

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

October '07

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>ANC News: Review of Law School Implementation Agreement, Harvard U. Updates, Lesley U. Working Group Report, Agency Name Change</b>	<b>1 - 4</b>
<b>ABC Community: ABC Board, ABC Thanks Volunteers</b>	<b>4 - 5</b>
<b>ABC Community: Thursday Lecture Series Begins!</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>City Wide: Cambridge School Committee Candidate Statements, Agassiz Preschool Gala, Urban Gardens</b>	<b>5 - 7</b>
<b>ABC School Programs: Intro. Arts Performance, Two Site Director Intros.</b>	<b>8 - 9</b>
<b>Sacramento St. Gallery: Small Works '07</b>	<b>9</b>

## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE SEPT. 19 MEETING

#### **Agassiz Residents Review Harvard Law School Implementation Agreement**

Long-time Agassiz resident and advocate Willie Bloomstein lead a discussion on the completed "Harvard Law School Implementation Agreement for its proposed Northwest Corner Development and North Hall relocation project." This document describes the agreement between the Agassiz community, Neighborhood Nine, and Harvard Law School whereby all parties agree to "work cooperatively regarding North campus development projects, with the goal of identifying and advancing opportunities for mutual benefit."

Mr. Bloomstein informed the council, "This document is an attempt to capture in writing the size of the new Law School building, construction mitigation, traffic, and other items. I believe the most important piece is Harvard's

willingness to protect the retail stores at 1607-1615 Mass. Ave. (referred to as the "Bence Pharmacy" site) for a period of time."

As stated on pages six through seven of the memorandum, Harvard agrees not to apply for a building permit for a new building at the site anytime before the year 2021, barring "fire or other casualty loss." After that date, Harvard will approach the community if the university wishes to consider constructing a new building at 1607 - 1615. The document states, "Harvard will actively engage with the community in the context of the MOU and with City bodies to identify ways in which the site can contribute positively to the character of Massachusetts Avenue." Similarly, Harvard will consult with residents regarding possible redevelopment of North Hall at 1651 Mass. Ave.

Mr. Bloomstein noted that, of the Agassiz and Neighborhood Nine residents actively involved in negotiations with Harvard, either on the city-appointed Working Group or informally, only one elected not to endorse the document.

Additionally, Mr. Bloomstein read aloud several

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**OCTOBER 17 - 7:30 PM**

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

#### AGENDA

- Update on ABC "Aging in Place" Programs
- ANCI/ABC Name Change discussion continued
- Jeff Roberts of Community Development Department presents a **Neighborhood Study Update** of the Agassiz neighborhood

letters by community members who were not able to attend the evening's meeting.

Mary Power, Senior Director of Community Relations at Harvard, stated, "This project would look different if not for the process begin in this room six years ago. Before the Law School hired an architect and planner, they approached the community to discuss the scale of the school, safety, landscaping and other items. This was a very valuable process."

The council voted unanimously in support of the Law School Implementation Agreement as endorsed by members of the Agassiz community.

**Harvard University Updates**

**Northwest Science Building**

Residents who live near the intersection of Hammond and Gorham Streets asked questions about the landscape plan for the Northwest Science Building in light of the fact that the construction mitigation wall is scheduled to be removed in October.

One resident explained, "I looked at the website and asked the mitigation team about the landscaping plans. It seems that all the nice landscaping planned focuses on the university, but some of us residents who live nearby look at that corner first thing in the morning and last thing at night."

Tom Lucey, Director of Community Relations at Harvard, told the council that the university is planning extensive landscaping on this edge of

the campus. He explained that, as a result of public dialogue about this edge of the campus prior to the project, Harvard rotated the position of the Northwest Science Building and set the building back from the street by approximately ninety feet. The set back will allow for generous landscaping on this edge of the campus. The landscape plan will also address the brick emergency egress/fire control structure that is required by state building code. The planting portion of the landscape plan is scheduled for spring of 2008.



*Artist rendering of landscaping along Hammond*

**Fuel Storage at North West Science Building**

Residents asked questions relative to the fuel storage permit application for the Northwest Science Building. Major user groups for the building will be the Center for Brain Science and the Center for System Biology, both aggregates of groups once located elsewhere on campus. The university worked with the Cambridge Fire Department, which approved the use and storage plan for the building.

