

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

April 2011

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE MAR. 8 MEETING

New Lesley University Retail Tenant, Hi-Rise Bread Company

Hi-Rise Bread Company is looking to open a new location in the ground-floor retail space beneath Lesley University's dorm at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell St. that has been vacant since the dorm opened in August of 2009. Bill Doncaster, Director of Community Relations at Lesley University, introduced the owner of Hi-Rise Bread Company, Rene Becker, at this month's council meeting.

Hi-Rise currently operates two locations; at 208 Concord Ave. in Huron Village and at 56 Brattle Street in Harvard Square. The Harvard Square cafe was the company's first and has been open for fourteen years. The proposed 1663 Mass. Ave. location will offer café-style dining, including hot and cold sandwiches,

soups, salads, coffee, and deserts. No actual cooking or baking will be done on site.



To rent the space as a restaurant, Hi-Rise is required to provide parking spaces in ratio with the number of seats, which would not be feasible at the Mass. Ave. location. Mr. Becker asked that the council support Hi-Rise in obtaining a special permit to eliminate the parking requirement.

Mr. Becker is enticed about the possibility of setting up shop in the new location. He reported that the area is much more densely populated than the other neighborhoods Hi-Rise operates in, and could mean significantly more walk-in customers. In addition to the added traffic, Mr. Becker likes the location because it is "[A] part of my backyard."

Council members unanimously supported the

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



APR. 12 - 7:30 PM
Maud Morgan Arts
20A Sacramento Street
2D Studio, 2nd Floor

AGENDA

- **Introducing the Men's Health League**
- **Discuss power outages with NSTAR Electric**
- **Forest/Frost - Sidewalk, Street, and Utility Reconstruction with Cambridge Department of Public Works**
- **Update on Proposed Improvements to Waterhouse St. and Mass. Ave.**
- **2011/12 ABC Board Slate**

new Hi-Rise Location.

Carol Weinhaus stated, "I think it's wonderful for residents who live in small apartments to have a place to go. I love the Hi-Rise and there's no place on our stretch of lower Mass Ave. besides Starbucks where large groups can meet for coffee. The outside seating, combined with the other restaurants with outdoor seating, including the Cambridge Common next door, and Wrapro and others across the street, will transform the area around the intersection."

Stephen Diamond noted, "A few years ago we took a survey of what residents would like to see on the Ave. and people were interested in having a bakery."

Ted Live, ANC meeting chair, added, "We're open to the bakery being open later hours and appreciate your selecting this site in our neighborhood."

The council voted to send a letter to the Board of Zoning Appeal in support of Hi-Rise Bread Company's application for a reduced number of required parking spaces.

Update: Upon further review with city staff, it was determined that Hi-Rise did not require a special permit because the need to waive parking requirements was included in previous variances for the building (granted prior to construction.)

Mass. Ave. Master Plan: Community Meetings

Updating the council on ongoing efforts to revitalize Mass. Ave. from the Cambridge Common to Porter Square, Ron Axelrod of Neighborhood Nine described upcoming public meetings, the first of which will be held on Thursday, March 10.

At the first meeting, architect and Agassiz resident Cynthia Smith of Halverson Design, a firm consulting with the steering committee of city and neighborhood representatives, will present

streetscape concepts. The meeting's goal will be to engage and gather input from community members.

The final result of the public meetings, data-gathering, and planning will be a master plan to guide improvements along Mass. Ave over the next decade with the goal of creating a safe, attractive, and stimulating environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.

City departments collaborating on the master plan project include Cambridge Community Development, led by Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning, Cambridge Public Works, Transportation, Traffic, and Parking led by Susan Clippinger, Director, and Environmental and Transportation Planning led by Susanne Rasmussen, Director.

Special Guest

Cambridge Police Sergeant Steven Sennott, a Neighborhood Sergeant for Agassiz, was in attendance at the meeting.



2011/2012 BOARD SLATE

The following officers and directors (below) seek to renew their positions on the ABC Board for 2011-2012.

The board slate will announced at the April 12th Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting and accepted by a vote of the council at the May 10th Annual Meeting.

Officers for a one-year term:

- Andrea Walsh, Co-Chair, Eustis St.
- Miriam Goldberg, Co-Chair, Frost St.
- Hull Fulweiler, Clerk, Howland St.
- Gao Wen Shao, Treasurer, Fayette St.

