, biased!

Q. I'm SOOOO busy and don't have the time.

How long must I practice every day?

A. Stretch/exercise while you're waiting for the bath to run or the kettle to boil. Even once a week is better than nothing.

Ideally, one hour per day would be great to shoot for, but in the beginning, before we have you properly addicted and you don't have enough to practice yet, anytime is good. Like we discussed in class, we have to maintain our houses, we have to maintain our cars and our businesses. They all require fairly constant attention, so why is our own real home (our body) so much less important? If we don't fix our roof when needed, it falls in and that is no party. If we ignore the needs of the body, that's no party either. The real way is everyday.

Marin Spivack
Chen Zhaokui Taijiquan Association, N. A m e r i c a

SNOW REMOVAL SERVICE

Welcome to another cold weather season in New England! ABC is proud to continue our snow removal service, available to any resident of the Agassiz Neighborhood and adjacent neighborhoods (Neighborhood 9, Porter Sq, and Mid-Cambridge) age 50 years or older.

We have contracted with D&M Masonry & Restoration of Brighton, MA to provide snow removal services to local residents including any combination of driveway, walkways, sidewalks, stairs, and salt/sanding. Please read below for details:

- The service period begins on or after November 1, 2007 and ends on or before April 30, 2008.
- This is a fee service and requires a contract to enroll.
- Residents enrolled in this program will pay monthly to ABC.
- Group discounts are available.



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D&M Masonry & Restoration is an established, reputable business that is fully insured with general liability and worker's compensation. To enroll or get additional information, please contact Phoebe Sinclair of ABC at (617) 349-6287 x10 or email her at psinclair@agassiz.org.

Please pass this information on to anyone you know who might be interested in our snow shovel service! Thank you.

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK FEAST

Join us for our 36th annual event! ANC families and neighbors are encouraged to bring a side dish and join this unique, long standing community celebration.

We're looking for volunteers to cook a turkey (we will deliver a free turkey to your home) and carve turkey on the evening of the event. To volunteer, contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org

Thanksgiving Potluck Feast 2007

Tuesday, November 20
6 - 8 PM, Baldwin School
28 Sacramento Street
(at the corner of Oxford and
Sacramento Streets)

**Share a meal and celebrate
the Agassiz-Baldwin community
as the holiday season begins**

Please read below for statements submitted by Cambridge School Committee and City Council candidates.

School Committee

Luc Schuster

I am excited to be running for a second term on the School Committee. I grew up in Common Place, a housing cooperative on Oxford Street and attended the Agassiz Preschool and the Agassiz School. I now live on Eustis Street.



During my first term on the Committee, while teaching GED classes and doing organizing work for adult education programs, I provided active budget oversight and a commitment to educating the whole child (for more: www.voteluc.org). First-term incumbents have a difficult time winning re-election; I hope to earn your #1 votes in order to continue this important work.

City Council

Henrietta Davis

I've been on the City Council for 12 years and before that I served on the School Committee. I'm a full time Councilor, concentrating on the following; energy and environment, children's health, family housing, safer biking and walking, seniors' quality of life, and bridging the digital divide.



City Wide

MUNICIPAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 6

Vote for Cambridge City Council and Cambridge School Committee candidates on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. Agassiz residents vote at the Baldwin School, 28 Sacramento Street. Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM.

THE SUPER
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MICHAEL TURNER
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156 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-491-1991
Fax 617-576-2945

Whenever I see a way that Cambridge can become better, I work with residents, neighborhood groups, parents, officials, environmental activists, and professionals to get results! I've been involved with the Agassiz/Baldwin neighborhood as former co-director of the Agassiz Preschool. I'm advocating for the preschool to remain in the neighborhood. Check my website www.henriettadavis.org.

Jonathan Janik

With new ideas and a fresh perspective, I will give you an unmatched level of commitment and energy that will answer the needs of our community. I want to represent you and I am asking for your #1 vote.



I offer a practical, sensible approach as to how government should work for you. I am running on common sense, quality of life issues such as synchronizing traffic signals, cleaning up our squares, fostering policies that support local business growth, and creating more opportunities for homeownership. I will listen to you and consider all sides before taking a position. www.jonathanjanik.org.

David Maher

As a lifelong resident of Cambridge, and a homeowner with deep roots in our community, I have fourteen years of civic leadership. As a City Councillor and School Committee Member, I feel that I'm uniquely qualified to hit the ground running on issues that affect the daily quality of life.



I am passionate about our city and the issues that concern us. Some of my top priorities are protecting homeowners from escalating property taxes, improving our public schools, rebuilding and maintaining our public open spaces, and making our neighborhoods safe.

I ask for your #1 vote on Tuesday, November 6th.

