

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

November 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

ANC News: LED Streetlights in Cambridge, Cambridge Police Review & Advisory Board Update 1-3

Community: Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast, Kids Only Holiday Sale 3

ANC News

NOTES FROM THE OCT. 14 MEETING

LED Streetlights In Cambridge

City Electrician Steve Lenkauskas and Glen Hienmiller, Principal at Lam Partners, a lighting design firm, visited the Council to present the city's new effort to upgrade streetlights throughout Cambridge to LEDs.

According to Mr. Lenkauskas, the city operates 4,900 basic "cobra head" style lights. Beginning June 2014, the city started installing the new LEDs following the street-cleaning schedule. The upgraded lights are more energy efficient, brighter, and can last up to twenty years.

"When the lights are first installed, they operate at 100% of the possible output," explained Mr. Lenkauskas. "[Once all the lights in an area are in operation], they are reduced to 70%. At 10 PM the lights again drop down to 35%. We're still looking at [the effect], and [considering] different levels and times."

The LED streetlights are adaptive, which means large groups can be adjusted at once, remotely, instead of each being altered individually.

At the time of the October ANC meeting, 4,400

fixtures had been installed (233 new lights, to date, in Agassiz), and the city expects to complete the project shortly.



Following the presentation, council members discussed concerns, including:

- Brightness and color temperature
- The potential for increased light pollution
- Electromagnetic frequencies
- Uneven spacing of the poles and light distribution
- Low public awareness for the project

One resident stated, "Aesthetics are very important to me and I find these lights unattractive. The blue tone is unnatural, the light pollution is significant, and there's an enormous amount of glare. It seems that we're lighting up the sky."

Responding to the question of the new lights' effect on public health, Mr. Hienmiller stated, "It's a complicated topic and the research is ongoing. From our analysis, the amount of light

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



NOV. 18 - 7:30 PM

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

Agenda:

- What's New with the Mass. Ave. Demonstration Block
- Lesley University Updates

is roughly half the levels from the old “cobra head” lights. In terms of light exposure, levels from lighting inside homes and businesses also have an impact [on people’s health]. The city didn’t do a health study, but they hired designers who are [sensitive to] these issues.”

“We’re designing to nationally recognized standards,” Mr. Lenkauskas agreed. “We don’t want to put out more light than necessary, but we have to meet those standards.”

Q&A

Q: What can be done about a light that’s too bright outside my window?

A: A cover can be placed on the light to reduce the brightness. Contact the Cambridge Electrical Department to learn more.

Q: There’s a large number of cables and items bundled on the electric poles. What are they? Are these new LED lights, the cables, and cell towers safe?

A: The cables are related to increasing communications: Internet, phone, and cable television.

Q: What color options are available to soften the LEDs? We prefer a yellow like the old tungsten lights.

A: Yellow isn’t typical among the commonly available LED streetlights. However, Cambridge tested lights for four years in different areas of the city and opted for the warmest color available.

Q: When you’re doing the installation, do you notice streets or areas that are too dark? It’s notably dark on Garfield Street when I’m coming back from the MBTA.

A: While planning, the Electrical Department reviewed pole spacing, street-width, and pedestrian and vehicular activity. Streets are given certain classifications and the city sizes light fixtures accordingly. In the event of a light obscured/dimmed by branches, the City Arborist can have the tree trimmed.

Q: Can the city provide answers to the most frequently asked questions and offer options for residents to provide feedback about the new lights?

A: Yes, and thanks for your ideas. Residents can contact the Electrical Department at: (617) 349-4925 or www.cambridgema.gov/electrical.aspx

Cambridge Police Review & Advisory Board Update

The Cambridge Police Review and Advisory Board is an independent civilian oversight agency that provides timely, fair, and impartial investigations of complaints brought by individuals against police officers. Police officers may also make use of the Board to file complaints against the Cambridge Police Department.

The Board is located at 51 Inman St, 2nd Floor, sharing space with the Cambridge Peace Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women. The Board, consisting of five civilians appointed by the City Manager, meets on the last Wednesday of each month from 6:00-8:00 PM. The public is welcome to attend.

Review Process

“We visit community groups once a year to let people know about what we do and teach the process of filing complaints,” stated V. Muna Kangsen, Project and Outreach Coordinator.

The Board works with the Professional Standards Unit of the Police Department to review complaints. The process can include several rounds of investigations, resolution or dismissal of the complaint, and/or professional mediation. The Board typically receives eight to eleven complaints per month.

“It’s important for citizens to know that this is an impartial board. It’s connected to the police, but has a different role,” stated Board member Lucy Murray-Brown. “Citizens know if they have a complaint about the police, they don’t

have to go to the police station, in the event they're intimidated."

How to Submit a Complaint

Individuals must submit complaints via email, phone, or in person within sixty days of the incident. To be fully valid, the complaint form must be signed in person. Learn more by visiting www.cambridgema.gov/prab or calling (617) 349-6155.

Mural Proposed for Wall Near Starbucks

A mural has been proposed for a wall directly outside of Starbucks on Shepard Street. A group of neighbors and business representatives from Agassiz and Neighborhood 9 have been in contact with the corporation. They are in the process of discovering whether Starbucks will consider a change to the design of the mural. More information will be provided at an upcoming ANC Meeting.



Community

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK FEAST

Save the date for our **43rd Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast**.

When: Tuesday, November 25,
5:30-7:30 PM
Where: Maria L. Baldwin School
Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St.

Chefs Needed

This November, help make Thanksgiving memorable by volunteering to cook a turkey. We will 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 25th. We need eight volunteers to cook turkey, and four or five to help carve just before and during the event. To volunteer, contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

Come Early, Bring Food

Bring a side dish ample enough for your family and a few more to share. Salads, stuffings, cranberry sauce, or dessert --your contributions are important.

VIP Guest List

That's you! 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.

Learn more:
agassiz.org/community/thanksgiving-potluck

KIDS ONLY HOLIDAY SALE

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.

What: Annual Kids Only Holiday Sale
When: Tuesday, Dec. 9 – Friday,
Dec. 12, 2014, 3:00-6:00 PM
Where: Maud Morgan Arts, 3D Studio,
1st Floor, 20A Sacramento St.

To learn more, visit:
agassiz.org/community/kids-only-holiday-sale

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

Community Calendar

November 2014

Thursday, November 6	6:00-8:00 PM	Flow, works by Wendy Prellwitz Reception at the Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.
Tuesday, November 11		Veteran's Day holiday, ABC Programs and Office closed,
Wednesday, November 12	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Tuesday, November 18	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome, please join us!
Tuesday, November 25	5:30-7:30 PM	43rd Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast, Baldwin School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St.
Thursday, November 27		Thanksgiving Day Holiday, ABC Programs & Office closed through Friday, November 28

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 should be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler November 2014



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

DO NOT FORWARD

VOLUNTEER WITH AGASSIZ BALDWIN COMMUNITY

Volunteer to cook a turkey for
our 43rd Annual Thanksgiving
Potluck Feast (November 25)!
Details inside . . .



@agassizbaldwin
@maudmorganarts



/agassizbaldwin
/maudmorganarts