Directors for a two-year term:

- Stephen Diamond, Frost St.

Hull Fulweiler, Howland St.
George Hein, Howland St.
Wendy Prellwitz, Wendell St.

2011 Nominating Committee

Joel Bard
Willie Bloomstein
Terry DeLancey

The Nominating Committee seeks candidates who may serve in the future. Candidates should send a statement that explains their interest in the board as well as relevant experience and a resumé (optional.) All submissions will remain on file for consideration when future vacancies arise.

LWN COMPUTER CLASS: BASIC POWERPOINT FOR EVERY DAY LIFE

Our next LWN Computer Class will look at how PowerPoint can fill your everyday presentation needs.



- Need to make a presentation for your club or next reunion?
- Want to make a organized memorial photo presentation?
- Create a show about your favorite subject or hobby!

Living Well Network’s Computer Lounge for Seniors is proud to host computer classes twice a month in our North Hall Community Room. Come learn in this welcoming, relaxed atmosphere while enjoying coffee and tea with your neighbors.

Date: Wednesday, April 6
Time: 1:00-3:00 PM
Location: Community Room, North Hall, 1651 Mass. Ave. (use Wendell St. entrance)

Coming Up:
April 13 Open lounge (no class)

April 20	Social Media
April 27	Open lounge (no class)
May 4	Online banking and shopping
May 11	Open lounge (no class)
May 18	Design successful PowerPoint presentations
May 25	Open lounge (no class)

Let us know what you’d like to learn! Suggest class topics to Colin Barr, LWN Computer Lounge Coordinator, at (617) 349-6287 x10 or cbarr@agassiz.org.

LWN YOGA IN APRIL

Join our “boomer” yoga class for people over the age of 50, taught by Christine Palamidessi, a dedicated yogini since the 1980’s.



Learn classical yoga postures to build both strength and flexibility, improve your range of motion and balance, and utilize breathing techniques from both yoga and Aikido traditions.

Dates: Saturday April 9, 16, 23, 30
(No class April 2)

Time: 9:30-10:30 AM

Location: Lesley’s University Hall, 1815 Mass. Ave.

Cost: \$25 for the month; \$10 drop-in

RSVP: Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

Consulting and Design



Garden Coach SM
Seija Hälvä, PhD

1-781-389-1161
www.gardenconsult.com

SHADY HILL SQUARE PRESERVED

Prepared by Merav Gold, resident

In September 2007 the outlook for the center green at Shady Hill Square, a historically significant 1915 “Garden City” housing development located on Holden Street, could not have been bleaker.



On the National Register of Historic Places since 1986 and recommended for land marking by the Cambridge Historical Commission in 1999, the Square was slated for destruction. Residents received their first and only notification via a letter slipped under their doors by a developer, who planned to build an enormous single family, luxury home. Indeed, a crew came that September to dig the foundation. Efforts to save the Square seemed to face unbeatable odds.



Almost four years later it is possible, in great part due to the activism of the neighborhood organizations and the public

outcry, to report the impossible; the effort to save the Square has succeeded. After a long, difficult, and expensive legal battle, the Square was purchased in June 2010 by the Shady Hill Square Association, a not-for-profit formed for the preservation of the center green.

Funds for the purchase were largely contributed by neighbors, in addition to a Community Preservation Act Historic grant from the City of

Cambridge. The residents have placed the houses and the green under preservation restrictions held by the Cambridge Historical Commission. These restrictions ensure public use and enjoyment of the green as a Cambridge public park and also stipulate the preservation of the green and houses in perpetuity.

The fact that the Square of Shady Hill Square is now a Cambridge public park is a fitting outcome both for the historical legacy of Garden City design, its emphasis on the conservation of shared open green space and the creation of community. It is also a triumphant end to an exhausting uphill battle, the success of which at almost every turn, depended on the active efforts and support of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association, the Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods, and other concerned Cambridge residents.

For almost one hundred years the Square has functioned informally as a pocket park. Now, facing a second century, Shady Hill Square will be permanently preserved in its entirety, the green formally open to the community that contributed so much to its preservation.

An announcement of the Shady Hill Square park dedication ceremony will follow as soon as it is scheduled.