Kevin Moore

Kevin Moore is concerned about the myriad of changes that have impacted the city over the last several years, including, but not limited to:



- * The erosion of affordable housing in the city
- * The lack of educational and athletics programs for the youth of our city
- * The reduction of social programs and the increase health care cost especially for the elderly

He's committed to the hard, important, and exciting work of running for City Council of Cambridge. Progress on these challenges will require thoughtful policies; hard work; and most important, leadership with candor and respect, vision and purpose, integrity and accountability.

Kathy Podgers

I have advocated for Seniors and Persons With Disabilities, ADA compliance, aging in place, keeping sidewalks free of snow and ice, as well as repairing them in compliance with the MA Safety Code. I have circulated petitions for community policing, more cops on bikes, more bike parking, and preserving natural space. I believe in social justice and feel the gap between rich and poor is growing, and middle class is fleeing. I believe the City Council must be more transparent and heed laws. www.votekathy.blogspot.com



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Peter33087@wr.advisors.com

Denise Simmons

Your voice in City Hall, I stand for improved city services to neighborhoods, equality and access for all citizens, good schools for all children, safe neighborhoods, a strong service net for seniors and families, strong economic development through job and small business opportunities, and diverse neighborhoods through affordable housing.



I am a lifelong resident of Cambridge and a small business owner closely attuned to the needs of small businesses. I am raising three of my grandchildren who are attending Cambridge public schools. My ten years on the Cambridge School Committee attest to my commitment to the quality of public education.

Sam Seidel

I am running for the Cambridge City Council because I believe our city has changed in many ways over the past two decades. For one, Cambridge has become a much more expensive city to live in; we need new people on the Council to address these new challenges.



I am an urban planner by training. Two specific areas of interest of mine are the environment and early childhood education. I was an Agassiz resident for four years when I lived on Gorham Street.

Tim Toomey

Leadership and experience are the keys to ensuring that city government works for the residents of the Agassiz neighborhood. As your City Councillor for nine terms, I have extensive knowledge of how Cambridge's government works, and the leadership skills and initiative to provide the services you expect and deserve. I work hard every day to meet my commitments to you. I want to continue my hard work



on your behalf for the next two years, and I ask for your #1 vote for Cambridge City Council on Tuesday, November 6th.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

What's new in children's books?

Cambridge Public Library and Porter Square Books will host a free evening with Barefoot Books, Candlewick Press, Charlesbridge Publishing, Houghton Mifflin, and Melanie Kroupa/Farrar Straus Giroux.

Come hear from our local publishers about the best and brightest of this season's new books! Families, teachers, librarians, and all fans of children's literature are welcome.

When: Thursday, November 29 at 6:00 PM
Where: Porter Square Books, Porter Square Shopping Center, Cambridge

Books will be on sale. A percentage of the evening's proceeds will benefit the Friends of Cambridge Public Library.

For more information call: (617) 349-4038, TTY (617) 349-4421.



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Agassiz Afterschool Programs

INTRODUCING ARTS - DERALDO FERREIRA & THE AFRO BRAZILIAN ENSEMBLE

This lively show highlights three principal elements of Brazilian culture: music, martial arts, and dance. The performance weaves all these elements together with a sense of humor and play. The rhythms played throughout the show are steeped in the traditions of the past, brought into the present through soulful interpretation.



When: November 8, 2:00 PM
Where: Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street, Cambridge,
Ticket Price: Afterschool groups free
\$2 per person, \$5 per family

School groups please call ahead. For more information, call (617) 349-6287 x10.

KIDS ONLY HOLIDAY SALE 2007

Kids Only Holiday Sale

Sale held at
20 Sacramento Street in the Gallery
Weekdays starting Tuesday Dec. 4
ending Friday Dec. 14, Open 3 - 6 PM
Proceeds Benefit ABC School Programs Scholarship Fund

Fun and inexpensive gifts for kids to purchase for family and friends in a safe environment with the help of Agassiz Afterschool staff.

2007



Sacramento Street Gallery

SMALL WORKS SHOW 2007

The Sacramento Street Gallery presents: **Small Works Show 2007** -Cambridge Artists Support the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Building Fund. 50% of all profits benefit the Fund.

Don't miss out on what many have called an exceptional show!

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



"Note in the Margin"
Phyllis Ewen


"Roads to Hoe"
Toby Atlas



"Stride"
Jeannie Motherwell

Community Calendar

November 2007

Thursday, November 8	2:00 PM	Introducing Art Performance "Deraldo Ferreira & the Afro Brazilian Ensemble" at Agassiz Afterschool, Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento St.
Monday, November 12		Veterans' Day Holiday, Cambridge Public Schools, Agassiz School Programs & ABC office closed
Wednesday, November 14	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Wednesday, November 14	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Tuesday, November 20	6:00 - 8:00 PM	 36th Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Feast
Thursday, November 22		Thanksgiving, Cambridge Schools, Agassiz School Programs & ABC office closed through Friday, November 23rd

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by email or mail. 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 NOVEMBER 2007



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