

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

December 2009

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE NOV. 18 MEETING

#### Do Your Part For The 2010 Census

"Since 1790, the United States has conducted a census every ten years," explained Norman Eng. Mr. Eng, a Partnership Specialist with the 2010



Census and participant in the Complete Count Committee (community and government leaders dedicated to building awareness of the 2010 Census), told the Council about local strategies to get the word out about the importance of the upcoming census.

He stated, "Data collected from the decennial census affects the distribution of over \$400 million in government funds. An accurate count translates for dollars in your community, as well as in Congressional representation for your area and support for programs like Medicaid and school lunch programs."

The 2010 Census, comprised of just ten questions, was designed to be easy and quick to fill out, and doesn't ask for personal information such as household income or social security numbers. The forms will be mailed in March 2010. All residents will receive the short form, and a sample of the population will receive the longer American Community Survey that will be used to calculate trends. Census workers will be deployed to visit the homes of residents who do not return the form via mail.

Mr. Eng reiterated, "The census is important, safe, and confidential. Information collected is not shared with any other agency. Please advocate for the 2010 U.S. Census; be the center of influence in your community."

#### Q&A

**Q:** How will the census reach segments of the population who might be reluctant to fill it out?

**A:** The census attempts to reach residents through ethnic media, such as radio stations and newspapers, and through partnerships with leaders in ethnic communities.

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**DECEMBER 16 - 7:30 PM**

Baldwin School Cafeteria  
28 Sacramento Street  
(Press buzzer for entry)

#### AGENDA

- ABC Board Update
- Letter to Cambridge Traffic Dept. regarding traffic calming table at Oxford and Wendell
- Identifying long-term planning priorities for the neighborhood
- A report from Cambridge's Emergency Climate Congress

Q: Do college students and undocumented immigrants count for the census?

A: Yes, the census is designed to count every person residing in the United States, regardless of legal status. Also census forms will be sent to students at the address where they live and sleep most of the year (includes on-campus housing).

**Work for the Census**

The census is hiring part time workers. The process to apply is simple and compensation is approximately \$18 per hour. Learn more at: [2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs](http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs).

**Additional Information**

Preview the 2010 US Census form at: [2010.census.gov/2010census/](http://2010.census.gov/2010census/)

Learn about the American Community Survey: [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)

**WardMaps & Boston Coasters Come to Mass. Ave.**

Brian Beaucher, a resident of Eustis Street, recently opened WardMaps & Boston Coasters at 1735 Mass. Ave. with his brother and business partner Steve Beaucher. A member of Cambridge Local First, the shop sells antique maps, map reproductions, and works by local artists. All of their products are printed in the U.S.



WardMaps & Boston Coasters have operated in around the greater Boston area for the past five or six years, often tabling at festivals. Mr. Beaucher stated, "The

maps are packed full of information, but are at the same time artistic."

WardMaps digitizes maps and atlases, and their entire collection is available online, a free resource for the individuals interested in genealogy and other types of research. Check it out for yourself at: [www.wardmaps.com](http://www.wardmaps.com) and [www.bostoncoasters.com](http://www.bostoncoasters.com).

**Update on ANC/ABC Joint Committee**

The ANC/ABC Joint Committee is an interim sub-committee that includes members of both the Agassiz Neighborhood Council (ANC) and the Agassiz Baldwin Council (ABC):

ANC members: Joel Bard, Willie Bloomstein

ABC Board of Directors: Anna Eckert

Byrne, Stephen Diamond, Miriam Goldberg

The sub-committee has met several times over the past year with the stated goal of clarifying and strengthening the relationship between the community, as represented by the members of the ANC, and the ABC organization, as represented by the Board of Directors. This is an interim effort. Once its goal has been achieved, the committee will be dissolved.

As summarized by Stephen Diamond and the Joint Committee:

Issues with communication between the Board and Council have developed as the agency has grown and expanded its city-wide programs.. This was brought into focus when the Board of Directors changed



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the name of the organization (replacing the word “neighborhood” with “community” to better indicate the agency’s citywide focus and constituency).

