

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

June 2012

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>ANC News: Appreciations and 2012/13 Board of Directors, Housing Support for Seniors in Cambridge, Proposal to Rezone North Mass. Ave., Updates on Reconstruction of Cambridge St. Overpass and Tunnel</b>	<b>1-3</b>
<b>ABC Community: 2nd Annual Play Day, Fort Agassiz Receives Grant, Keller Williams Helps Beautify ABC</b>	<b>3-5</b>
<b>Living Well Network: LWN Walks!, LWN Café</b>	<b>5</b>

## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

#### Appreciations

Miriam Goldberg, ABC Board Co-chair, thanked ABC staff and supporters for their hard work over the past year, stating, "I think it's wonderful that this is still such an active community."

Among others, she extended appreciation to Stephen Diamond for serving as ABC Board Director and Chair of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council meetings, and to Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison.

#### 2012/2013 Board of Directors

The council voted unanimously to approve the 2012/2013 Board slate, listed below:

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:

Anna Eckert Byrne, Kirkland St.

Fred Meyer, Hammond St.

#### Housing Support for Seniors in Cambridge

Mayor Henrietta Davis and Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning, introduced the Council to the Silver Ribbon Commission, a Cambridge committee reviewing housing options for elders in the city. The Commission report will be published later in June.

"This issue, local to us, is making national waves," stated Mayor Davis, who serves as Chair on the Commission. "What motivated me to get involved with the Commission was to get the ideas in the pipeline if brick and mortar solutions are warranted. Through research and surveys, we've learned about obstacles to developing senior housing. We also discovered that people move less than they used to, preferring to live in their own homes, surrounded by family and community."

In 2010, concluding a nine-month study, the city has produced two reports, "Housing Options for Older Cantabrigians" and "Aging

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**JUNE 12 - 7:30 PM**

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

#### Agenda

- **Cambridge Innovation Agenda** with Baldwin School Principal Nicholas Leonardos
- **Cambridge Police Review and Advisory Board**
- **Lesley University** update
- **Community discussion of proposed new development** at Mass. Ave. and Garfield St.

in the Cambridge Community: A Study of Human Services and Physical Environment of Cambridge Relative to the Needs of the Senior Population.”

Major findings of these studies include:

- A growing elder population and longer life expectancies
- Increased income disparity
- Prevalence or lack of housing opportunities, such as:
  - Independent living (i.e., aging in place in your own home)
  - Assisted living
  - Shared living opportunities (i.e., co-housing)

The Silver Ribbon Commission further explored the issue of housing opportunities for seniors. Mayor Davis said, “Cambridge has a large number of single women who seem to find shared-living appealing. This option is currently not available to low-income residents.”

Next steps will include conducting a local survey, which will inform the city as to whether they should consider changes to zoning. These adjustments could permit more housing options, such as the construction of accessory structures where elder residents can live with family but also maintain some independence.

Mayor Davis stated, “My expectation is that in two or three years we will see housing that reflects this process.”

Krystina Snyder, Neighborhood 9 resident and editor of “Living Well: A Guide to Elder Services in Cambridge,” told the Council, “I was a member of Cambridge’s study group on this issue. Many people didn’t want to only be with the elderly –it’s important to have variety and not to be segregated by age. Cambridge is the perfect retirement community. I can walk everywhere.”

Miriam Goldberg, Agassiz resident and ABC Board Co-chair, added, “The city has been responsive to discussions about the aging population. There’s a great deal of rich and varied information about available services –I’d like to see this information integrated more into this kind of discussion.”

**Q&A:**

**Q:** Have boarding houses been zoned out of Cambridge?

**A:** Boarding houses (referred to as Lodging Houses in the Zoning Ordinance use table) are not prohibited, but there may be some steps the city can take to make this option more viable. Elderly Oriented Congregate Housing is also generally a permitted use in most zoning districts

**Q:** Is there any plan for lower cost co-housing? What is available now is expensive.

**A:** The city is interested in co-generational housing and is currently researching this option.

Mayor Davis and Mr. Dash concluded their presentation and expressed their support for ABC’s efforts through its grassroots, community-development initiative, the Living Well Network.