MAUD MORGAN EXHIBIT AT ST. BOTOLPH CLUB

Prints by the artist Maud Morgan, for whom ABC’s Maud Morgan Arts Center is named, are being displayed in a month-long exhibit at the St. Botolph Club in Boston, from March 30 to April 29, 2011. Learn more online at www.stbotolphclub.org.



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**CAMBRIDGE OPEN STUDIOS
PREVIEW EXHIBITION**

Maud Morgan
Arts and the
Cambridge Arts



Council invite you to the Opening Reception for the Cambridge Open Studios Preview Exhibition, to kick-off this citywide celebration of the arts in Cambridge!

The exhibition at Maud Morgan Arts showcases small works by fifty visual artists participating in Cambridge Open Studios, including paintings, fiber arts, ceramics, mixed media, sculpture and more.

After this “sneak peak,” discover more visual and performing arts in all media at Cambridge Open Studios over three weekends in May!

Date: Thursday, April 14
Time: 5:00-7:00 PM
Location: Chandler Gallery and Maud Morgan Arts Center,
20 Sacramento Street

The exhibition runs from April 11 to May 22, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, as well as Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22 from 12:00-6:00 PM.

Artists whose work will be displayed at the Chandler Gallery include:

Dorothy Arnold	E. J. Barnes
Steve Barylick	Lale Berke-Jenkins
Gary Blau	Laurie Bloom
Ann Brody	Marcia Cohen
Rowena Conklin	Richard Curran
Marci Davis	Helen Eddy
Pippi L. Ellison	Tamar Etingen
Catherine Ezell Weitzman	Deb Fox
Gwen Frankfeldt	Nan Genger
Wendy Gonick	John Goodman
Paul Gray	Sandy Gregg
Linda Haas	Janet Hobbs
Fuchel Jen	Kathy Jenkins
Motzkin Judy	Paul Kroner

Dominique Lecomte	Ricardo Maldonado
Janet Malenfant	Diane Margolis
Peter McCarthy	Diane Norris
Phil Olenick	Dan Paret
Vicki Paret	Anne Perämäki
R Lee Post	Nicholas Read
Richard Sabin	Alexandra Sheldon
Susan Tornheim	Ellen Stutman
Hannah Sukonick	wenhao tien
David W. Torrey	Sengchan Tufts
Beth Walsh	Patricia White



**Agassiz Baldwin
Children's Programs**

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sacramento Street Preschool welcomes prospective families to attend our Spring Open House. Meet the teachers, tour the classroom and backyard, and mingle with current families.

What: Preschool Open House
When: Saturday, May 7
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Where: 20 Sacramento Street, 1st floor

Conveniently located between Harvard and Porter Squares, Sacramento Street Preschool has provided high-quality childcare to preschool-age children (two years, nine months through five years) for over thirty years. Program hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM, with the option for an extended day until 2:30 PM.

Through a curriculum of sensory exploration, dramatic play, music, and visual arts, our primary emphasis is on the social and emotional development of children. Sacramento Street Preschool is both NAEYC accredited and licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC.) Come see what makes us unique as a small, play-based preschool!

To learn more or enroll for the 2011/12 school year, visit us online at www.agassiz.org.

PRESCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM

Sacramento Street Preschool Summer Program is specially designed for a small group of fifteen preschool-age children (ages two years, nine months–five years.) Located in the Kindergarten classroom at the Maria L. Baldwin School, children will have an indoor home base with access to a dedicated outdoor play space.

The group will maximize outdoor time, including daily sprinkler play at Alden Park, field trips around the neighborhood, and games at Sacramento Field. Sacramento Street Preschool Lead Teacher/Director, Priscilla Browne and Preschool Teacher, Kim Lambert will lead the program with an assistant teacher.

- Location:** Maria L. Baldwin School
Kindergarten classroom,
28 Sacramento Street
- Schedule:** 8:30 AM–2:30 PM four days per week (Monday–Thursday) for six weeks, July 5th–August 12th
- Enrollment** Enroll weekly for \$280 per week and \$25 registration fee.

For more information contact Jacy Edelman, Director of Children’s Programs, at (617) 349-6287 x11, or jedelman@agassiz.org. Download an application at www.agassiz.org.