The agency’s by-laws were written at a time when the Board didn’t have the job of caring for a major building, running several large children’s programs, or managing a nearly \$1 million operating budget. The ANC/ABC Joint Committee is now reviewing the name and by-laws. We will report our recommendations at an upcoming ANC monthly meeting in 2010, where we can have an open, public discussion of these important issues.

**Living Well Network Update**

“The Living Well Network is organized by ABC, but its resources come through the community,” stated Nathaniel Meyer, Living Well Network (LWN) Volunteer Coordinator. “LWN operates as a volunteer system. My role is to identify individuals who may not yet require assistance themselves, but who want to contribute something to the betterment of the elders in our community. Since I started, I’ve been working to build this network that, in the future, will provide services.”

Mr. Meyer provided a summary of LWN’s efforts thus far:

**Living Well Guide Distribution**

This new but already popular reference guide has been circulated and will continue to be dis-

tributed as needed. The Mayor’s office recently requested 100 copies for area clergy members.

**Scheduled Walks**

LWN has organized several free walks including a bird walk in Concord, MA and a historical walk in the Agassiz neighborhood led by Charles Sullivan, Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission. Another bird walk is scheduled for May 2010. All walks have been led by volunteers.

**Senior Computer Lounge**

Located in North Hall, the Senior Computer Lounge has become a popular social space. Three volunteer teachers hold classes roughly every three weeks and the lounge is open for lab hours on days when formal classes aren’t scheduled. Students are encouraged to suggest topics they would like to see covered in the class.

**Snow Removal for Seniors**

ABC is working with S&H construction to provide a discounted snow removal service.



**Oxford Spa Tea Talks**

These “Tea Talks” hosted at Oxford Spa are intended to create a space for seniors to get together to talk and be social. They will be held on the first Monday of each month at 9:30 AM. Oxford Spa provides the gathering space and free tea or coffee.

The first Tea Talk topic will be on a dinner club project initiated by Seddon Wylde, an active volunteer with LWN. The dinner club would connect volunteers with residents who are housebound or require cooking assistance. Other ideas for the Oxford Spa Tea Talks include a knitting group, discussion of city-related issues, a book or current event discussion group, and –prior to the bird walk scheduled for May 2010– a tutorial on bird watching.

**Block/Street Captains**

This program of LWN seeks to enlist block/street captains who will identify residents who need assistance, communicate individual resident’s needs to LWN, and lend their skills and

	<b>Peter G Meyersohn, CFP</b> Financial Advisor
	
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knowledge to help provide the assistance offered by LWN.

To get involved with LWN or learn more, contact Mr. Meyer at nmeyer@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x16, or visit LWN's webpage at: [http://agassiz.org/?page\\_id=153](http://agassiz.org/?page_id=153).

### **Cambridge's Emergency Climate Congress**

"In May 2009, Cambridge City Council recognized the climate emergency and the need for us to take steps to address it quickly," stated John Pitkin about the Emergency Climate Congress, convened by Mayor Denise Simmons. "If we delay, changes in our environment may become disastrous."

The Emergency Climate Congress will be held on Saturday, December 12, with a follow up meeting on Saturday, January 23. Mr. Pitkin, an organizer for the event, explained the event's origin and goals.

In September 2009, Cambridge City Council held a hearing with four scientists regarding climate change. Although Cambridge has had a program addressing climate change since 2002, it has been unable to meet the carbon reduction goals it originally set. Following the September hearing, the City Council decided to engage community leaders and groups in the city's process. Invitations were sent strongly encouraging community groups to nominate one or two delegates to serve as representatives to the congress.

The congress will include a discussion of Cambridge's current approach to combating climate change, as well steps moving forward. Representatives from each group will bring the results of the initial meeting back to their organizations to discuss. At the January 23 follow-up meeting, the representatives will provide feedback on their group's responses.