Regarding deliveries, Harvard reports that most trucks will utilize the Bauer head house off of Divinity Avenue. The university agrees to work to ensure that trucks are not using Oxford Street north of Everett Street. Residents may report problems regarding delivery trucks or other mitigation issues to Harvard's Mitigation Office at (617) 496-0857.

**Rockefeller Hall**

In addition to the landscaping along Hammond and Gorham Streets, the Rockefeller Hall renovation project will landscape the former surface parking lot adjacent to Rockefeller and Andover Hall. While this work will be intended to improve that area of campus, Harvard reports that there will be times during the next several

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months that pedestrian access to that area will be limited.

**Harvard Law School**

On the North Hall site, the Ukrainian house is scheduled to be placed in its final position on October 5th. The renovation of the buildings on the North Hall site are scheduled to be completed by next spring

On the Northwest corner site, demolition of the Everett Street garage is expected to be complete in the next three to four weeks. This will be followed by slurry wall operations.

Work to improve the Mass. Ave. and Everett St. intersection and to create more public on-street parking spaces on Mass. Ave. is also scheduled to begin this fall.

**Crimson Cleaners**

Mary Power provided background information regarding Harvard Law School's decision not to renew Crimson Cleaner's lease at 1609 Mass. Ave.

After Harvard bought the site in 1988, dry cleaning solvents were found in the groundwater. Harvard launched a clean up process that was completed in 1994 in accordance with Department of Environmental Protection requirements. Since that time regulations have changed.

Last November, Harvard began routine tests associated with the Harvard Law School project and discovered more dry cleaning solvents under the campus that set in motion further studies. Information from these studies is available to the community in repositories at Agassiz Baldwin Community and Cambridge Library.

Studies have been mostly under the campus, but also include the median strip and sidewalk areas. Most of the pollution they're finding is beneath the campus. Harvard is also providing information to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and providing regular reports to the City's health liaison.

In response to a question from an Agassiz resident about why the dry cleaning business was not renewed, Ms. Power explained that it was necessary to demolish and rebuild the interior of the store to identify and remove any hazardous materials. Also, to have accurate results for continuing studies of groundwater and air conditions, they needed to eliminate any vapors due to continuing use of dry cleaning solvents.

In response to a question about whether the pollution occurred recently and since the 1994 clean up, Power replied, "We don't know when the solvents were released. It may not be new." She added, "Harvard's studies will take some time, but they've been going forward as quickly as possible."


Concluding the discussion, Willie Bloomstein stated, "I hope there will be some real dialogue around a new tenant for that space. I hope Harvard will replace Crimson Cleaners with a family-run business." Harvard noted that they are not currently seeking new tenants.

**Lesley Working Group Report**

Stephen Diamond, a member of the city-appointed Lesley/Neighborhood Working Group, reported that the group recently met with Lesley University President Joseph B. Moore and Dean Stan Trecker. Mr. Diamond described the meeting as "positive" and stated, "We're trying to get Lesley to provide a master plan of all of their properties before they began

**Fresh Pond Ballet**

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- \* Pre-Ballet for 4 Year Olds
- Youth \* Teen \* Adults
- \* Sprung Floor & Marley for Safety



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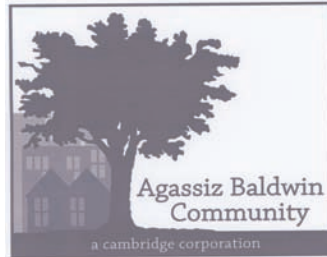
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[www.freshpondballet.com](http://www.freshpondballet.com)  
617-491-5865

a physical schematic architectural plan of the church property to house the Art Institute of Boston.”

Joel Bard, also a member of the working group, noted, “We were impressed with the new president. He seems generally interested in the neighborhood and issues regarding planning.”

**ANC Changes Agency Name**

Board member Andrea Walsh joined the council to introduce the agency’s new name. She explained, “After a long conversation, the board decided to take a new name that catches up with our mission. Our programs, once focused on the neighborhood, are now Cambridge-wide. We also wanted to establish a stronger connection to Maria Baldwin, a historical figure who very important to this community.”



