

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

November 2012

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE OCT. 9 MEETING

#### **Living Well Network Fall Programming**

Colin Barr, Coordinator for the Living Well Network (LWN), ABC's initiative that supports people age 55 and older to age well in their community, provided details about programming for fall 2012.

Mr. Barr stated, "The Living Well Network helps to reduce isolation and increase vitality: educational, cultural, and physical."

Stephen Diamond, ANC Meeting Chair, ABC Board Director, and LWN Member, explained: "LWN grew out of a strong determination of the Board to support and provide activities for people who are getting older, and wish to remain in the neighborhood. I strongly recommend it to everyone."

#### **Agassiz Neighborhood Path**

Efforts have begun to create a second edition of the Agassiz Neighborhood Path, a walking route through the neighborhood that identifies places and plants of interest. Additional volunteers are sought to help plan, research, and create a new path and map for spring 2013.

To get involved, contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org).

This project is supported by a grant from the Cambridge Agassiz Harvard (CAH) Fund.

View the original path and map online at <http://bit.ly/agassiz-path>.

#### **Cooking with Kids**

Cooking with Kids is an intergenerational and educational program that invites adult volunteers to cook with students enrolled in Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool, focusing on healthy, delicious food, and nutrition.

To learn more or get involved, visit [www.agassiz.org/living-well/cooking-with-kids](http://www.agassiz.org/living-well/cooking-with-kids) or contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10, [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org).

Enjoy photos from Cooking with Kids on ABC's Flickr page at <http://bit.ly/flickr-cooking-with-kids>.

#### **Forever Creative**

Forever Creative is a newly launched art program for over-55 populations in Cambridge. Participants from Cambridge Community Center, Margaret Fuller House, East End House,

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**NOVEMBER 13 - 7:30 PM**

Maud Morgan Arts  
20A Sacramento Street  
2D Studio, 2nd Floor

#### **Agenda**

- **Proposed development at 1725 Mass. Ave. (Gulf Station)**
- **Additional items to be announced**

and the Living Well Network were invited to take part in this eight-week program at Maud Morgan Arts.

In *Making Books—Life Stories/Visual Memoirs*, artist and MMA instructor Deborah Davidson is teaching students to create simple books using photos, writing, and memories. A generous donation from the CAH Fund makes it to possible offer instruction, materials, and transportation at no cost to participants.

Learn more at [www.maudmorgan.com/programs/forevercreative.htm](http://www.maudmorgan.com/programs/forevercreative.htm).

Enjoy photos from the on-going class at <http://bit.ly/forever-creative-photos>.

### **LWN Computer Lounge**

The LWN Computer Lounge provides instruction via workshops, classes, and open sessions every Wednesday from 1-3 PM at the Agassiz Baldwin Community Room located in North Hall, 1651 Mass. Ave.

Staffed by Colin Barr and a dedicated team of volunteers, participants can use one of the seven available computers or bring in their own laptop and devices, including digital cameras, tablet computers, smart phones, printers, and scanners.

Mr. Barr stated, “More often than not, we can

answer your questions or help locate resources for those we can't.”

Learn more at [www.agassiz.org/living-well/senior-computer-lounge](http://www.agassiz.org/living-well/senior-computer-lounge).

### **LWN Snow Removal Program**

The LWN Snow Removal Program has successfully provided discounted snow removal services to residents, age 55 and older, in Agassiz and contiguous neighborhoods since 2006. This year's program continues with two providers: Mastrangelo & Son's Roofing and Marco Vazquez Landscaping.

To learn more, visit [agassiz.org/living-well/snow-removal-program](http://agassiz.org/living-well/snow-removal-program), or contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10, [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org).

### **LWN Walks!**

LWN Walks!, a program encouraging walking for physical and social health, recently hosted a free tour of the deCordova Museum & Sculpture Park led by Agassiz resident and museum docent Terry Accola.

View photos online at <http://bit.ly/LWN-tour-deCordova>.



### **LWN Yoga**

LWN Yoga, taught by Agassiz resident Christine Palamidessi, offers weekly classes throughout the fall, focusing on balance, strength, relaxation, and aikido. Classes are held in Lesley University's University Hall at 1815 Mass. Ave. The fee is \$24 for a four-class series or \$10 per class.

Learn more at [www.agassiz.org/living-well/lwn-yoga-class](http://www.agassiz.org/living-well/lwn-yoga-class).

