

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

December 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

ANC News: LWN Computer Lounge Update, AIB Update, What We Can Do About Snow On Sidewalks 1-3

ABC Community: LWN Snow Removal Program, LWN Indoor Soccer, Relax/Energize with LWN Yoga, 40th Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Snapshots, CPD Secret Santa for Seniors, Take Our Survey 3-5

Maud Morgan Arts: Porter Square Window Art Installation, MMA Artist-In-Residence 5-6

Children's Programs: Farewell to Jacy Edelman, Kids Only Holiday Sale 2011, Preschoolers Explore Transportation 6-7

City Wide: Renew Your Parking Permit 7

ANC News

NOTES FROM THE NOV. 8 MEETING

LWN Computer Lounge Update

The Living Well Network (LWN) Computer lounge, located in the Agassiz Baldwin Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave., has served residents over age fifty seeking to improve their computer skills since 2009. Overseen by Colin Barr, LWN Computer Lab Coordinator, the lounge offers access to seven computers, five of which have both Macintosh and PC operating systems, a scanner, a printer, and web cameras. A dedicated team of volunteers assists participants each week.

"The lounge is not just solving computer problems," stated Mr. Barr, "It's also about breaking isolation and teaching participants how to locate resources outside the lounge. We encourage people to work together to solve problems."

During lounge drop-in sessions, participants and volunteers work to find solutions to computer questions ranging from attaching documents to emails, to configuring a computer for WiFi access. LWN classes include a lecture and opportunity for students to practice what they learned. To support the lounge, drop-in sessions/classes now cost \$20 for participants who are not members of LWN. Scholarships are available.

"Learning at the lounge can be very empowering for the participant, as well as satisfying for the volunteer," explained Mr. Barr.

Stephen Diamond, ANC Meeting Chair, described his experience as both student and volunteer, "It's very informal and friendly."

December field trip to Computer Lounge

At the December 13 ANC Meeting, take a trip with us to experience the Computer Lounge for yourself! Bring a question or two to this simulated drop-in session and enjoy light refreshments with Colin Barr, a Lounge volunteer, and your fellow Council members.

Volunteer

The Lounge is still seeking a few good volun-

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



DEC. 13 - 7:30 PM

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

Agenda

- Discuss **Snow Removal** in the city with **Public Works Commissioner Lisa Peterson**
- **Special field trip: Join the Council for a visit to the LWN Computer Lounge**

teers! Applicants don't need a lot of computer knowledge, but should be able to commit to attending from 1 to 3 PM on Wednesdays for at least three months. Interested? Contact Colin Barr at cbarr@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x10.

Citywide Computer Lab Meeting

LWN is helping to plan a citywide meeting for all community computer labs in Cambridge. Look for a report in an upcoming edition of *The Whistler*.

LWN Overview

LWN is Agassiz Baldwin Community's response to a national trend known as "aging-in-place," which focuses on bringing services to people where they reside. LWN's programming seeks to engage residents in a social network that will support them as they age. Activities include the Computer Lounge, a Snow Removal Program, volunteer opportunities like Cooking With Kids and Computer Lounge monitor/teacher, LWN Yoga and sports like bocce and indoor soccer, neighborhood historical and bird walks, and more! Visit us online at www.agassiz.org/living-well.

Become A Member

For a \$75 (\$100 for couples), tax-deductible donation, LWN members enjoy many free or discounted activities throughout the year, including unlimited access to the LWN Computer Lounge and classes. Learn more at www.agassiz.org/living-well/lwn-membership.

AIB Update

Bill Doncaster, Director of Community Relations at Lesley University, reported that the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley remains in court pending several lawsuits related to the relocation project. They intend to break ground in the spring.

Threshold Program Update

"Threshold is one of the programs we're most proud of at Lesley," stated Mr. Doncaster. "It's very successful and one of a few of its kind."

A residential program serving young people with cognitive disabilities, Threshold receives 1000 applications annually and accepts approximately twenty-five students. Graduates earn six college credits and learn important independent living skills. The program's success, explained Mr. Doncaster, is driving the university's desire to renovate 63 Oxford, 78-80 Oxford, and 82 Front and Rear, none of which are currently ADA compliant.