Mr. Pitkin stated, "We may be considering fundamental changes to the ways in which we organize our lives: how we light our streets, heat our homes, shop, and get our kids to school."

Following Mr. Pitkin's report, the Council nominated resident Ted Live to act as a delegate. Residents who want to provide feedback on this issue are invited to forward comments and thoughts to Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org. Ms. Sinclair will relay the information to ANC's delegate.

### **ANC Continues to Request Crosswalk Markings at Oxford and Wendell**

ANC members voted unanimously to forward a letter to Sue Clippinger of the Cambridge Department of Traffic, Parking, and Transportation, requesting that recognizable crosswalk markings be applied to the traffic-calming table at the junction of Oxford and Wendell. The letter follows a number of similar requests for improvements at the site, as well as a query from the Cambridge City Council to the City Manager's office about adding striped crossings to all raised intersections in Cambridge.

## **ABC Community**

### **BREAKING GROUND AT CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL**

Join us for family fun, refreshments, and art at this special reception for the exhibit *Breaking Ground: the Past, Present and Future of the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center*.



- Jungle Jim creates unique balloon sculptures
- Cambridge Poet Populist Jean-Dany Joachim leads a reading by Cambridge students
- Artist/teacher Raul Gonzalez and his students present their comic book studio and show their work

Come to this very special reception and view the exhibit to learn about the new, child-focused visual art center being built at 20 Sacramento Street, the site-specific art being created for center, and temporary classes taking

place until the grand opening in September 2010.

**What:** *Breaking Ground* special reception at First Monday, Cambridge Arts Council

**When:** Monday, December 7, 6:00-8:00 PM

**Where:** Cambridge Art Center Gallery, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd Floor

**BEACON STREET HOTEL PLANS**

Prepared by Astrid Dodds, resident

George Makrigiannis, who bought the lot at 371 Beacon Street in Somerville, plans to build a four-story, thirty-six room hotel with a sixty-seat restaurant. The plan includes a two-car drop-off area on Beacon Street. and underground parking for twenty-eight cars.

At several public meetings held in the last year, neighbors have expressed two concerns:

- First, when Mass Highway rebuilds Beacon Street in 2013, contaminated soil could create dust problems.
- Second, the hotel and restaurant will increase motor vehicle traffic congestion at this busy junction of Beacon and Oxford Streets.

Since the 1930s, the sole use on the site has been gas stations. Because some gasoline stored there has escaped in the past, some environmental remediation is required before construction begins. Most of this gasoline was pumped out in the 1990s; much of the rest is dissipating naturally. Loitherstein Environmental Engineering has ten years of test results on this site, including April and June 09. Holes were bored to the right depth for testing (and pumping, if necessary); these holes stay until DEP standards are met. The Phase II Environmental Report is on file at the Somerville Public Library.

The city of Somerville is eager to get this project moving and is satisfied with changes the

developer has made in response to comments from the city and neighbors.

This project will probably go before the Somerville Planning Board the first week in December, and to the Somerville Board of Zoning Appeal on December 16. The plan meets all requirements for the Somerville B-A Zoning District.

**LWN SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM**

For the 2009-2010 winter season, the Living Well Network will be providing discounted snow removal service, courtesy of S&H Construction, Inc. For more information, please contact Nathaniel Meyer, LWN Volunteer Coordinator, at nmeyer@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x16.

Some Cambridge residents who are elderly or disabled may qualify for snow removal assistance from the City of Cambridge. To learn more, see below:

City's Snow Exemption Program  
 Cambridge Council on Aging  
 (617) 349-6220 (voice)  
 (617) 349-6050 (TTY)  
[www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/services/snow.html](http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/services/snow.html)."

**38TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK FEAST**

ABC extends thanks to this year's twelve turkey cookers, seven turkey carvers, Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool students who created the signs and table decorations, the young chefs and teaching staff of Flying Zucchini Café, Baldwin School

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custodial and cooking staff, and all who donated a dish and contributed good company and conversation. How lucky we are to receive such an outpouring of volunteer effort! We look forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces at next year's event.