*Ms. Walsh explained that the tree is intended to signify vitality and growth.*

Ms. Walsh noted that, although the agency’s name changed to Agassiz Baldwin Community,

A Cambridge Corporation (ABC), the programs (Agassiz Neighborhood Council, Agassiz After-school, etc.) will retain their names. To introduce the new name to the neighborhood, ABC created packets containing information about the name change, upcoming ABC programs, and September Whistler newsletters. These were left on doorsteps in eye-catching biodegradable bags. Neighbors who did not receive a bag are welcome to pick one up at 20 Sacramento St.

Several members of the council expressed concern about the name change. To address issues regarding the name change and communication between board and council, Andrea Walsh, Stephen Diamond, and council members agreed to continue the discussion at the next ANC monthly meeting.

# ABC Community

## ABC BOARD

Agassiz Baldwin Community Board member Burton Doo has resigned as board co-chair, but will stay on as a board member. Miriam Goldberg has assumed the co-chair position as of September 19, 2007 with a vote of the board.

## ABC THANKS VOLUNTEERS

### Neighborhood Newsletter Drop

ABC extends gratitude to community members who assisted with our packet drop to 1500 homes and business. The packets contained September Whistler newsletters, information on our agency’s name change, upcoming ABC aging in place programs, an introduction to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, and the September meeting agenda –all in an attractive, biodegradable bag.

Thanks, volunteers, for all your hard work!

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Harriet Ahouse   | Miriam Goldberg   |
| Umberto De Ros   | Jamila Smith-Dell |
| Stephen Diamond  | Jill Stearns      |
| Larry Faye       | Andrea Walsh      |
| Chantal Fujiwara | Steven Winter     |
| Hull Fulweiler   | Seddon Wylde      |

**Fred Meyer, Realtor**  
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 Licensed real estate appraiser.

See all available homes now at  
[agassizhomes.com](http://agassizhomes.com)  
[harvardyard.com](http://harvardyard.com)

**Landscaping at ABC**



ABC thanks Agassiz resident Janet Burns for her help with landscaping at 20 Sacramento Street.

**THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES BEGINS**

Mark your calendars to attend these upcoming Agassiz "After 50" Lectures.

**"Aging in Community,"** presented by **Ann Bookman** of MIT Workplace Center

Date: Thursday, October 11  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: Lesley University Amphitheater  
1815 Mass. Ave, 2nd Floor

**"Aging and Wellness,"** presented by **Rebecca Seguin** of Tufts Strong Women Program

Date: Thursday, November 8  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: Lesley University Amphitheater  
1815 Mass. Ave, 2nd Floor

Also coming up:  
**Choose A Book!**

Workshop presented by Cambridge Librarians

Date: Wednesday, October 10  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Location: Cambridge Main Library  
359 Broadway

Description: Find out what's new in literature for all ages. Workshop designed for adults only.

**Sunday Historic Walk around Agassiz Neighborhood**

Date: Sunday, October 28  
Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM



Location: Meet at Mellen St/Mass. Ave. corner

Description: The Agassiz neighborhood originated in the 17th century as an agricultural area. When the neighborhood developed in the 19th century, each cross street assumed a different character. The tour will discuss the development of each farm and explore today's diverse urban fabric.

**URBAN GARDENS**

Please enjoy this photos of cool weather gardens submitted by Stephen Diamond.



**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.

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

**Fred Fantini**

One of the things that make Cambridge a great

city is its unified public school system, including the single high school. This year, more than at any time in recent memory, we can look ahead with so much more hope and promise for the stakeholders of our school system. We've made difficult decisions, and we've looked forward. Everyone will benefit!



**Marc McGovern**

My name is Marc McGovern and I am asking for your #1 vote for School Committee in November. I attended the Cambridge Public Schools (including the Agassiz Elementary School), am a CPS parent, and have 20 years of experience working with Cambridge's children. I have 15 years of experience as a professional social worker, working in special education and with special needs children, both in schools and with large state agencies. Politically, I served on the Committee in 2004 and 2005 and led the way on issues such as budget transparency, special education, early childhood education and anti-bullying programming. If elected, I will continue these efforts and address our achievement gap, controlled choice system, and facility issues.