Oliver Radford of Perry and Radford Architects, provided the details below:

- Completing construction on 78 and 82 Rear over the summer is a priority.
- The dorm portion of 82 Rear will be converted into offices, possibly delayed to next summer.
- The dorm functions of 78 and 82 Rear will be consolidated into 78 Oxford Street, reducing the number of beds by two for a total of twenty-seven. A two and a half to three story tall addition is proposed for the rear.
- Parking will be reduced from seven spaces to one visitor space and one pick-up/drop-off space for a van.
- All entrances to the buildings will face together.
- All windows will be replaced.
- Zoning relief includes a special permit to change the use of one of the buildings from dormitory to office, a variance or special permit to change some of the windows, and a special permit or permission to relocate parking offsite in existing Lesley parking lots.

Q&A

Q: Have the abutters responded to the construction plans?

A: We are in the process of meeting with the abutters. So far, the response has been positive. In the past, neighbors have reported being happy to live near the Threshold campus.

Q: Does Lesley expect to grow the Threshold Program?

A: No. The program works best with a small enrollment. There are fifty students in the two-year program, and students can elect to remain an additional year in the bridge program.

What We Can Do About Snow On Sidewalks

Council members discussed snow removal in the city, including a recent report from the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, with whom members of the Council have collaborated on this issue. The report states that the Cambridge Department of Public Works (DPW) has agreed to enhanced clearing to benefit pedestrians, including removing snow from bus stops and major street crossings, as well as from Disability Parking spaces. This would include Mass. Ave. and Cambridge St., but not Oxford or other Agassiz streets.

Stephen Diamond, ANC Meeting Chair, stated “Agassiz residents have suggested individually and collectively that the city should contribute more to clearing all sidewalks in the city, at least on a first pass. At this time, the DPW will not agree to a more comprehensive sidewalk clearing program, nor to assist with vetting independent snow removal services.”

Other items in the Disability Commission’s report included a request that pedestrians report potholes, sidewalk defects, and uncleared sidewalks to the city. Call (617) 349-4854 or e-mail theworks@cambridgema.gov to report

the address and nature of a pothole or sidewalk defect. An online form is available at: www.cambridgema.gov/iReport/pothole.aspx.

Uncleared sidewalks can be reported via the snow hotline at (617) 349-4903 or www.cambridgema.gov/snow.

Additionally, the Commission is asking cyclists to refrain from locking bikes to the posts near disability spaces as this obstructs access.

Snow Removal Video

Watch a public announcement on snow removal on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/aLZcB4>.

Lend Your Voice at the Next ANC Meeting

The DPW will attend the next ANC meeting to discuss snow removal. Come lend your voice to the discussion on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:30 PM!

Update: At this time ABC has negotiated with two private contractors to provide discounted snow removal service. Learn more about this program of the Living Well Network by contacting Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.



LWN SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

The Living Well Network Snow Removal Program provides discounted snow removal service for residents of the Agassiz neighborhood and adjacent communities, age fifty and older.

This year, due to the growth of the program, LWN has contracted with two service providers: Mastrangelo & Sons and Marco Vazquez Landscaping. To learn more, contact Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison, at psinclair@agassiz.org or call (617) 349-6287 x10.



BONNY LAMB

Hammond Real Estate
Two Brattle Square • Cambridge • MA 02138
Office: (617) 497-4400 ext. 282
Cell: (617) 803-8080
bonny@greatlistings.com • www.greatlistings.com
blamb@hammondre.com • www.hammondre.com

For your buying and selling needs

LWN INDOOR SOCCER

This January, team up with the Living Well Network for indoor soccer! Weekly neighborhood pick-up games will be held one night a week from 7 to 9 PM for residents over age fifty. We're looking for eight to twelve players committed to participating at least most of the time.

Get the ball rolling, contact Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x10.

RELAX/ENERGIZE WITH LWN YOGA

Prepared by Christine Palamidessi, LWN Yoga Teacher

This December, we will practice both relaxing and energizing poses to shepherd us through the busy holiday season. As in previous months, the asanas are designed for people age forty-five and older. That doesn't mean what we do is easy! Each week we'll challenge the body and focus the mind, moving with awareness and precision. We'll also work with the energetic body, understanding how energy, not muscle, holds us up.