AFTERSCHOOL UPDATE

Prepared by Maria Laine, 1st-5th Site Director

It has been a busy and fun winter here at the 1st-5th grade afterschool! Despite the crazy weather, with what seemed like a snow day every week, we managed to do all sorts of interesting and exciting things over the last few months.

Monthly Themes

Monthly themes at afterschool help to keep things fresh and new! One theme, “Holiday-A-Day,” was a favorite. The holidays we celebrated ranged from the typical to the bizarre. Some of the stranger and lesser-known included: “Bean

Day,” “Positively Penguins Day,” “Popcorn Day,” and “Pie Day.” For “Bald Eagle Appreciation Day,” students designed costumes and dressed up as bald eagles!



Weekly Clubs

Clubs are another popular and successful activity at afterschool:

- Dolores Cuccovia leads Transformation Club, where students learn the “ins and outs” of art installations and recreating spaces in a creative way.
- Jonathan Nania has been teaching story writing and filmmaking, which has added a new dimension to afterschool.
- Rachelle Laine and Maria Laine co-organize Sports Club, featuring a different sport every month.



Students are introduced to a variety of drills and activities, and then get to put their new skills and knowledge to the test in a scrimmage. Last month’s sport was floor hockey, a new experience for many that became a favorite.

	<p>Peter G Meyersohn, CFP Financial Advisor</p>
	
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- Jewelry Club, Knitting Club, and weekly cooking activities have remained a big part of afterschool offerings.



City Wide

STREET SWEEPING

Prepared by the City of Cambridge

Street sweeping begins Friday, April 1. Be sure to check signs for parking restrictions between April and December to avoid being ticketed and/or towed. Even if a sweeper has gone through an area once, please do not park there before the posted end time!

Street cleaning plays an important role in Cambridge's stormwater management program. By sweeping up sand and other debris, catch basins are kept clean and able to function efficiently. Street sweepers also help to remove particles and chemicals that get deposited on roadways through the wear and tear of vehicle parts, combustion, and leaking engine fluids, reducing a significant source of pollution to the Charles River and the Alewife Brook.

In the Agassiz neighborhood, cleaning will occur on the "odd" numbered side of streets the third Monday of each month, as well as on Friday, April 29. The "even" numbered side of streets will be swept the third Tuesday of each month.

Maps, schedules, and more are available online at www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/streetcleaning.aspx.

PEABODY MUSEUM LECTURE ON THE INTERNET AND WRITING

In the age of Google, blogging, and the e-book, many fear that reading and writing are swiftly passing away. We fear more than the disappearance of pen and paper per se; it's the loss of cherished practices and long-established mental reflexes that disturbs and confounds.

On Wednesday, April 20, the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology presents a free lecture by author Matthew Battles, titled "A Brief History of the Spectre of the Internet and the Death of Writing."

When: April 20, 5:30 PM
Where: Harvard's Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St.
Reception: Peabody Museum, 11 Divinity Avenue

2011 CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE FESTIVAL



The Cambridge Science Festival, the first of its kind in the United States, is a celebration showcasing Cambridge as an internationally recognized leader in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM.) A multifaceted, multicultural event, the Cambridge Science Festival makes science accessible, interactive and fun, highlighting the impact of STEM in all our lives.

The Festival's collaborators – MIT, Harvard University, the City of Cambridge, Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge Public Library, WGBH, and the Museum of Science – reach out to K-12 students, the general public, and the science community, to excite and ignite curiosity.

Dates: April 30-May 8, 2011, various times and locations

Learn more or sign up to volunteer online at www.cambridgesciencefestival.org.

Community Calendar

April 2011

Wednesday, April 6	1:00-3:00 PM	LWN Computer Class, North Hall Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave.
Saturday, April 9, 16, 23, 30	9:30-10:30 AM	LWN Yoga Class, Lesley University Hall, 1815 Mass. Ave.
Tuesday, April 12	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome
Wednesday, April 13	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Thursday, April 14	5:00-7:00 PM	Reception for "Cambridge Open Studios Preview Exhibition" at Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.
Monday, April 18		Patriot's Day Holiday, ABC School Programs and office closed

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. 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 April 2011



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DO NOT FORWARD

DID YOU KNOW?

- **ANC meetings are now held on the second Tuesday of the month.** Join us in the 2D studio at the Maud Morgan Arts Center, 20A Sacramento Street.