**Proposal to Re-zone North Mass. Ave.**

Stephen Diamond detailed recent happenings in the neighborhood, stating “I’m excited to share two successful examples of a small group of neighbors working together and acting in cooperation with the city.”

1. The community discovered a proposal to open a fast food restaurant at 1678 Mass. Ave., in the space previously occupied by the Harvard University Credit Union bank and the Harvard Law School COOP. Residents spoke out against the proposal at Board of Zoning Appeal meetings, wrote letters, and gathered many signatures. As a result of the outcry and activity, the Board

voted to deny the variance using the legal basis that “no hardship was shown.”

2. Recently, community members learned of proposed changes for the Mass. Ave. zoning overlay from the Cambridge Common to the Arlington city line. Residents who have been collaborating with city departments to improve Mass. Ave. between the Cambridge Common and Porter Square, requested that the city halt the proposed changes to this portion of the Ave because they not had the opportunity to review or discuss them. In response, Brian Murphy, Assistant City Manager, agreed to revise the changes to include only Mass. Ave. from Beach Street to the Arlington line.

**Updates on Reconstruction of Cambridge Street Overpass and Tunnel**

Tom Lucey, Harvard Director of Community Relations, and Owen O’Riordan, Cambridge City Engineer, provided updates on upcoming renovations to the Cambridge Street Overpass and Tunnel.

The tunnel, constructed in the late 1960’s, has significant structural problems, including:

- Delaminated concrete
- Torn waterproofing
- Water damage
- Sidewalks, railings, and roadway in poor condition
- Blocked sight lines and crowding at the gateways along Harvard Yard

Renovations to the plaza and bridge will begin

after Harvard University Commencement and continue to summer 2013. Utilities will be upgraded early this summer and, in total, the project is expected to take approximately a year.

“We’ve designed for simplicity,” explained Mr. Lucey. “In the plaza on top of the Cambridge Street Bridge, we want to improve the space for university and community programming, which includes the food trucks, farmer’s market, and the new ice skating rink.”

Planned surface enhancements include:

- A large open space with ample room for pedestrian and bicycle traffic
- Sidewalks will be replaced with wire-cut brick (now used as a standard paving material in Cambridge)
- New seating
- New plantings along the side of the Science Center
- Wayfinding signs on the plaza and tunnel

Council member Doug Klein requested additional consideration for cyclists, including installing wide-angle mirrors at pinch-points outside of Harvard Yard for improved visibility, and addressing issues of ice formation during the winter. Mr. Lucey agreed to bring these suggestions back to Harvard. Additionally, Mr. Lucey confirmed that the Tanner Fountain rocks will remain in front of the Science Center.



**Community**

**2ND ANNUAL PLAY DAY**

Celebrate arts and community at the second annual Play Day! This year’s event will feature the dedication of Fort Agassiz, a play structure created “by kids for kids.”

Participating in a whirlwind adventure during the February and April vacation weeks, middle



**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*

school students designed and helped build the new play structure in three short months! The kids and architect/teacher, Wendy Prellwitz of Prellwitz/Chilinski Associates, will be guests of honor.



**What:** 2nd Annual Play Day  
**When:** Saturday, June 16, 1:00-4:00 PM, dedication of Fort Agassiz 3 PM  
**Where:** 20 Sacramento Street, back yard, rain or shine  
**Who:** YOU! Everyone is welcome to this FREE event

Enjoy a variety of fun and engaging activities, as well as summer-inspired refreshments:

- Art demos at Maud Morgan Arts
- Purchase students' creations at the Maud Morgan Arts Sale
- Play with the giant Imagination Playground blocks
- Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool show "Homes and Habitats" in the Chandler Gallery
- Raffles
- Silent Auction
- Balloons
- Watermelon, popcorn, and lemonade

**FORT AGASSIZ RECEIVES GRANT**

Agassiz Baldwin Community is the recipient of a grant from the Cambridge Agassiz Harvard (CAH) Fund to support Fort Agassiz, a new play structure designed by students at Maud Morgan Arts.