Focusing on Shoulders

December is the month when we take on a lot of memory. Memory can be "shouldered" on the upper back and stagnate energy in the neck, jaw, and kidney area. We will practice poses to release energy in these areas, as well as do breathing techniques for relaxation. Bring a yoga mat and wear loose clothing.

- Dates:** Two Saturdays, Dec. 10 & 17
- Time:** 9:30-10:30 AM
- Location:** Lesley's University Hall, 1815 Mass. Ave. Take the elevator behind the security desk to the 4th floor.
- Fee:** \$14 for two classes or \$10 drop-in

To register or learn more, contact Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x10.

40TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK SNAPSHOTS

ABC extends thanks to this year's eight turkey cookers, four turkey carvers, Agassiz Baldwin staff, Maria L. Baldwin School custodial and kitchen staff, and all who donated a dish and contributed company and conversation. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's 41st annual event! See more photos online at www.flickr.com/agassizbaldwin.



Leave a Dish?

Did you leave behind a dish or utensil at this year's Thanksgiving Potluck? View the photo below to see if you recognize your long-lost item. Unclaimed items will be donated to the Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs.



CPD SECRET SANTA FOR SENIORS

Agassiz community members are invited to contribute to the Cambridge Police Department's (CPD) Secret Santa for Seniors program. ABC will host a collection box at 20 Sacramento Street in the foyer until **Thursday, Dec. 15**.

Some suggestions for unwrapped gifts include:

- Chocolate
- Jams
- Puzzles
- Gloves
- Tea
- Sweaters
- Crackers
- Red Sox/Bruins/Celtics items
- Socks
- Slippers
- Hats
- Gift Cards
- Large Print Books
- Hard Candy
- Lip Balm

Senior citizens will be selected with the assistance of the Cambridge Senior centers and Cambridge Housing caseworkers, who have the knowledge to identify people who do not have

immediate family members nearby and who have very limited financial resources.

The gifts will be hand delivered on December 24, 2011 by Cambridge police officers and other community volunteers. It is their hope to brighten the day of otherwise lonely seniors on Christmas with a small gift that lets them know they are not forgotten!

TAKE OUR SURVEY: HOW SHOULD WE CONTACT YOU?

The world of communication –analog, digital, and otherwise- is moving fast! Help us catch up with you by taking our online survey to determine the best methods for US to contact YOU. Type this link into your favorite web browser: <http://conta.cc/abc-communication-survey>.

At the end of the survey, enter our raffle to win a gift certificate to established neighborhood favorite, Pesti Pies, or to the new bakery on the block, Hi-Rise Bread Company. Many will enter, two will win!




PORTER SQUARE WINDOW ART INSTALLATION

This December, stop by the ABC display window at Porter Square (in front of CVS) to see a new installation by artist Adria Arch.




Ms. Arch received an MFA in painting at Massachusetts College of Art and Design and has taught at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Montserrat College of Art, and many other venues.

Recently, Ms. Arch completed a commissioned site-specific mural at Lesley University and



Peter G Meyersohn, CFP
Financial Advisor



- Personal Financial Planning
- Mutual Funds
- Life and Disability Insurance*
- Long Term Care Insurance*

* Insurance products are offered through insurance companies with which Waddell & Reed has a sales arrangement.

Investing, With a Plan®
Member SPIC

300 TradeCenter Dr., Suite 1500
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 933-2067 ex.108

Registered Office
48 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 661-3080
Peter33087@wradvisors.com

is currently at work on an installation at the Danforth Museum of Art in Framingham, MA. Her work is represented in public and private collections including Fidelity Corporation, the DeCordova Museum of Art, and the Library of Congress. The installation at Porter Square will be on display through January 2012.

MMA ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Maud Morgan Arts (MMA) is pleased to announce our first Artist-in-Residence, Chris Minidis. Mr. Minidis is a printmaker, works as a web graphic designer, and freelances as an Art Director, animator, and designer. He lives in Newton.

In addition to working in the printmaking studio from December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2012, Mr. Minidis will teach a weekend workshop and a printmaking class during the MMA Spring session. Look for an exhibit of his work in the MMA foyer gallery and, this December, stop by the studio to check out his work in progress.

For more information, visit www.maudmorganarts.org or contact Boriana Kantcheva, MMA Administrative Assistant at bkantcheva@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x20.



Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

FAREWELL TO JACY EDELMAN

Agassiz Baldwin Community bids a fond farewell to Jacy Edelman, Director of Children's Programs since 2008, who will depart at the end of November to take an exciting new job at the Lesley University Partnership School Initiative.

Ms. Edelman was instrumental in strengthening ABC Children's Programs' focus on visual and performing arts, and hired a talented team of specialist teachers. She worked to extend the agency's ISAS (Integrated Self Assessment

Study) training to Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool, helped attain NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation for Sacramento Street Preschool, and helped initiate the preschool's new summer program.



An energetic grant writer, Ms. Edelman secured funding from a number of sources, including Cambridge Arts Council, Associated Grant Makers, New England Foundation for the Arts, and LEGO, and her vision brought life to the wildly popular afterschool restaurant project, Flying Zucchini Café, as well as Kids Curate annual art exhibit.

Ms. Edelman's dedication to fostering community is evident in the sense of connection among Children's Program staff and School Program families, as well as in Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool's collaborations with other area afterschool programs, and improved communication with Maria L. Baldwin School faculty and community.

ABC will miss her spirit, humor, and energy, and hopes to continue to hear about her moonlighting stints as a rock guitarist and field hockey warrior as she moves on to her next career adventure.

KIDS ONLY HOLIDAY SALE 2011

On Monday, December 5, 2011, children are encouraged to swing by the popular, annual Kids Only Holiday Sale.

Fun, affordable gifts for family and friends can be purchased in this safe and supportive environment. From journals to stuffed animals to holiday cards to jewelry



and handmade crafts, the sale offers something for everyone.

Held in the Chandler Gallery, proceeds from the sale benefit Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs: Sacramento Street Preschool, Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool, and Outback Summer Program. Learn more at www.agassiz.org.

Dates: Weekdays, Monday, December 5-Friday, December 9, as supplies last
Time: 3:00 to 6:00 PM
Location: Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street

ABC extends gratitude to Joie de Vivre of 1792 Mass. Ave., Cambridge Naturals of Porter Square, and Greenward, formerly of 1764 Mass. Ave., for their continued and valuable support of this event.

PRESCHOOLERS EXPLORE TRANSPORTATION

Prepared by Priscilla Browne, Preschool Director

The month of November has flown by. The children and teachers thoroughly enjoyed reading many Mo Willems stories and learning about various other authors. Some popular activities included writing our own stories, acting out our favorite Mo Willems books, and observing many other stories.

Curriculum Explorations for December

Originally we had hoped for our Mo Willems book curriculum to take us into December. Although the children have been enjoying his stories, we have found another topic that is of greater interest to the group: Transportation and Traveling!

To begin the month, we will be discussing and learning about various modes of transportation. Here are some questions preschool students will answer:

- How will you get to your destination (the

park, the library, home, etc.)?

- Are the wheels on planes similar to the wheels on cars?
- What items would you see on an airplane?



City Wide

RENEW YOUR PARKING PERMIT

Prepared by the Cambridge Traffic Department

It is that time again! Each year on November 1st, the Cambridge Traffic Department begins renewal of Resident Parking Permits and Visitor Parking Permits. Permits expire January 31st of each year. Learn more at: www2.cambridgema.gov/Traffic/ResidentVisitor.cfm.



Avoid Lines

Mail your renewal application no later than January 13th to receive your permit by January 31, 2012. Check out the on-line application and see if you qualify:

<http://bit.ly/renew-your-permit-2012>.

Please note the following fee structure:

- The total fee for a resident parking permit sticker and a visitor pass is \$20.00.
- The total fee for only a visitor pass (households with no car) is \$20.00.
- Senior citizen passes are free of charge.

Community Calendar

December 2011

Monday, December 5	3:00-6:00 PM	Kids Only Holiday Sale, Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento St., class continues through Friday, December 9
Tuesday, December 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, December 14	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Saturday, December 10	9:30-10:30 AM	LWN Yoga, University Hall, Lesley, 1815 Mass. Ave., class continues on Saturday, December 17
Wednesday, December 21		Chanukah begins at sundown
Monday, December 26		Christmas holiday observed, ABC 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 December 2011



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

Take our survey to help us determine how to best contact you:
<http://conta.cc/abc-communication-survey>