We have:

- strong and stable leadership and management,
- financial resources,
- debt stabilization fund which supports renovations & repairs to our schools,
- 99% of our seniors have passed the state MCAS test,
- budget increases of less than 2% for the last three years,
- no fees for student participation in extra curricular activities like music instruction and sports,
- a new special education director hired, along with two parent ombudspersons,
- strong and productive collaborations with local universities,.
- and highest kindergarten enrollment in ten years.

I have worked very hard to build consensus and focus on the future. As we continue the job of transforming our schools and pursuing excellence, I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve you. Families demand excellence and everyone wants to see results. I'm prepared to do both.



This year's School Committee election is very important. There is an open seat, meaning at least one non-incumbent will be elected. I ask that you think about this election as a job interview and hire the most experienced person for this position. I believe that I have the personal, professional and political experience to bring our schools to the next level, but must have your #1 vote to be successful. Thank you.

**Nancy Tauber**



Nancy Tauber has the background in education to address the critical issues facing our schools. She is a certified middle school teacher with 12 years of experience. She is also a parent, active volunteer in the schools, and the co-Chair of the Graham and Parks School Council.

Nancy is running for School Committee because Cambridge needs educational leaders who are not only committed to excellent public schools, but who understand public schools and know first-hand what works in the classroom. Nancy will listen to all stakeholders and work with fellow Committee members to enhance successes and fix areas in need of improvement.

	<p><b>Peter J Meyersohn, CFP</b> Senior Financial Advisor</p>
<p>400 W. Cummings Park #3650 Woburn, MA 01801- 6591 781-933-2067 ex. 108</p> <p>(Personal Office) 48 Sacramento Street Cambridge, MA 02138 617-661-3080 Peter.33087@wradvisor.com</p>	 <p>• Personal Financial Planning • Mutual Funds • Life and Disability Insurance* • Long Term Care Insurance*</p> <p>* Offered through arrangements with other companies</p> <p><b>Investing, With a Plan®</b> Member SPIC</p>

Nancy will focus on positive and thoughtful change. She is committed to improving the quality of our middle grades and fight for more after school options for 11-14 year olds. She will advocate for recruiting and retaining a diverse range of excellent teachers and support principals so they can accomplish these goals. She will work for clean, safe, and respectful school environments. Most importantly, Nancy will insist on challenging all students to reach their full potential.

**Patty Nolan**

I'm thrilled to be on School Committee and proud of fulfilling many campaign promises. I have been an independent voice and a force for principled, positive change. Working collaboratively with people across the district, I focus on one goal: with our \$23,000 per student and our community, Cambridge can be the best district in MA.



I hope you have followed our work and appreciate my contribution. I pledged to stand up for excellence, respect, openness, and transparency. I pledged to: work on comprehensive market research, direct more dollars into classrooms, base policy making on comprehensive information, encourage family participation, and show leadership in environmental responsibility. I have had substantive success with each of these promises!

You can count on me to celebrate our achieve-

ments and improvements, and be honest about our shortcomings and advocate for all children. You can count on me to assess data honestly, openly, fully. Effectively addressing problems starts with honest self-assessment. Teachers and educational leaders are the heart of our success, and deserve respect, appreciation, and a nurturing environment. In turn, we deserve accountability, excellence, and an engaged learning environment.

To continue being a positive and constructive change agent, I must be re-elected. I hope I've earned your #1 support.

With professional experience in education and management, I offer a powerful combination of skills – exactly the skills to move the Cambridge Public Schools forward.

**Gail Lemily Wiggins**

It's essential that we define an educational vision for our middle schools – and I have direct experience in middle school and as a member of two School Councils. Equally important - hiring the best teachers. I have over a decade of experience in hiring, training and evaluation. A 14-year Cambridge Public School parent, I also know the system's weaknesses and strengths.



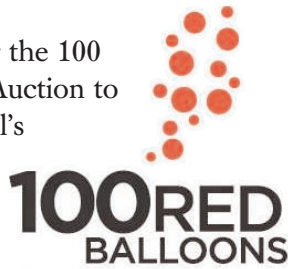
Throughout our sons' years at the Tobin, Fitzgerald, Graham & Parks, and CRLS, I was an active volunteer. After more than fifteen years of experience in non-profits and corporations, and as part of a Budget Advisory Committee, I can also step right in and handle budget issues.