### **Support LWN Become A Member**

For a \$75 (\$100 for couples), tax-deductible donation, LWN members enjoy many free or discounted activities throughout the year,

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including unlimited access to the Computer Lounge.

Learn more at [www.agassiz.org/living-well/lwn-membership](http://www.agassiz.org/living-well/lwn-membership).

### **Lend Your Skills**

LWN is always looking for volunteers. If you have a particular interest, or know someone else who might be a good fit, contact Colin Barr at (617) 349-6287 x22, [cbarr@agassiz.org](mailto:cbarr@agassiz.org).

### **Forest Street Construction Update**

Jim Wilcox, Director of Engineering Services, and Eric Breen, Project Manager with the Cambridge Department of Public Works, provided updates about construction in the neighborhood related to the city's sewer/stormwater separation project.

### **Forest & Oxford Street Construction**

Beginning the week of October 9 and continuing as weather allows, Forest Street roadway reconstruction will be completed in phases:

- Remove all asphalt from the roadway
- Repave street
- Install new sidewalks

The following work was recently completed on Oxford between Prentiss and Beacon Sts.:

- New utilities
- New sidewalk
- Repaved roadway
- New trees

### **Frost Street**

DPW renegotiated the Forest Street contract to include sewer separation and street reconstruction on Frost Street. This project begins Thursday, October 11.

### **Q&A**

**Q:** Would the use of steel plates to cover holes in the street speed the process?

**A:** Instead of using steel plates, which the DPW finds problematic, they back-fill at the end of each day with gravel.

**Q:** Is Somerville undertaking a similar sewer separation project?

**A:** Somerville has been cooperative with Cambridge's project, but DPW representatives were unable to comment on the other city's overall plans.

**Q:** Will you save affected trees?

**A:** Yes. If a tree needs to be removed, DPW will replant one following construction.

**Q:** The fire hydrants seem to be set very high. Is this due to construction?

**A:** Yes. The height of the hydrants is associated with sidewalk reconstruction. Since the Fire Department prefers them taller for better access, the hydrants may remain at this height.

### **Council Response**

The Council voted to request that any new tree pits be dug in accordance to recently developed standards via the Mass. Ave. Master Plan. This would allow for increased space for roots and better access to water.

Additionally, the Council asked DPW to pilot laying porous asphalt beneath the sidewalk bricks near tree pits, creating a more permeable surface. If successful, other areas of the neighborhood and city could benefit from similar efforts to improve conditions for street trees.

Finally, there was also a request that the Cambridge Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation repaint the central stripe on Roseland Street. Mr. Breen agreed to contact the department on this point.

### **Sewer/Stormwater Separation Project Background**

Cambridge has been engaged in separating sewer water from storm water since the 1930s, with the final goal of separated systems to convey only sewer water to the treatment plant and only stormwater to the river.

Organized in program areas representing actual water-flow rather than neighborhood boundaries, the sewer separation project evolved to include reconstructing entire streets, since many are in poor condition. This includes installing new water mains, replacing gas mains, and surface enhancements such as street repaving, new sidewalks, and traffic calming measures.

In the late 1990s, to alleviate flooding, DPW began installation of holding tanks designed to contain large volumes of water from severe storms. Currently these tanks exist on Scott St., Museum St., Beacon St., beneath Harvard Yard, and beneath the Cambridge Public Library on Broadway.

The sewer separation program, primarily financed through city funds, is expected to continue for at least another decade.

### **Nearby Projects**

At Oxford/Wendell, revisions will be made to the raised intersection to install crosswalk stripes, improving visibility. ANC had previously requested this change due to safety concerns and a fatal accident at that site. The other raised intersection at Oxford/Garfield will be reconstructed as part of the Forest St. contract.

The city is beginning a large sewer separation project on Hovey Ave., near the entrance to the Spaulding Hospital, off Cambridge St.

### **Upcoming Work**

DPW is working on designs for Roseland Street and Newport Rd, and is seeking funds to begin the project next year. Lesley University will complete a portion of the sewer separation in this area as part of their mitigation process related to construction of the Art Institute of Boston.

### **Additional Information**

For information related to construction or to

receive project updates via email, contact Eric Breen at (617) 349-6954 or [ebreen@cambridgema.gov](mailto:ebreen@cambridgema.gov).