Under the guidance of architect/teacher Wendy Prellwitz, middle school students created a model that they presented to the ABC Board of Directors and Children's Program staff. ABC provided funding to have the playhouse framed by Highland Construction, after which another group of students, taught by Matt Neuman,

installed a donated slide, building ladders, handrails, and sidewalls.

The \$5,000 grant from the CAH Fund will help ABC to complete the structure with a roof and design elements.

View photos from the classes on Flickr at: [www.flickr.com/agassizbaldwin](http://www.flickr.com/agassizbaldwin).

**KELLER WILLIAMS HELPS BEAUTIFY ABC**

A crew of about twenty realtors and associates from the Cambridge/Somerville office of Keller Williams Realty spent the rainy morning of May 10 beautifying the gardens of Agassiz Baldwin Community.



The agents donated not only their labor –cleaning up the winter debris, pruning, planting new plants, and mulching– but also plants and other materials for the project. Mahoney's Garden Center gave a discounted price on the supplies.

This is the third consecutive year that the landscaping of ABC was chosen by the local realtors as their Red Day project, a Keller Williams Realty service initiative in which Keller Williams agents throughout the United States and Canada are asked to donate their time and resources to improving their local communities.



**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 Wadell & 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](mailto:Peter33087@wradvisors.com)

The project was coordinated by Elizabeth Browning, David Gaviglio, and Ellen Friedman, a long-time Agassiz resident and former ABC Board Director. The agents were fortified by coffee and delicious bagels and cream cheese imported from Brookline by ABC Community Liaison, Phoebe Sinclair.



## Living Well Network

---

### LWN WALKS!

Get out and walk with the Living Well Network! This spring, join your neighbors and bring a friend to get some exercise and take advantage of one of the most walk-able cities in the country. Scheduled walks and tours will feature a variety of sites and interesting learning opportunities.

Reserve your space now by contacting Terry DeLancey at (617) 349-6287 x17 or [tdelancey@agassiz.org](mailto:tdelancey@agassiz.org). If you would like to carpool, please request it in your RSVP.

#### **June 6th, Wednesday, 10:15 AM**

Tour deCordova Museum & Garden  
FREE Admission on First Wednesday  
Contact us for carpooling options. Group will leave from 20 Sacramento Street at 9:10 AM.

#### **June 14th, Thursday, 1:00 PM**

Walk Fresh Pond Reservation  
Meet at Fresh Pond parking lot.

#### **June 21, Thursday, 3:00 PM**

Walk the Agassiz Path, second of two tours led by an Agassiz community member.  
Meet in front of 20 Sacramento Street.

#### **June 28, Thursday, 3:00 PM**

Tour Cambridge Public Art with Jason Weeks, Director of Cambridge Arts Council  
Meet in front of 20 Sacramento Street.

All walks are free and approximately 60-90 minutes. Rain or shine.



### LWN CAFÉ

The new Living Well Network Café provides a special social opportunity for LWN members, neighbors, and the larger Cambridge community.

Do you have a friend who doesn't get out much? Do you have a neighbor who is physically challenged? Bring your friend or neighbor to the LWN Café to enjoy a leisurely afternoon in a beautiful and accessible environment. Enjoy opportunities to play board games or boccé.

Middle school students from Agassiz Baldwin Community's Teachers-N-Training program will be serving up coffee and pastries baked by Maria L. Baldwin School students participating in the Men of Baldwin program. Proceeds from the sale of baked goods will support the Men of Baldwin.

Mark your calendars now!

**When:** Wednesdays until June 27th,  
4:00 -5:30 PM

**Where:** Agassiz Baldwin Community,  
20 Sacramento St., front porch



# Community Calendar

## June 2012

Wednesday, June 6	10:15 AM	LWN Walks! tour of deCordova Museum, Lincoln, see page 5 for details of this and other upcoming walks
Wednesday, June 6	4:00-5:30 PM	LWN Café, 20 Sacramento St., front porch, ongoing, see page 5 for details
Tuesday, June 12	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Annual Meeting, see page 1 for agenda Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome
Wednesday, June 13	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
Saturday, June 16	1:00-4:00 PM	Community Play Day, 20 Sacramento St., back yard

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.

## The Whistler June 2012



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

**DO NOT FORWARD**