As a former public school kid myself, I believe passionately in the transformative power of public education. Starting at a community college, I earned degrees from Boston College (BA), Harvard (Ed.M.), and Boston University (MBA). Today, I work helping disadvantaged young people make the leap to higher education – I want to use my skills now to help every child in Cambridge thrive.

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### AGASSIZ PRESCHOOL FUND RAISING GALA

Buy your tickets now for the 100 Red Balloons Gala and Auction to benefit Agassiz Preschool's Relocation Fund.



When: Saturday, October 20th  
6:30 – 11:00 PM

Where: Arts for Humanity Epicenter, Fort Point Channel Arts District, South Boston

Tickets: \$65 per person. To purchase visit [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/20126](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/20126)

Book a babysitter now, pick your favorite dancing shoes, and join us for the 100 Red Balloons Gala Benefit and Auction to benefit Agassiz Preschool. Visit our auction website at [www.agassizpreschool.org](http://www.agassizpreschool.org) for a sneak preview of some of the incredible prizes!

This event, as you know, is critical to Agassiz's urgent quest for a new home. We continue to be grateful for your support and participation. We look forward to seeing you on October 20th!



### Agassiz Afterschool Programs

#### CINDERELLA

Prepared by Andrea Bellomo, School Age Director

On early release day we enjoyed a performance of Cinderella by the Tanglewood Marionettes.

The performance was a puppet show with exciting twists. Instead of the pumpkin turning into a carriage, it became a hot air balloon that the children could touch. The backdrop of the performance was a giant storybook, which the performers flipped the pages of to create new sets.



Afterschool Programs and families from all over Cambridge joined us. Please feel welcome to join us for future early release day performances.

Next up:

#### POLYNESIAN DANCE WITH LOLA

In Collaboration with Club Passim's Culture for Kids Program

A grass skirt, a hula, and lei . . . oh my. Spend an afternoon dreaming of tropical breezes and learning the tradition of the hula with Polynesian Dance. Kids will also have a chance to make leis following the performance.



When: Wednesday, October 17  
2:00 PM

Where: Baldwin School Stage  
28 Sacramento Street, Cambridge

Tickets: Afterschool groups free  
\$2 per person, \$5 for family groups

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

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### AFTERSCHOOL WELCOMES TWO SITE DIRECTORS

#### Yoni Gordon, 1-5 Site Director

Well, hello there! My name is Yoni Gordon and I'm very happy to say that this is my second year here at ABC. Last year I worked as the 4/5 Site Director, and this year I will be the 1-5 Site



Director. I am really looking forward to seeing some familiar faces as well as meeting a whole bunch of new folks.

Prior to joining ABC, I worked as a classroom assistant teacher at the Work Force in Cambridge and as a substitute teacher in the Somerville Public School District. When not at Afterschool, I'm off playing shows and writing new songs for my band.

#### Colleen Finn, Kindergarten Site Director

I am excited to be working in a program that teaches through art-based curriculum, and to be working in a new classroom. I'm a recent graduate of Salem College with a BA in Fine Arts and concentration in Graphic Design.



Afterschool programs have been a passion of mine since I started working, at age sixteen, at the Cambridge Program for individuals with special needs, and later in Somerville Community Schools. I come to the Agassiz Afterschool with six years experience working with this age group. I look forward to using my experience to make this year fun and educational.



## Sacramento Street Gallery

### SMALL WORKS SHOW 2007

The Sacramento Street Gallery presents: **Small Works Show '07** -Cambridge Artists Support the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Building Fund. 50% of all profits benefit the Fund.

Please join us for the opening reception on Friday, October 12 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served.

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



"della terra"  
Gina Halstead

"Mandala"  
David Phillips



"Dwelling #5"  
Prilla Smith Brackett




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*I strive to exceed your expectations.*

# Community Calendar

## October 2007

Monday, October 8		Columbus Day Holiday, Cambridge Public Schools, Agassiz School Programs & ABC Office closed
Wednesday, October 10	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Friday, October 12	5:00 - 8:00 PM	Small Works Show 2007 Reception at Sacramento St. Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street, 1st Floor
Wednesday, October 17	2:00 PM	Introducing Art Performance "Hula" at Agassiz Afterschool, Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento St.
Wednesday, October 17	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome

*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](http://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 OCTOBER 2007



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Cambridge, MA 02138  
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