For accommodations or continuation of special services related to a disability or special need, please contact Tracy Dwyer at (617) 349-4826, [tdwyer@cambridgema.gov](mailto:tdwyer@cambridgema.gov).

For 24-hour emergency assistance, please call (617) 349-4800.

### **Planning for Sidewalk Snow Clearing**

The Council discussed city and community efforts to address snow removal in the City.

### **City Program**

Mr. Diamond reported that this year the DPW will continue to increase the scope of its snow-clearing program by clearing more major streets' sidewalks. Following every snowfall that exceeds six inches, and after streets have been plowed, additional crews will clear bus stops, crosswalks, and street corners on major streets. For the Agassiz neighborhood, this includes Mass. Ave. and Kirkland St., and possibly Oxford.

### **Community Concerns**

Council members noted that the sidewalk in front of the Sacramento Street Community Garden on Sacramento St., for which the city is responsible, is often not cleared of snow or ice.

### **Learn More**

A video was shown at the ANC meeting about problems of access with incomplete snow clearing in Cambridge. You can see it at: <http://bit.ly/cambridge-snow-psa>.

To remind residents of their snow clearing responsibilities, the Council developed a handout. This handout can be downloaded from ABC's website at [bit.ly/anc-snow-notice](http://bit.ly/anc-snow-notice), and is also available at 20 Sacramento Street.

Learn more about the city's program online at: [www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/snow.aspx](http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/snow.aspx)

**Mass. Ave. Master Plan Update**

Carol Weinhaus, Agassiz resident and Council Member, gave a brief report on the Mass. Ave. Master Plan, a collaborative effort between the residents and the city to improve the streetscape between Harvard and Porter Squares. The team working on the plan hopes to host open houses this fall, presenting the final results.

family and a few more to share. Salads, stuffings, cranberry sauce, dessert --your contributions are valued and will be quick to disappear!

**Save the Date**

**Date:** Tuesday, November 20  
**Time:** 5:30-7:30 PM  
**Location:** Maria L. Baldwin School dining hall, 28 Sacramento St.  
**Contact:** Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10, [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org)



**41ST ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK FEAST**

This November, help make Thanksgiving memorable by volunteering to cook a turkey for our 41st Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast.



**Come early! Bring food.**

**How It Works**

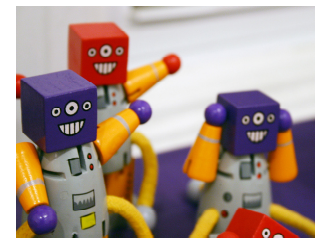
Our tradition is to deliver a free turkey and roasting pan to volunteers' homes the week of the potluck. Volunteers drop off the cooked turkey (no stuffing, please) before dinner begins on the evening of Tuesday, November 20th. We need eight volunteers to cook turkey, and four to help carve just before and during the event.

**Who Is Invited**

We welcome everyone from the neighborhood, Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs, Living Well Network, Maud Morgan Arts, and Maria L. Baldwin School communities to come together for an evening of celebration, good company, and delicious food. Please remember that while we will host kids' activities at the event, parents are ultimately responsible for their children.

**KIDS ONLY HOLIDAY SALE 2012**

Calling all kids! Calling all kids! Come to this December's Kids Only Holiday Sale to buy fun and inexpensive gifts for your family and friends. Need help picking out a gift? Just ask our staff.



Mark your calendars! The sale will be held in a new location in the 3D Studio at Maud Morgan Arts.

**What:** Annual Kids Only Holiday Sale  
**When:** Weekdays, Monday, December 5 to Friday, December 9, 3-6 PM  
**Where:** Maud Morgan Arts, 3D Studio, 1st Floor, 20A Sacramento St.  
**Contact:** Phoebe Sinclair, (617) 349-6287 x10, [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org)


**Can't Cook a Turkey?**

Bring a side dish ample enough for your

Proceeds from the sale benefit the Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs Scholarship Fund.

# Community Calendar

## November 2012

Monday, November 12		Veteran's Day holiday, ABC Programs & office closed
Tuesday, November 13	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting, see page 1 for agenda Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome
Wednesday, November 14	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
Tuesday, November 20	 5:30-7:30 PM	41st Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast, Baldwin School dining hall, 28 Sacramento St.,
Thursday, November 22		Thanksgiving Day Holiday, ABC Programs & office closed through <b>Friday, November 23</b>

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

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**DO NOT FORWARD**