**Leave a Dish?**

Did you leave behind a serving dish or utensil at this year's Thanksgiving Potluck Feast? 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.



guests in the two evenings. Every student in the Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool Kindergarten and 1st-5th grade programs participated in some way –from printing Flying Zucchini Café T-shirts to preparing the food to serving as wait staff during the event.



Flying Zucchini Café promotes teamwork, collaboration, nutrition, cooking skills, buying local, physical activity, as well as dining, serving, and cooking etiquette. The theme for this year's café was eating local. Local vegetable farms, dairy farms, cranberry farms, and stores donated nearly all of the food, including:

- Trader Joe's
- Harvest Coop
- The Food Project
- Codman Community Farms
- Red Tomato
- Honeybees-R-Us

We hosted two spectacular meals that included local breads, homemade soups, and apple-cranberry crisps topped with delicious ice cream from JP Licks and Lizzy's. Both evenings of the café featured a can drive for the Zinberg Clinic as well as a fundraiser selling beautiful jewelry, cards, and cookbooks, all crafted by our kids. We raised over \$500!

Many thanks to our amazing teaching staff, parents, and the Maria L. Baldwin School for helping making this a great Flying Zucchini Café!



**Agassiz Baldwin  
Children's Programs**

**REPORT FROM 3RD ANNUAL FLYING  
ZUCCHINI CAFÉ**

Prepared by Alice Vogler, 1-5 Site Director

Our 3rd Annual Flying Zucchini Café debuted on November 18th & 19th, serving over 200





**KIDS ONLY HOLIDAY SALE 2009**

Kids, grab your shopping list and enlist the help of Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool and ABC staff to purchase fun and inexpensive gifts for your family and friends!

The sale runs weekdays from Wednesday, December 9 through Friday, December 18 from 3 PM to 6 PM, and will be held in the Sacramento Street Gallery.

ABC extends a special thank you to Joie de Vivre of 1792 Mass. Ave, Greenward of 1776 Mass. Ave., and Tags Hardware of Porter Square, for their continued, valuable, and much appreciated support of this event.



# City Wide

## WINTER SIDEWALK SAFETY

Prepared by Cambridge Department of Public Works

We all have a shared responsibility for keeping our community safe and accessible during winter weather. For you, your neighbors, people with strollers or using wheelchairs, and the many people in Cambridge who walk, please do your part. It's the law.

Cambridge Ordinance requires that all property owners remove snow from all sidewalks next to their property or business within twelve hours after snow stops falling in the daytime, and before 1 PM when the snow has fallen during the night.

Remember that, for people on foot, ice can be worse than snow. It can cause dangerous falls. You are as responsible for ice as you are for snow. The fine for failing to comply with the City's sidewalk clearance ordinances is \$50 a day each day that you don't comply. Even if you aren't around, it is your responsibility to ensure someone clears sidewalks and ramps next to your property.

Report the address of unshoveled or icy sidewalks using our online form at:  
[www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/services/snow/complaint.aspx](http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/services/snow/complaint.aspx)

## RENEW YOUR RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT

Don't forget to renew your Residential Parking Permit. Permits may be obtained by mail or in person. If you qualify, apply on-line at [www.cambridgema.gov/traffic/ResidentPermitOnline.cfm](http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic/ResidentPermitOnline.cfm). Residents can also fill out a mail-in application and send it to the address below, or go in person to:

Traffic, Parking & Transportation  
City of Cambridge  
344 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA 02139

# Community Calendar

## December 2009

Wednesday, December 9	3:00-6:00 PM	Kids Only Holiday Sale 2009 begins, open through Friday, December 18
Wednesday, December 9	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Friday, December 11		Hanukkah begins at sundown
Wednesday, December 16	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Thursday, December 24		Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs and office closed through Friday, December 25
Friday, December 25		Christmas Day holiday
Saturday, December 26		Begin Kwanzaa holiday

*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](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 DECEMBER 2009



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